Premier League

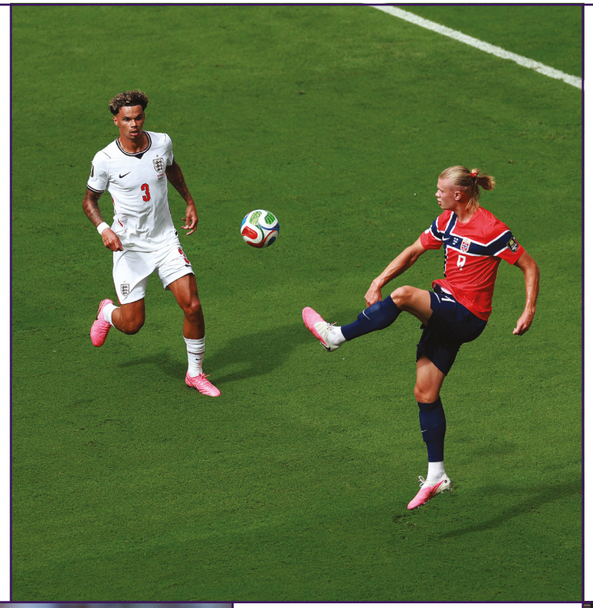


Annual Report

2025/26



A thrilling 2025/26 season captivated fans domestically and globally as the Premier League hit major landmarks, including in its longstanding support for communities and all levels of football



Global representation

More Premier League players (163) were at the 2026 FIFA World Cup than any other league

Recognising legends

Eden Hazard and Gary Neville were inducted into the 2025 Premier League Hall of Fame

Champions

Arsenal became the sixth Premier League Champions in 14 seasons as they lifted the Trophy under Mikel Arteta

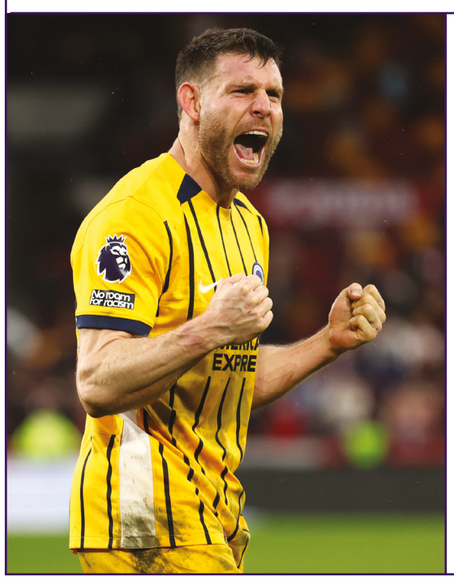




Making history

Bruno Fernandes broke the all-time Premier League assists record for a single season by claiming his 21st against Brighton & Hove Albion on the final day



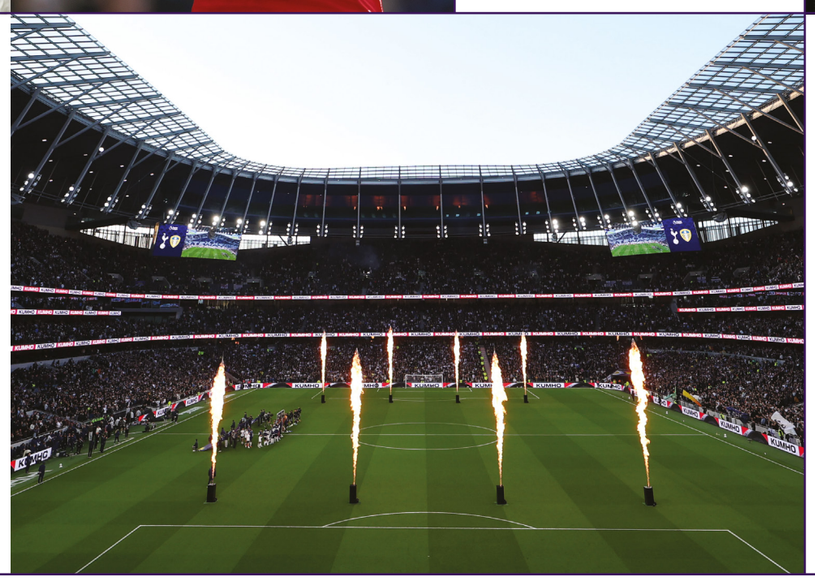


European silverware

Premier League teams competed in all three UEFA finals for the first time, with both Aston Villa (Europa League) and Crystal Palace (Conference League) crowned champions. Nine teams again qualified to play European football

Milner's milestone

James Milner made history by setting a new all-time Premier League appearances record of 658



Record-breaking crowds

More fans than ever filled stadiums, with 15.9 million attendances across the season. Grounds have been more than 98 per cent full for four consecutive seasons

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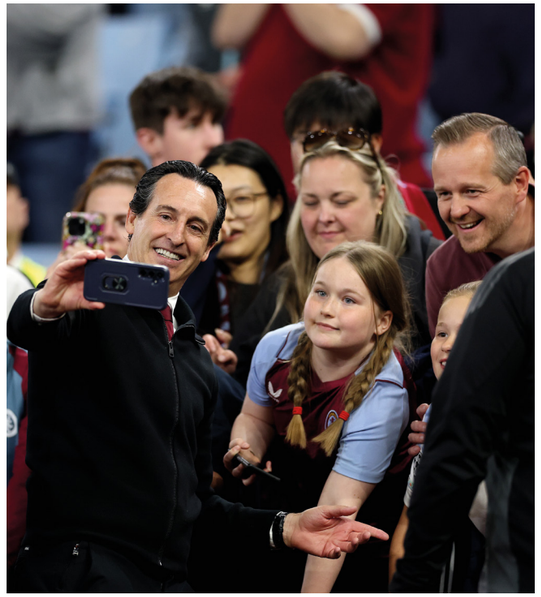

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"This is the most competitive Premier League I've ever played in. Every team has quality."

Declan Rice
Arsenal midfielder

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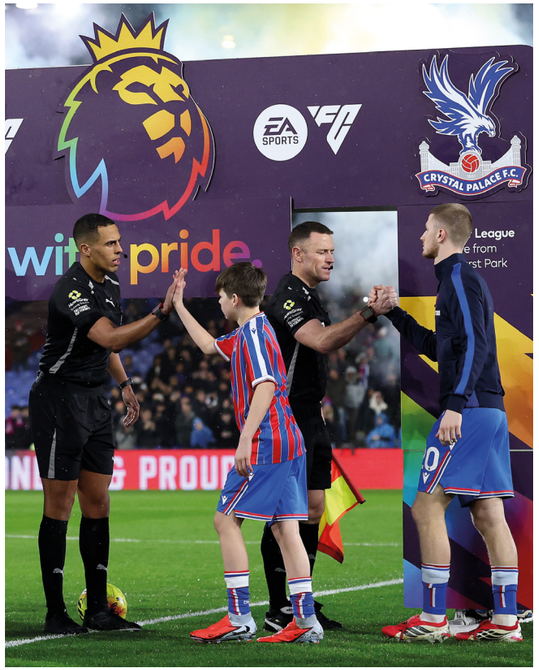

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Chief Executive's welcome



"Growing interest in the Premier League continues to benefit the United Kingdom. Our support for communities and all levels of football meaningfully improves people's lives."

Richard Masters
Chief Executive



Welcome to the Premier League Annual Report for Season 2025/26, which highlights the global impact of the Premier League during another thrilling season.

It celebrates standout stories, the League and clubs' contribution to communities and all levels of football, and our wide-ranging fan engagement and inclusion initiatives.

Competitive and compelling football
Season 2025/26 produced yet more memorable occasions on the pitch. Arsenal showed incredible skill, consistency and determination to lift the Trophy for the first time in 22 years. We saw how much this victory meant to their fans in North London and around the world, illustrating the importance of this competition and our clubs for hundreds of millions of people.

While the action-packed race for the title entertained fans throughout the season, unpredictable matches played out across the table.

