

BUILD, CONNECT, SUPPORT:

SOUTH ASIANS IN FOOTBALL PLAN
2025-28
DATA BREAKDOWN



SOUTH ASIANS: FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION (16+)

ADULT PARTICIPATION TARGETS



MALES 16+ FOOTBALL
AT 11% OR ABOVE



FEMALES 16+ FOOTBALL
AT 15% OR ABOVE

Within grassroots football, male and female South Asian participation (aged 16+) shows to be at a healthy rate. Male participation is at a record **11.1%** (up from 7.4% in 2023). **6.5%** of these players are playing affiliated football.

Female representation is currently at **15.4%** (up from 13.6% in 2023). However, **17.3%** of all females in affiliated football are South Asian females indicating a healthy representation of SA females in the game.

The numbers are promising and shows that South Asian communities remain invested and interested in the game.

Please note: We are now collecting and categorising participation by ‘South Asian’ representation for the first time. This refers to people self disclosing as **Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi only.**



SOUTH ASIANS: FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION (16+)

ANY MALE PLAYERS (16+)	JUL-19	JUL-20	JUL-21	JUL-22	JUL-23	JUL-24	YOY CHANGE
Known Population Size					9,022,050	8,718,331	-303,719
GROUPED ETHNICITY							
White (British & Irish)	76.5%	79.9%	77.4%	76.0%	78.0%	68.0%	-10.1%
Non-white (see breakdown below)	21.6%	18.5%	19.9%	21.6%	19.6%	31.4%	11.8%
Prefer not to say	1.9%	1.5%	2.7%	2.4%	2.3%	0.6%	-1.7%
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN							
Mixed/multi-ethnic (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African or Other multi-ethnic NOT White & Asian)	2.2%	1.8%	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	3.1%	1.1%
Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi, Chinese, British Chinese, Other Asian, British Asian or White & Asian)	12.9%	10.7%	10.4%	11.3%	10.0%	15.1%	5.2%
Black (Caribbean, British Caribbean, African, British African, Other Black or Black British)	5.7%	5.0%	6.0%	6.8%	6.3%	12.2%	5.8%
British Arab, Other Arab	0.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
Other	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	-0.3%
South Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi)	9.3%	7.8%	7.2%	7.7%	7.4% AFF: 4.8%	11.1% AFF: 6.5%	3.7%

SOUTH ASIANS: FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION (16+)

ANY FEMALE PLAYERS (16+)	JUL-19	JUL-20	JUL-21	JUL-22	JUL-23	JUL-24	YOY CHANGE
Known Population Size					2,799,201	2,757,385	-41,816
GROUPED ETHNICITY							
White (British & Irish)	72.4%	77.1%	70.9%	72.9%	68.9%	63.3%	-5.6%
Non-white (see breakdown below)	25.0%	20.3%	25.9%	25.3%	29.1%	36.6%	7.5%
Prefer not to say	2.6%	2.7%	3.2%	1.8%	2.0%	0.1%	-1.9%
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN							
Mixed/multi-ethnic (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African or Other multi-ethnic NOT White & Asian)	2.3%	1.3%	4.1%	3.7%	4.8%	3.8%	-1.0%
Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi, Chinese, British Chinese, Other Asian, British Asian or White & Asian)	15.2%	14.1%	15.8%	15.2%	17.5%	20.3%	2.8%
Black (Caribbean, British Caribbean, African, British African, Other Black or Black British)	6.0%	3.7%	4.4%	5.0%	5.2%	10.5%	5.3%
British Arab, Other Arab	0.9%	0.4%	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%	0.4%
Other	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
South Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi)	10.7%	11.4%	11.6%	10.0%	13.6% AFF: 11.3%	15.4% AFF: 17.3%	1.8%

SOUTH ASIANS: YOUTH FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION (5-15 YEARS)

Playing affiliated football is the best way for South Asian youth players to enter official playing pathways and progress to the professional game [pro football sees a major underrepresentation of South Asian players].

YOUTH PARTICIPATION TARGETS



Within youth grassroots football, male and female South Asian participation (aged 5-15) shows to be at a healthy rate. Male participation is at a record **8%** (up from 6.9% in 2023) with **5%** of males playing affiliated football. Female representation is currently at **7.4%** (up from 6.7% in 2023) with **4.6%** of South Asian females playing affiliated football. Both Male and Female youth football continues to grow within South Asian communities.