Bournemouth and Sunderland secured their places in the UEFA Europa League – Bournemouth for the first time and Sunderland in their first season back in the Premier League – while Aston Villa and Crystal Palace both lifted silverware in Europe. As a result, the Premier League again has nine teams playing European football in 2026/27, more than any other league, highlighting the strength in depth running throughout the division.

The season also saw several highly talented homegrown players make impressive starts to their professional careers, and this summer the Premier League was better represented at the FIFA World Cup than any other league.

Record-breaking fan engagement
The Premier League maintained its position as the best-attended football competition in Europe, with a record 15.9 million attendances across the season, and stadiums again operating at capacity.

We continue to prioritise fan engagement, and our ongoing work to promote the fan voice is outlined in this report. A key part of this is increasing our efforts to ensure everyone feels welcome and included when watching our matches.

We reaffirmed our commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion, representation and diversity by launching Premier League With Pride in Season 2025/26. We also introduced Together Against Suicide, and the response demonstrated the powerful role football can play in helping people during difficult times. We now provide funding for all 20 clubs, and three in the EFL, to offer bespoke support to fans at home matchdays throughout the season.

In April, we marked five years of our No Room For Racism Action Plan, designed to reduce discrimination and promote diversity across the game. However, racist abuse sadly remains an issue, and we will continue working with clubs and authorities to try and bring offenders to justice and do everything we can to eradicate racism.

Global reach positively impacting the UK
The continued growth of the League is reflected not just in record-breaking global engagement, but also our investment into our broadcast approach. We opened Premier League Studios in summer 2026 to provide world-class media production to our partners, who broadcast the competition to 189 countries. Meanwhile, Premier League+ became our first direct-to-fan streaming service when it launched in Singapore.

These developments support the League's increasing international appeal. A cumulative audience of 1.5 billion watched live Premier League matches in 2025/26, and our overseas offices in China, India, Singapore and the United States help us to work more closely with partners and communities around the world.

Crucially, growing interest in the Premier League continues to benefit the United Kingdom. A recent independent study by EY highlighted the sustained financial impact of the League on our economy. It showed record ongoing contributions, projecting the League will generate £33 billion in gross value added and £14.8 billion in tax revenues between 2025 and 2028, as well as supporting more than 107,000 full-time equivalent jobs annually by 2028. The majority of this economic contribution is created outside London.

Similarly, our support for communities and all levels of football meaningfully improves people's lives across England and Wales. We provide a world-leading level of investment into a network of 164 club charities, grassroots sports facilities, and the non-league and professional game, committing £1.6 billion over three years. This provides a broad range of benefits to the country, with Premier League Foundation programmes and club charities' delivery projected to generate £4.3 billion in social value between 2025 and 2028.

Season 2025/26 marked significant milestones in this impactful work as we celebrated 25 years of investment through the Football Foundation and Premier League Stadium Fund, 20 years of our flagship community programme Premier League Kicks, and 15 years of the Premier League Foundation, one of the largest sports charities in the world.

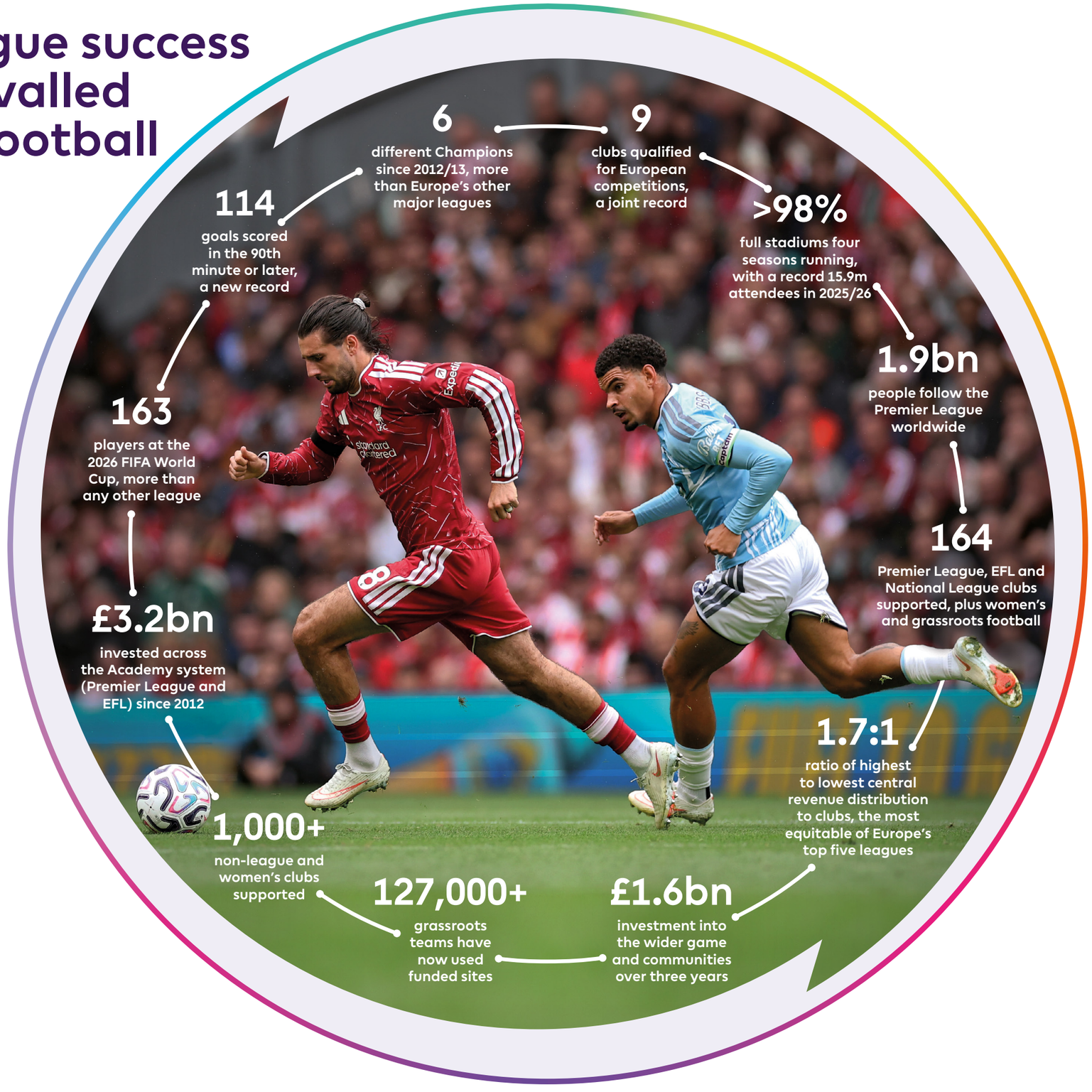
Overall, as this report showcases, the Premier League developed significantly over 2025/26, and we look forward to continuing this progress at home and internationally throughout the current season.



Richard Masters
Chief Executive

The Premier League

Premier League success delivers unrivalled support for football



1
Competitive football, brilliant to watch

Football drives everything the Premier League does. Clubs consistently produce exciting, competitive matches and develop and acquire the world's best players, managers and coaches. Vibrant stadiums are full of committed and passionate supporters, while global popularity has increased significantly for more than three decades.

2
Passionate fans, everyone's game

Compelling football generates local and global interest, with millions of fans across the country and billions around the world following the most-watched league. The profile and popularity of the Premier League enable it to positively influence people, while attracting investment from broadcast and commercial partners, helping clubs to keep delivering for fans. The Premier League and its clubs are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and to tackling discrimination to ensure football is welcoming for all.

3
Generating income for clubs, supporting the football pyramid

Commercial success enables continued investment in the competition, the development of future talent and an unprecedented level of support for the football pyramid, wider game and communities. Central revenue is distributed equitably to clubs to maintain the competitive balance of the Premier League and support ongoing improvement across club operations.

4
Responsible distribution across the game

The positive impact and significant investment from the Premier League benefits clubs across the EFL, National League System, women's and girls' football, national supporter groups, grassroots football and community provision connected to all levels of the game. World-leading investment includes core club payments and funds to underpin academies throughout the Premier League and EFL. Financial support is also provided for lower-league clubs, stadium improvements, grassroots pitches and programmes delivered in thousands of community venues and schools via Premier League, EFL and National League club charities.

Shared success impacting clubs nationwide

Competitive and compelling football is underpinned by the equitable distribution of central revenue, with further redistribution throughout the game

The Premier League's central revenue system empowers clubs to develop and acquire top talent. It also supports clubs to continually enhance their world-class infrastructure, with stadiums redeveloped or rebuilt entirely in regions across the country.

The Premier League's payment to clubs is the most equitable of Europe's major leagues, with a ratio of 1.7:1 between the highest and lowest distribution.

The League also makes a significant annual funding contribution to the domestic football pyramid, grassroots football, community programmes and other good causes.

The Premier League has committed £1.6 billion to wider football and communities over three years. This supports football at all levels and 164 club charities, with £581 million distributed in 2025/26.

					UK (£m)			International (£m)		£m	
		Pts	GD	Live UK TV matches	Equal share	Facility fees	Merit payment	Equal share	Merit payment	Central commercial	Total payment
1	Arsenal	85	44	33	31.9	23.3	34.3	56.5	40.9	11.2	198.1
2	Manchester City	78	42	32	31.9	21.6	32.6	56.5	38.9	11.2	192.7
3	Manchester United	71	19	34	31.9	24.0	30.9	56.5	36.8	11.2	191.3
4	Aston Villa	65	7	34	31.9	18.5	29.2	56.5	34.8	11.2	182.1
5	Liverpool	60	10	31	31.9	21.9	27.4	56.5	32.7	11.2	181.6
6	Bournemouth	57	4	23	31.9	14.2	25.7	56.5	30.7	11.2	170.2
7	Sunderland	54	-6	22	31.9	15.5	24.0	56.5	28.6	11.2	167.7
8	Brighton & Hove Albion	53	6	20	31.9	13.2	22.3	56.5	26.6	11.2	161.7
9	Brentford	53	3	25	31.9	16.1	20.6	56.5	24.5	11.2	160.8
10	Chelsea	52	6	31	31.9	22.4	18.9	56.5	22.5	11.2	163.4
11	Fulham	52	-4	26	31.9	17.3	17.1	56.5	20.5	11.2	154.5
12	Newcastle United	49	-2	31	31.9	20.3	15.4	56.5	18.4	11.2	153.7
13	Everton	49	-3	26	31.9	17.4	13.7	56.5	16.4	11.2	147.1
14	Leeds United	47	-7	28	31.9	18.3	12.0	56.5	14.3	11.2	144.2
15	Crystal Palace	45	-10	30	31.9	14.2	10.3	56.5	12.3	11.2	136.4
16	Nottingham Forest	44	-3	34	31.9	17.5	8.6	56.5	10.2	11.2	135.9
17	Tottenham Hotspur	41	-9	31	31.9	21.9	6.9	56.5	8.2	11.2	136.6
18	West Ham United	39	-19	25	31.9	17.1	5.1	56.5	6.1	11.2	127.9
19	Burnley	22	-37	17	31.9	11.5	3.4	56.5	4.1	11.2	118.6
20	Wolverhampton Wanderers	20	-41	21	31.9	13.9	1.7	56.5	2.0	11.2	117.2

Positive contributions to clubs and regions
Clubs are enabled to better compete by the equitable distribution of Premier League revenue, which contributes to a world-renowned standard of football and unpredictability throughout the competition.

Teams are therefore supported to succeed once they reach the Premier League. Those promoted from the EFL Championship since 2010/11 have finished in 15th place on average and 40 per cent of promoted sides have remained in the competition after three seasons.

Strength running throughout the League means England ranks highest on UEFA's association club coefficients. Clubs continue to qualify for UEFA competitions for the first time, with nine Premier League teams playing European football in consecutive seasons.

1. World-leading players

Clubs develop and acquire the best players and managers in the world. Homegrown players compete with international stars across the competition.

163 Premier League players at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, more than any other league



2. Competitive football

The League is highly unpredictable and competitive, with teams throughout the table regularly defeating those above them. A joint-record number of clubs play in Europe.

40% of promoted teams have remained in the Premier League after three seasons



3. Regional impact

Regions across the country benefit from clubs competing in the Premier League, positively impacting the economy and infrastructure. Funding for 164 clubs' community programmes ensures nationwide contributions.

51 different clubs have competed in the Premier League to date



4. Infrastructure

Clubs consistently invest in their infrastructure, from stadiums and training grounds to academies and grassroots facilities. These help to improve the fan experience and benefit local communities, as well as regional economies.

240,000 increase in cumulative stadium capacity from 1992/93 to 2025/26



Driving sustained economic growth

The success of the Premier League and its clubs generates a significant contribution to the UK economy



Rising economic contribution

Projected economic impact, 2025 to 2028

£33bn

GVA, sustaining record levels of economic contribution

£14.8bn

tax contributions, including £7.3bn from players and staff

107,600

UK jobs supported each year by 2027/28 across multiple sectors

14x

growth in economic contribution from 1998 to 2024

A new report from EY highlighted the breadth and scale of the Premier League's economic and social contribution to the United Kingdom.

EY's independent assessment in 2026 calculated that the League will generate a cumulative £33 billion in gross value added (GVA) for the UK between 2025 and 2028. It is also projected to raise £14.8 billion in tax revenue and support 107,600 full-time equivalent jobs annually by 2028.

This reflects significant and sustained growth over recent decades, with the League's economic contribution increasing 14-fold since the 1998/99 season. Its investment for all levels of the game and communities is also unparalleled in global football.

The Premier League's sustained strength enables it to positively impact the country, underpinned by its commercial model, global popularity and continued investment across the economy.



Local impact nationwide

The Premier League's economic footprint extends across the country, delivering tangible benefits to regional economies. Since its inception, 51 clubs have competed in the League, with the regions impacted changing each season in line with the clubs competing.

EY's analysis shows that clubs outside London generated 60 per cent of GVA and supported 66 per cent of jobs in Season 2023/24.

In the North West alone, the League generated £3.1 billion in GVA and supports 31,700 jobs, including £1.6 billion in GVA and 13,700 jobs in Greater Manchester.

The League's social impact is also felt nationwide, with 164 clubs across the country funded to deliver programmes in school and community settings. Of the programmes supported by the Premier League Foundation, 83 per cent of social value is generated outside London. Further investment for professional and non-league clubs supports economic activity stimulated through all levels of the game.

£5.9bn

of GVA generated outside London in 2023/24

31,700

jobs supported in the North West



Stadium-led regeneration boosting local economies

The success of the Premier League enables clubs to extensively reinvest, including into consistent infrastructure improvements. The cumulative Premier League stadium capacity has increased by 240,000 since the inaugural season in 1992/93, and stadiums are consistently almost entirely full. Training grounds, academies and community facilities have also been built or enhanced across the country.

Clubs spent £4.8 billion on capital expenditure between 2014 and 2024, with Everton's Hill Dickinson Stadium and the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium particularly notable examples.

Hill Dickinson Stadium opened in August 2025 with a capacity of 52,769 – over 13,000 seats more than Goodison Park. The new stadium is estimated to generate an additional £1.3 billion of value for the local economy, create 15,000 jobs and host 1.4 million new visitors annually.

The opening of Spurs' new stadium in 2019 provided a major sports and entertainment hub. The £1.2 billion build – the largest private sector investment in Haringey – notably enhanced the local economy, with GVA rising from £120 million in 2015 to £344 million in 2021/22 in the London boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest.

Other clubs have significant upcoming additional investment. EY's analysis projects that the Premier League's overall capacity could surpass 900,000 seats cumulatively through current planned and proposed development projects.