Please note: We are now collecting and categorising participation by ‘South Asian’ representation for the first time. This refers to people self disclosing as **Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi only.**



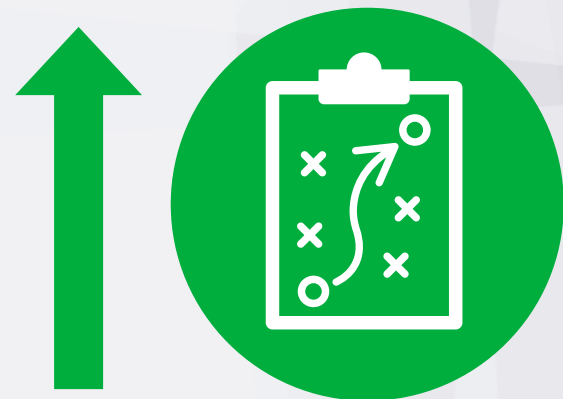
SOUTH ASIANS: YOUTH FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION (5-15 YEARS)

ANY BOY PLAYERS (5-15)	JUL-23		JUL-24		YOY CHANGE
Known Population Size	3,406,726	AFF	3,415,715	AFF 757,422	8,990
GROUPED ETHNICITY					
White (British & Irish)	80.3%	82.8%	74.6%	80.5%	-5.7%
Non-white (see breakdown below)	18.7%	16.3%	24.3%	18.9%	5.6%
Prefer not to say	1.0%	0.9%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN					
Mixed/multi-ethnic (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African or Other multi-ethnic NOT White & Asian)	3.3%	3.6%	4.6%	5.0%	1.3%
Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi, Chinese, British Chinese, Other Asian, British Asian or White & Asian)	9.7%	7.0%	11.1%	7.1%	1.4%
Black (Caribbean, British Caribbean, African, British African, Other Black or Black British)	4.6%	4.8%	7.8%	6.1%	3.2%
British Arab, Other Arab	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	-0.1%
Other	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.2%
South Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi)	6.9%	5.2%	8.0%	5.0%	1.1%

ANY GIRL PLAYERS (5-15)	JUL-23		JUL-24		YOY CHANGE
Known Population Size	2,425,906	AFF	2,550,485	AFF 153,031	124,579
GROUPED ETHNICITY					
White (British & Irish)	79.5%	83.9%	75.2%	78.0%	-4.3%
Non-white (see breakdown below)	19.2%	15.3%	23.7%	20.7%	4.5%
Prefer not to say	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%	1.3%	-0.2%
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN					
Mixed/multi-ethnic (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African or Other multi-ethnic NOT White & Asian)	3.6%	3.1%	4.5%	4.4%	0.9%
Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi, Chinese, British Chinese, Other Asian, British Asian or White & Asian)	10.2%	6.9%	10.8%	8.2%	0.6%
Black (Caribbean, British Caribbean, African, British African, Other Black or Black British)	4.6%	4.8%	7.4%	7.5%	2.8%
British Arab, Other Arab	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%
Other	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
South Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi)	6.7%	4.6%	7.4%	4.6%	0.7%

MEASURING SUCCESS: COACHING

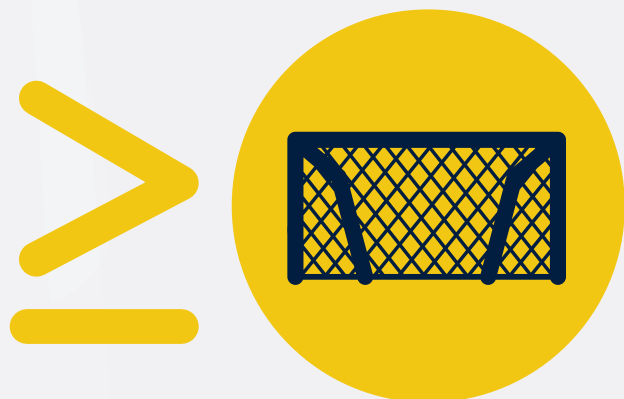
COACHING TARGETS



SUPPORT **1000 COACHES** IN THE TALENT AND PROFESSIONAL GAME THROUGH POSITIVE ACTION PROGRAMMES BY 2028*



MAINTAIN NUMBER OF SOUTH ASIAN LEARNERS AT ENTRY LEVEL TO **3.5%** OR ABOVE



MAINTAIN NUMBER OF SOUTH ASIAN COACHES AT UEFA LEVEL AT **4.1%** OR ABOVE

The FA's overall coaching targets for Black, Asian, Mixed or other ethnic backgrounds up to 2028 will be released by the end of 2024-25 season.