These represent intended investment of at least £3.7 billion and up to £9 billion, with construction estimated to support up to 110,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Manchester United's planned redevelopment of Old Trafford would become one of the most significant sports-led regeneration schemes in the UK. The project includes a new 100,000-capacity stadium as part of a wider plan that will transform Trafford Park into a mixed-use destination.

Of the 51 clubs to have competed in the Premier League:

22
have built or moved to a new stadium

27
have had stadium upgrades



.YONDER

League again tops British Icon Index

The Premier League has been ranked as the UK's leading soft power asset for the fourth consecutive time, according to Yonder Consulting's British Icon Index. More than 12,000 individuals from 12 foreign nations were asked to rank 14 iconic UK brands, and 90 per cent said the Premier League attracts people from around the world.

The 2026 index also measured the Premier League's global appeal against leading international brands for the first time, with respondents ranking the competition as the world's eighth-best-perceived on this measure.

1st Premier League | **2nd** Rolls-Royce | **3rd** British universities

Global appeal benefits UK

The League's international reach creates significant value for the United Kingdom. With 1.9 billion people following worldwide, the competition generates broadcast export value, investment and tourism, and positively shapes perceptions of the UK overseas.

EY's study showed that the League's international broadcast exports were valued at £1.8 billion in Season 2024/25, almost matching the rest of the UK's TV sector combined (£2 billion).

This global appeal translates into 1.1 million international fan visits to the UK, generating more than £1 billion in GVA and accounting for 2.6 per cent of all international tourist visits to the country (based on 2023/24). The hospitality industry also significantly benefits, with pubs, bars and hotels accommodating millions of Premier League fans annually. Of the 8.5 million Britons who view live sport in pubs, 80 per cent watch the Premier League.



Premier League

More than a game.

Unparalleled support for football and communities

The success of the Premier League means world-leading levels of financial support are distributed across football in England and Wales. Longstanding contributions span the three levels of the EFL (covering club, Academy and community investment), the National League System, women's and girls' football, grassroots football and community initiatives, as well as funding for key national supporter groups and those promoting equality and inclusion.

£1.6bn

committed over three years into the wider game and communities





Support for the Women's Football Pyramid is shown on page 77

Funding for football at all levels

Premier League success enables support across all levels of the football pyramid. Funding for leagues and clubs is used to build facilities, improve pitches, develop players and the workforce, as well as to engage fans and positively impact grassroots and communities.

Distributions include solidarity funding for EFL clubs not receiving parachute payments, with wider Academy and community funding and support provided throughout the EFL. Investment also supports all 72 National League clubs.

The Premier League's Elite Player Performance Plan has seen more than £3.2 billion invested into developing a world-leading Academy system across the football pyramid since 2012.

The professional game

The Premier League is proud to support:

Professional Footballers' Association

Providing educational, wellbeing, medical and development support for current and former Premier League, EFL and Women's Super League (WSL) players.

WSL FOOTBALL

Co-operation and funding agreement for the top two tiers of women's football.

LMA League Managers Association

Support services for managers, coaches and administrators across the Premier League, EFL, WSL and WSL 2.

PROFESSIONAL GAME REFEREES

Funding and initiatives alongside Professional Game Referees, including the Elite Referee Development Plan.



Academy system and career support

- Premier League and EFL clubs are supported to develop a world-leading Academy system, including players' technical, personal and academic skills
- The aim is to develop more and better homegrown players capable of excelling in the Premier League, professional game and at international level
- England have won six international youth titles in eight years and were finalists at the 2020 and 2024 European Championships



Player care
Funding player care staff in 50+ EFL clubs

Academy coaching and workforce programmes
Developing 400+ key staff

Professional Game Academy Audit Company
Assuring quality across Premier League and EFL academies and the women's and girls' talent pathway

Fans and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

The Premier League provides core funding and delivery grants for:

Representative body for football supporters at all levels.

Anti-discrimination education programmes, campaigns and support.

Campaigning, advice and support for disabled fans and inclusive experiences across the game.

Premier League Fans Fund
Grants for Premier League, EFL, National League, WSL and WSL 2.

Delivering EDI programmes and initiatives such as No Room For Racism and Premier League With Pride.

Nationwide economic impact

The Premier League is proud to share its success across the country, positively benefitting grassroots and non-league football as well as local communities.

It is projected to add £33 billion in gross value added (GVA) to the UK economy between 2025 and 2028, supporting 107,600 jobs annually and contributing £14.8 billion in tax.



Biggest sports charities in the world

Premier League funding extends to supporting two of the biggest sports charities globally:

The Football Foundation has provided grants for grassroots club facilities and pitch improvements used by more than 127,000 teams throughout the country since 2000. Funding is jointly provided by the Premier League, FA and Government, building or improving grass and 3G pitches, and other facilities, often in under-served areas.

Premier League Foundation

The Premier League Foundation has enabled programme delivery in thousands of community venues and schools across the country since 2010. Grants are provided to 111 Premier League, EFL and National League club charities and player foundations. Further investment is available for fan engagement and inclusion initiatives.



The wider game

Premier League Stadium Fund
Improving facilities for more than 1,000 clubs, enhancing sustainability and fan experience across over 100 lower leagues.

GIRLS' EMERGING TALENT CENTRE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL
Supporting the development of the women's game, including 70 free FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centres.

Further detail on Premier League support can be found across:

Economic impact:	pages 14-17
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The Football



The Football

The 2025/26 Premier League season was another gripping campaign. Arsenal ended a 22-year wait to lift the Trophy and both the race for European qualification and the relegation battle went down to the final day.

This thrilling standard of football, attracting world-leading players and managers, drives the League's growing popularity both domestically and internationally. This makes sustained investment into Premier League and EFL academies possible, in addition to supporting football at all levels.

Staff, coaches, match officials and former Academy players receive support to develop their careers, while funding helps prioritise player care across professional English football.



Competitive football

6

teams have won the Premier League since 2012/13, the greatest variation of Europe's major leagues

128

nationalities represented in the Premier League all-time

163

Premier League players at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, more than any other league

Developing the game

£3.2bn

invested into the Premier League and EFL Academy system since 2012

800+

homegrown player debuts since 2012

1,050

Academy and first-team staff on Premier League development programmes since 2014



Stories of the season



Arsenal become sixth Champions in 14 seasons

Arsenal's name was etched into the Premier League Trophy for the first time since 2003/04 after a thrilling race which ran until the penultimate match round of the season. Mikel Arteta's men had been closing in on the title for several years, having finished second on three consecutive occasions beforehand.

Despite impressive form throughout the season, including sustaining just one loss between September and January, the Gunners remained under intense pressure from title rivals Manchester City.

The Citizens were in contention with just days left in the campaign, setting up a nail-biting finish. However Arsenal held firm, winning their last five matches to become the third Premier League Champions in as many seasons. This was the fifth time the League has produced three different title winners consecutively.

Arsenal's success was underpinned by a squad of world-class homegrown players, including Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka, and international stars.

2025/26 Premier League

9

clubs qualified for European competitions, a joint-record number, matching 2024/25

114

goals scored in the 90th minute or later, a new record



Success on the continent

Premier League clubs competed in all three UEFA club competition finals for the first time. Aston Villa (Europa League) and Crystal Palace (Conference League) won titles, and Arsenal finished as Champions League runners-up.

Palace's victory meant nine Premier League clubs secured a place in UEFA competitions for 2026/27 – a joint record number, matching the season before. That included five in the Champions League, with an extra place awarded to the Premier League for the second consecutive season as a result of being top of UEFA's coefficient table. This led to Brighton & Hove Albion qualifying for the 2026/27 Conference League, their second season in Europe.

Champions

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Champions

UEFA CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Finalists

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Bournemouth and Sunderland surge to Europe

Bournemouth qualified to play European football for the first time in their history in 2025/26, reaching the UEFA Europa League after finishing sixth. Their success was bolstered by an 18-game unbeaten run, the longest recorded by any club across the season. They are joined in the 2026/27 Europa League by Sunderland, whose seventh-place finish was the best by a newly promoted team since Wolverhampton Wanderers in 2018/19. The Black Cats enjoyed a remarkable first season back in the League, having spent eight years in the EFL.

Thrilling battle for safety goes to final day

Two long-established Premier League teams, West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur, battled for safety until the final day of the season. West Ham ultimately went down on 39 points, the most for a relegated side since 2010/11. Sunderland and Leeds United, meanwhile, both stayed up having been promoted from the EFL Championship in 2024/25. Their successes mean teams promoted from the Championship are finishing in 15th place on average since 2010/11, with 40 per cent remaining in the League after three seasons.

Season awards

Star performances and expert management produced another thrilling season – with standout individuals recognised across the League and Academy system



Bruno Fernandes
Manchester United

Player of the Season

Playmaker

Appearances	35
Assists	21
Goals	9

Bruno Fernandes made history by recording the most assists of any player in a Premier League season. His tally of 21 surpassed Thierry Henry's and Kevin De Bruyne's previous highs of 20, helping guide Manchester United to third place and a UEFA Champions League spot.

BARCLAYS

Manager of the Season



Mikel Arteta
Arsenal

Wins	26
Points	85

BARCLAYS

Transfer of the Season



Senne Lammens
Manchester United

Appearances	32
Saves	79

Young Player of the Season



Nico O'Reilly
Manchester City

Appearances	34
Age	21

Coca-Cola

Golden Boot



Erling Haaland
Manchester City

Appearances	35
Goals	27

Coca-Cola

Golden Glove



David Raya
Arsenal

Appearances	37
Clean sheets	19



Jordan Pickford
Everton

Save of the Season
vs Newcastle United (A)

Coca-Cola

Goalkeeper Performance of the Season
vs Brighton & Hove Albion (H)

Microsoft

Goal of the Season

GUINNESS



Harrison Reed
Fulham

vs Liverpool (H)

Player of the Season

Premier League U18



Joseph Junior Gabriel
Manchester United

Appearances	21
Goals	20

Academy Graduate of the Year



On the Pitch

Nico O'Reilly
Manchester City



Off the Pitch

Charlie Fogarty
Former Birmingham City Academy player

Player of the Season

Premier League 2



Shumaira Mheuka
Chelsea

Appearances	19
Goals	18

Head Coach of the Season



Hayden Mullins
Fulham

Wins	11
Points	38

Underpinning world-leading Academy development

Premier League investment has supported the success of a first-class Academy system across English professional football



Rio Ngumoha scored on his Premier League debut against Newcastle United in August 2025, becoming the youngest goalscorer in Liverpool history

The Academy system aims to enable young, aspiring footballers to maximise their potential on and off the pitch.

The Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) was developed by the Premier League in 2012/13, and updated in 2021/22, to ensure the success of this system by balancing elite player development with personal growth.

It is designed to produce more and better homegrown players by sustaining unrivalled Academy environments nationwide.

This work is supported by the Professional Game Youth Fund (PGYF), which distributes a four per cent levy on Premier League and EFL transfers to clubs, as well as central projects and initiatives.

To date, £3.2 billion has been invested through the PGYF into Premier League and EFL academies – including £365 million in 2025/26.

This funding has included extensive support for player care, education and personal development.

Areas of Premier League club investment

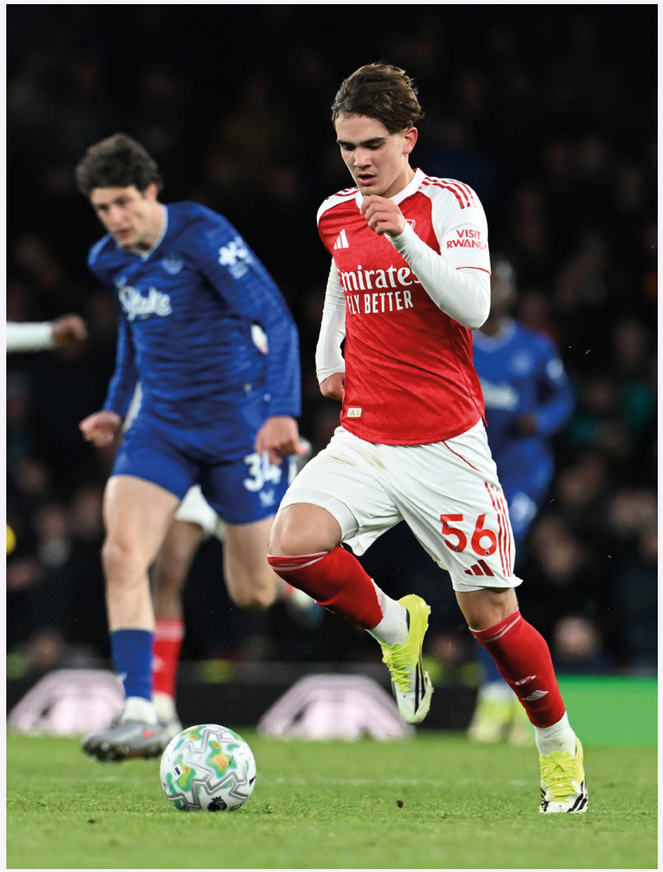
Talent identification	**Performance pathway**	**Duty of care**	**Workforce development**	**Governance and quality assurance**	**Innovation and insights**

Success across the system

The success of academies supported by the Premier League is measured across three core pillars

1. Developing the best talent

Identifying and developing high-potential players, coaches, staff and match officials



Max Dowman breaks records in debut season
Max Dowman became the Premier League's all-time youngest goalscorer, starter and Champion in 2025/26. The teenager joined Arsenal's Academy in 2015 and made six appearances in his debut top-flight campaign. He also made Champions League history by becoming the competition's youngest player, aged 15 years and 308 days in November 2025.

2. Providing life-enriching experiences

Focusing on the development of the person, on and off the pitch

623

life skills workshops delivered, helping Academy players develop skills away from the pitch

3. Ensuring the health of our game

Protecting the health of the game and working collaboratively

£3.2bn

invested into youth development through central and club investment, supporting academies throughout the English pyramid

800+

homegrown player debuts since 2012

Player care and support across ages

The Premier League is committed to supporting players' welfare, education and engagement from Academy through to first-team level and post-playing

Ongoing transition support

The Premier League has an ongoing commitment to supporting Academy players after being released by a club, running development programmes in collaboration with the EFL, League Football Education (LFE) and Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).

A three-year commitment of aftercare support is also in place for all Under-17 to Under-21 players released from clubs, including guidance on education and careers, as well as alumni networks and wellbeing support.

Mental health and wellbeing

Each Premier League club must provide Academy and First-Team Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plans, which include details of support available, multidisciplinary staff involvement, management and delivery and a referral process for concerns.



Latifa Mammeri joined the Futures Development Programme after leaving the West Ham United Academy, and went on to be supported to study a Sports Business and Broadcasting degree

FUTURES

Futures initiatives are designed to support current and former Premier League, EFL and Women's Super League Academy players to take their next steps after their playing careers.

Futures Young Professional Residential
The Futures Young Professional Residential launched in 2026 in collaboration with bodies across football, including the EFL and LFE, to support Under-21s exiting their professional contracts. It aims to ensure players are match fit, empowered and supported in their next steps.

Futures Development Programme
The Futures Development Programme is a 12-month initiative designed to develop careers in and beyond football. The programme aims to support inclusive leadership and employability opportunities.

U.S. Futures Tour
Now in its second iteration, the U.S. Futures Tour provides a life-changing opportunity to better understand career pathways on and off the field. In April 2026, 25 players travelled to Tampa Bay, Florida, for a comprehensive development experience. This combined exposure to professional and collegiate environments, as well as high-performing off-pitch settings from across the wider sporting landscape. Representing 18 clubs (nine Premier League and nine EFL), the cohort secured 18 full scholarship offers.