*From historically under-represented groups inclusive of female, Black and South Asian coaches
**Based on a disclosure rate of 76% of all learners
***Estimated Actuals

COACHES	JUL-22	JUL-23	NOVEMBER 24	YoY CHANGE
Known Population Size		153,675	172,658	18,983
GROUPED ETHNICITY				
White (British & Irish)	87.5%	87.5%	91.3%	3.8%
Non-white (see breakdown below)	11.2%	11.3%	7.7%	-3.6%
Prefer not to say	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	-0.2%
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN				
Mixed/multi-ethnic (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African or Other multi-ethnic NOT White & Asian)	2.5%	2.5%	1.7%	-0.8%
Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi, Chinese, British Chinese, Other Asian, British Asian or White & Asian)	3.0%	3.1%	2.7%	-0.4%
Black (Caribbean, British Caribbean, African, British African, Other Black or Black British)	4.3%	4.2%	2.5%	-1.8%
British Arab, Other Arab	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	-0.2%
Other	1.1%	1.1%	0.7%	-0.4%
South Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi)	N/A	N/A	1.7%	1.7%

MEASURING SUCCESS: COACHING

COACHING TARGETS

REPRESENTATION OF LEARNERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED AN ENTRY LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS**			
%	PLAYER MAKER	INTRO 2 COACHING FOOTBALL	AVERAGE (%)
Asian	5.16	4.44	4.8
Indian	2.12	1.89	2.005
Pakistani	1.25	0.83	1.04
Other	1	0.73	0.865
Chinese	0.32	0.47	0.395
Bangladeshi	0.38	0.32	0.35
Not Specified	0.1	0.2	0.35
South Asian	3.75% (1013)***	3.04% (705)***	3.40
Ethnically Diverse (All categories)	16%	0.8%	14.89%

*From historically under-represented groups inclusive of female, Black and South Asian coaches.

**Based on a disclosure rate of 76% of all learners.

***Estimated Actuals

REPRESENTATION OF LEARNERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED A UEFA CORE COACHING QUALIFICATION**					
%	UEFA C	UEFA B	UEFA C	UEFA PRO	AVERAGE (%)
Asian	4.82	3.63	1.22	9	4.6675
Indian	2.38	1.4	1.22	9	3.5
Pakistani	1.02	0.56	0	0	0.395
Other	0.79	0.84	0	0	0.4075
Chinese	0.28	0	0	0	0.07
Bangladeshi	0.28	0.56	0	0	0.21
Not Specified	0.06	0.28	0	0	0.085
South Asian	3.68% (79)***	2.52% (13)***	1.22 (2)***	9 (2)***	4.11
Ethnically Diverse (All categories)	15.82%	21%	21%	21%	24%*

MEASURING SUCCESS: REFEREES

REFEREE TARGETS



ACHIEVE A NET INCREASE OF
500 SOUTH ASIAN REFEREES BY 2025-26
SEASON RESULTING IN
1200 SOUTH ASIAN REFEREES



FA REFEREEING 2023-26 STRATEGY OBJECTIVE

Achieve a net increase of 1000 referees from Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage populations by the end of the 2025-26 season.

(1800 referees to 2800 referees Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage in total).

To see The FA’s Refereeing strategy and targets for **Black, Asian, Mixed or other ethnic backgrounds** up to 2026 see strategy here.

REFEREES	JUL-22	JUL-23	JUL-24	YoY CHANGE
Known Population Size		31,036	33,524	2,488
GROUPED ETHNICITY				
White (British & Irish)	90.3%	90.1%	88.5%	-1.6%
Non-white (see breakdown below)	7.7%	8.0%	9.8%	1.8%
Prefer not to say	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%	-0.2%
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN				
Mixed/multi-ethnic (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African or Other multi-ethnic NOT White & Asian)	1.5%	1.6%	1.8%	0.2%
Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi, Chinese, British Chinese, Other Asian, British Asian or White & Asian)	2.7%	2.7%	3.4%	0.8%
Black (Caribbean, British Caribbean, African, British African, Other Black or Black British)	2.5%	2.6%	3.3%	0.7%
British Arab, Other Arab	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Other	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%
South Asian (Indian, British Indian, Pakistani, British Pakistani, Bangladeshi, British Bangladeshi)	N/A	N/A	2.0%	2.0% (670)



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