Developing life skills

The Life Skills and Personal Development programme offers age-specific workshops for Academy and first-team players, parents, care and accommodation providers and club staff.

The programme covers various topics, including delivery from The FA and PFA. Mandatory sessions are carried out at both first-team and Academy level on healthy relationships, brain health, mental health and wellbeing, and EDI.

In Season 2025/26, 623 workshops were delivered across all Premier League academies, including 90 parent/carers and host family workshops.

Education progress

The education available to Academy players continues to expand. More Academy players are studying for A-level qualifications than ever before, more than tripling in the last five years. Premier League academies continue to hold an Ofsted Outstanding rating for their Apprenticeship provision.

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

104
A-levels studied by scholars in 2025/26 – up 25% from 2024/25

Professional footballers

Player care

Player care professional development
The Premier League supports first-team player care staff through a professional development pathway, helping them provide the best possible support to players.

Online abuse support
A dedicated Premier League team investigates online discriminatory abuse. The team supports players in reporting abuse to the relevant authorities, monitoring their accounts, and providing mental and emotional wellbeing support to them and their families.

Player App
The League's personalised Player App provides important information for all current and former players. Resources include physical and mental health support, concussion protocols, transition support and rules on issues such as anti-doping and gambling. Help is also available through the Independent Player Helpline.

Player voice
The Premier League hosts forums with former players, associations and the 20 club captains, considering their views and acting on them. The League also celebrates milestones such as homegrown debuts, appearances, goals and clean sheets.

Player and parent voice continues to be promoted across Academy environments too, providing opportunities to better understand the experiences, perspectives and needs of players and their families.

Player helpline
Players have access to round-the-clock, confidential and independent support via the helpline on issues from their mental health to personal lives. Both current and former players are able to access therapy in six languages.

Player health

Sharing insights to set standards
The Premier League authored a special edition of the British Journal of Sports Medicine in Season 2025/26, highlighting a range of ongoing initiatives and projects around player health. It aimed to provide an understanding of the collaborative work between clubs and the League to ensure that an evidence base informs policy and practice. By showcasing research and governance models, the special edition journal highlighted how elite football can lead in setting standards for clinical care and welfare in sport.

Injury surveillance
The Premier League continues to work with clubs and academic institutes to produce competition-wide injury and illness insights that inform club practice and policy to optimise physical health. Insights inform projects prioritised to address issues facing every club, such as reducing the impact of hamstring injuries.

Brain health and head injuries
A world-leading head injury protocol mandates the highest standards of care.

The League's support for brain health education continues to evolve, ensuring all involved in the game have access to high-quality learning relevant to their role. In association with Sporting Chance, the League conducted brain health education sessions for all first-team players in 2025/26.

Football Brain Health Fund
The Premier League and PFA established the Football Brain Health Fund in 2023 to provide financial support to former players living with neurodegenerative conditions such as dementia. More than £3 million has been committed to date to help improve the quality of life for 240 players and their families.

Advancing professional coaching expertise

The Premier League is committed to supporting a highly skilled and diverse coaching workforce across the professional game



Through the Elite Coaching Plan, the Premier League works in partnership with clubs to enhance the expertise of coaches and coach developers, supporting the development of more and better home-developed staff. This investment strengthens coaching practice across the game and contributes to the long-term development of more and better players.

Academy coaches, first-team coaches and coach developers are supported through role-relevant learning experiences, in-situ development, research and collaborative opportunities. Together, these initiatives help coaches continually develop their expertise, respond to the evolving demands of the modern game and create unrivalled development environments for players.

The League's initiatives and areas of work include:

- Club engagement and support
- Coach Inclusion and Diversity Scheme
- Coach Index
- Elite Coach Accreditation Scheme
- Elite Heads of Coach Development
- Future Coach Developer
- Premier League Next
- Professional Player to Coach Scheme
- Research and insight

This work is further reinforced by the Pro Coach Partnership, a collaborative approach to coach development with key stakeholders across the game. These include The FA, EFL, PFA, WSL Football, League Managers Association and League Coaches Association.



Supporting the transition to first-team coaching

Mehmet Ali (pictured) joined Premier League Next while working as Under-21 Head Coach at Arsenal before progressing to Brentford's first-team coaching staff. The programme supports the development and progression of high-potential home-developed coaches into first-team environments.

Reflecting on the programme, Mehmet said: "Premier League Next has supported me at an important stage of my coaching journey. The individualised approach means the support is relevant to what I need, when I need it. It has allowed me to learn from experienced people in the game, grow as a practitioner and better prepare for the demands of a first-team environment."

Shaping coach development

Chris Pennock completed the Premier League's Elite Heads of Coach Development programme in 2025/26 and achieved a Postgraduate Diploma in Elite Coach Development in the process.

He said: "It challenged me to reconsider how I develop coaches. It shifted my thinking towards working with coaches rather than directing them, co-creating their learning, encouraging reflection, and taking the time to understand the person, their context and their motivations."

Having progressed from Head of Academy Goalkeeping to Head of Coaching at Middlesbrough, Chris' success has come through balancing the demands of the role with its primary purpose: developing people. "I believe that the greatest value in the professional game lies in developing coaches," he said. "As the role of the coach evolves, they are increasingly required to lead in complex and multidisciplinary environments."

Improving representation across coaching

As part of its commitment to increasing diversity across football, the Premier League runs a range of initiatives for under-represented groups in coaching. The Professional Player to Coach Scheme (PPCS) and Coach Inclusion and Diversity Scheme (CIDS) are open to all but specifically aim to support coaches from ethnically diverse backgrounds and women with employment and training opportunities.

Ling-Fung Wong is on a two-year placement at Derby County through CIDS. "I've loved it," he said. "Representation matters, from the players to the coaches. Role models from different backgrounds help show that talent is universal, and it's important for us to recognise that."

Ling-Fung is also registered on the Coach Index, which signposts coaches from under-represented backgrounds to employment opportunities. He said: "At that time I was looking for a role. Sometimes when you can't find one for a long time, it gives you some anxiety. But I got some great advice and soon after that, I got a coaching role which led me to the CIDS programme."

Since launching as part of the No Room For Racism Action Plan in 2021, PPCS and CIDS have supported 121 coaches – with 85 per cent now employed full-time in football. More than 600 coaches and 78 clubs are now signed up to the Coach Index.

Inclusive coaching

121
coaches supported through inclusive coaching programmes, including 34 in 2025/26

600+
coaches registered on the Coach Index

Coach development

637
coaches supported through League-funded programmes, including 190 in 2025/26

184
coaches have graduated with a coaching-related Diploma in Higher Education



Developing leaders and officials

The Premier League supports highly-trained leaders and match officials with development initiatives

Through its programmes, the Premier League supports a diverse pipeline of current and future club leaders, enhancing their ability to lead themselves, their teams and their organisations.

Working with university partners, these programmes combine practical learning and peer collaboration with opportunities to achieve postgraduate qualifications – raising standards and strengthening expertise across the football workforce.

Programmes delivered in 2025/26 include:

- Academy Leaders
- Elite Academy Managers
- Future Academy Leaders
- Premier League Community Leaders

Developing sporting expertise in 2025/26

110
days of mentoring delivered

198
learners engaged

Nurturing a pipeline of leaders

Premier League programmes are tailored to support aspiring, emerging and established leaders at different stages of their careers.

Hannah Mitchell, Manchester United Women's Academy Operations Manager, believes the Future Academy Leaders programme gave her greater confidence to pursue leadership opportunities. She said: "The investment in individuals from a wide range of backgrounds helps to build a leadership pipeline that better reflects the communities the game serves."

After completing the Academy Leaders programme in Season 2025/26, Danny Morville was appointed Academy Manager at Fleetwood Town. Reflecting on the programme, Danny said: "It gave me greater confidence to lead with authenticity while recognising that effective leadership is built around people, relationships and culture."

The Elite Academy Managers programme supports those in director roles and current leaders across the system. Highlighting its value, Chelsea Academy Director Glenn van der Kraan said: "The programme goes beyond technical and tactical knowledge. It is about character and leadership delivery."

New chapter for professional referees' body

The Premier League, EFL, FA and WSL Football announced increased funding in June 2026 to help shape the future of refereeing in the English professional game.

Building on the progress made through the Premier League-driven Elite Referee Development Plan (ERDP), funding will have an emphasis on the Future Talents Group, formerly the Development Group, and the CORE X programme, as well as educating and providing a stronger understanding of officiating to Academy players.

To underpin these changes, Professional Game Match Officials adopted a new name and identity: Professional Game Referees (Pro Ref).

The ERDP has enabled a more modern and dynamic pathway to be established, which will continue to provide opportunities to those who are ready to officiate across the various levels of the professional game.





Future Talents Group accelerating progress

The Elite Referee Development Plan is managed by Pro Ref but funded and supported by the Premier League since launching in 2022/23. As part of the plan, the Future Talents Group aims to identify and train officials with the potential to work at the highest levels of English football.

The Future Talents Group is built around a smaller cohort of prospects with high potential, identified through enhanced collaboration with The FA and provided with greater levels of support.

Women's Super League referee Mel Burgin (pictured) joined the programme in 2023/24 and, like all Future Talents Group officials, was given development support. Her career quickly progressed, being named on the FIFA International Referee List and the National Group in 2025, and overseeing the Women's FA Cup final at Wembley the following year. She also regularly officiates in Premier League 2 and the Premier League International Cup.

She said: "Everything about my progression has accelerated since joining the programme. The exposure to higher-level games, enhanced coaching and regular training camps has allowed me to develop with confidence."

The Fans

The Fans

The Premier League is the world's most-watched football league, with billions of fans globally. Compelling football and continually improving facilities attract record crowds into stadiums, while worldwide interest increases further. The Premier League strives to bring the game closer to supporters and their communities in person, online and via broadcast and commercial partners.

Full, vibrant stadiums

15.9m
record attendees in 2025/26

240,000
growth in stadium capacity since 1992/93

Growing global popularity

1st
in Yonder's British Icon Index

1.9bn
follow the Premier League globally

189
countries broadcast to

27bn
video views across the League's digital channels



Fans attend the Premier League Mornings Live Fan Festival in Kansas City, United States



Meaningful engagement

The League funds fan and community connections through:

Premier League Fans Fund

Supporting clubs to run programmes that strengthen connections between them, their fans and local communities.

FSA Football Supporters' Association

Providing the majority of core funding to underpin work for football supporters at all levels.

Kick It Out

Core funder of Kick It Out, helping the organisation to tackle discrimination and promote inclusion.

Level Playing Field – For disabled sports fans

Funding and support of campaigning for an inclusive experience for all disabled supporters.

The Premier League Fan Engagement Standard also sets the benchmark for clubs' work with supporters, including Fan Advisory Boards and Fan Engagement Plans.

Crowds continue to reach record levels

The League drew more fans than ever over Season 2025/26



More fans than ever attended the Premier League in Season 2025/26, with stadiums at capacity across the country.

Both the total of 15.9 million attendees and average crowds of 41,753 were the highest recorded, with stadiums more than 98 per cent full for the fourth consecutive season.

This reflects the continued success of the Premier League and its sustained popularity domestically. Crowd sizes have grown consistently throughout the competition's history, with cumulative stadium capacity rising by 240,000 since the inaugural season in 1992/93.

Wholesale stadium and facility improvements have created a more accessible matchday experience, underpinned by the world-renowned quality of football. See page 16 for more.

41,753
record average attendance

>98%
full stadiums for four consecutive seasons

Away ticket price cap extended

Premier League clubs unanimously voted to extend the away ticket price cap of £30 for a further two seasons in 2026. The decision meant the £30 cap will have been in place for 12 seasons.

Since its implementation in 2016, away attendance utilisation has risen from 82 per cent to 91 per cent, supporting the incredible atmosphere the Premier League is renowned for.

The away ticket price cap is one of several initiatives available in the League. Including season tickets, away tickets and concessions, the range of tickets sold below full price totalled a combined saving of £19.2 million (EY Ticketing Study 2025/26).

Ticket type	% of tickets sold
Season ticket	75%
Concession (junior, senior or disabled fan)	28%
Away	8%

In 2025/26, the average Premier League ticket cost £40.45, with 56 per cent purchased below this price. The rate of ticket price increases since 2017 remains below the rate of inflation during this period.

Premier League leads European attendances

The Premier League was significantly better attended than all other European leagues in 2025/26, with the EFL Championship the third-best attended.

The Premier League drew a significantly larger total attendance than the continent's other domestic leagues, as well as having the highest stadium utilisation.

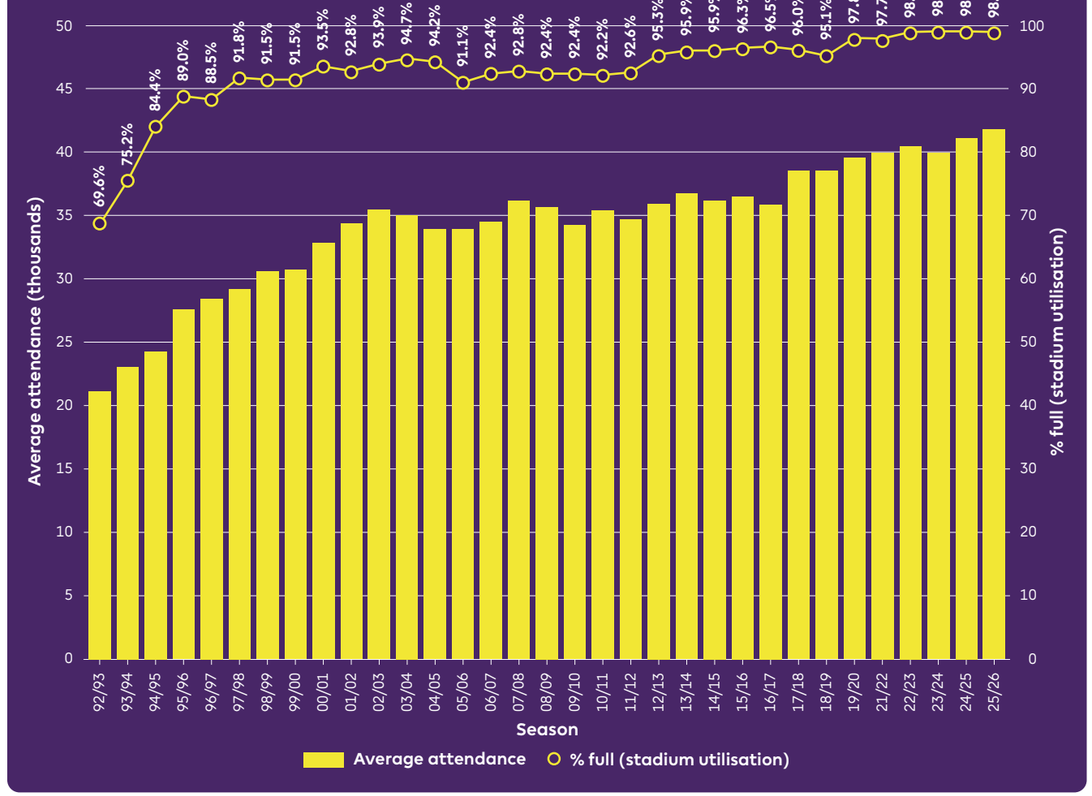
The next-best attended league, the Bundesliga, attracted 2.9 million fewer attendees than the Premier League.

Meanwhile, the Championship was the continent's best-attended second tier, drawing approximately 400,000 more attendees than La Liga and 800,000 more than Serie A.

League	Total	Utilisation
Premier League	15.9m	98.7%
Bundesliga	13m	97%
EFL Championship	12.2m	85%
La Liga	11.8m	80%
Serie A	11.4m	77%

Source: UEFA European Club Talent and Competition Landscape Report 2025/26

Rising Premier League attendances





Engaging fans across the League

Meaningful fan engagement is promoted throughout the competition, ensuring fan voices are heard

Premier League clubs engage supporters directly through Fan Advisory Boards (FABs). The League meets with FAB Fan Leads and focus groups for disabled, young, female and international fans each season about their experience on FABs and the topics that matter most to those they represent.

The League also holds structured dialogue meetings with the Football Supporters' Association twice a season to discuss key issues for fans.

Fan Engagement Standard
The Premier League Fan Engagement Standard (FES) has been in place for three seasons, providing a framework for clubs' work with supporters.

The FES is based on the following themes: leadership and culture; listening in a structured and timely manner; collaborating and participating through meaningful dialogue; sharing decisions and information in a transparent and timely manner; learning and improving.

Performance against the FES is assessed each season. Clubs receive feedback on how they can continue to enhance their fan engagement work, with clubs continually improving on the themes measured.

Some of the key mandatory initiatives of the FES are:

Fan Engagement Plans
Clubs publish an annual Fan Engagement Plan at the start of every season, defining their strategy for consultation and engagement with supporters. The Premier League shares feedback and good practice more widely among other clubs and fans.

Fan Advisory Boards
FABs exchange information and ideas, and provide feedback to their clubs on key subjects such as matchdays, strategy, heritage and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

Towards the end of each season, fan representatives assist clubs in evaluating the effectiveness of their FAB and updates are shared with the club's Board. Clubs also tailor the structure of their FABs to suit the needs and reflect the diversity of their fanbase. Awareness of FABs among wider fanbases is increasing each season.

Nominated Board Level Officials
A leadership figure from the club's senior staff oversees fan engagement and the operation of its FAB, in the role of Nominated Board Level Official.

Premier League Fans Fund

Renewed investment for Premier League Fans Fund

The League supports clubs to run programmes that strengthen connections between them, their fans and local communities

The Premier League has committed £5 million of new investment up to 2028 into the Premier League Fans Fund across the League, EFL, Women's Super League and Women's Super League 2. Funding helps clubs better engage their fans and communities through projects tailored to local needs.

The programme's pilot phase ran between 2023 and 2025, with more than 100 projects engaging over 150,000 participants. Schemes included those designed to build on club heritage, support health and wellbeing, and further develop inclusive matchdays for under-represented groups.

87 clubs with 137 projects in receipt of funding across:

Tackling social isolation among older fans in Liverpool

LFC Foundation's Welcome Red programme launched in 2024 with Premier League Fans Fund support, designed to address social isolation in the community.

The project engages isolated fans through the reach and appeal of Liverpool Football Club, particularly older fans or those living with memory-related conditions. Monthly sessions celebrate the club's history through archive footage and visits from former players, sparking conversation and connection among attendees.

Preston North End promote inclusive matchday experience

With investment from the Premier League Fans Fund, Preston North End Community and Education Trust (PNECET) delivers a range of initiatives to promote EDI across the city and ensure Deepdale Stadium remains welcoming for everyone.

Projects have raised awareness of gender equality and LGBTQ+, disability and neurodiversity inclusion, as well as enabling cultural events at the stadium such as iftars and Diwali celebrations.

"The Premier League Fans Fund has been hugely impactful for us, and a major success. It has allowed us to reach out to more diverse communities, break down barriers and make Deepdale a more inclusive environment for everyone."

Rebecca Robertson
PNECET Head of Safeguarding and Welfare

Working together for safer matchdays

The League and clubs work closely with partners and police forces to ensure all matches are safe and enjoyable environments for more than 15.9 million attendees

Partnering with police

In December 2025, the Premier League and National Police Chiefs' Council announced a new Strategic Policing Partnership to strengthen matchday safety. The partnership delivered £7.4 million in Premier League funding to police forces during Season 2025/26 to test new technology and innovation to improve fan safety, reduce risk and strengthen matchday policing.

Projects are being delivered with police forces in the West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and London. These improve the fan experience by enabling technology developments and helping to target police deployment.

Sarah Jones, Minister of State for Policing and Crime, said: "Every fan deserves to feel safe when they go to the game, so I welcome the Premier League working with the police to use cutting-edge technology at matchdays. By working together, we can ease pressure on officers, while improving public safety."

The partnership builds on long-standing commitment and collaboration between the League, clubs and policing to improve safety at football and in communities. The League and clubs invested more than £100 million in stewarding, security, crime prevention in communities, safety and security initiatives and the Strategic Policing Partnership in Season 2025/26.

The Strategic Policing Partnership is guided by a senior leadership group chaired by Dame Lynne Owens, comprising senior representatives from UK policing and the Premier League.

> **"This is a truly groundbreaking use of technology which will have a real impact on fan safety and wider public safety."**
>
> **Assistant Chief Constable Sarah Burton**
> West Midlands Police



£100m+

invested by the League and clubs into safety, security and crime prevention during 2025/26

Matchday Observer Programme

The Premier League's Matchday Observer Programme covered its third full season in 2025/26. The programme works with clubs to capture incidents which impact or could potentially impact the safety and security of fixtures and provide guidance through League-wide insights.

Under the Premier League Rules, an independent observer with a safety and security background attends every match to work with the host club to compile detailed reports. Data is then analysed by the League across multiple areas and trends, including steward numbers, incident types, times and locations, and home and away supporter behaviour. Good practice is shared with clubs to improve the matchday experience.

Despite Premier League attendances continuing to rise, recorded incidents again dropped in 2025/26.

Combatting digital piracy for 20 years

The Premier League has led the way in tackling digital piracy around the world

Working in close collaboration with its global broadcast partners and authorities, the Premier League has been at the forefront of the global fight against digital piracy for two decades.

Today, the League operates one of the most advanced and effective anti-piracy operations in the world, which provides the cornerstone of support for broadcasters globally.

The League deploys a range of measures to actively combat the piracy of its matches, and its anti-piracy strategy covers various approaches. These include technical measures, such as blocking unauthorised websites and apps; criminal and civil legal actions against operators of illegal streaming services; and campaigns focused on educating fans about how to enjoy the competition from authorised sources (pictured).

Premier League anti-piracy in 2025/26

1.2m

unauthorised clips of Premier League football removed from social media platforms

515,000

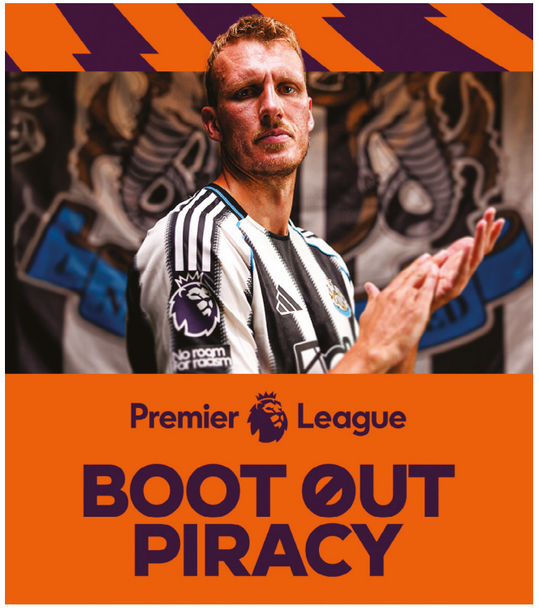
illegal streams blocked or removed from being viewed around the world

500,000+

infringing links removed from search engine results

658

apps removed from global app stores



Deterrent legal cases

During Season 2025/26, the Premier League pursued legal actions in 26 countries, resulting in more than 50 perpetrators being arrested, 16 years of prison sentences and over £4.5 million in financial penalties.

These included:

- Securing confiscation orders worth £3.75 million against operators of the former 'Flawless' pirate network
- Obtaining the largest-ever sentence (22-month imprisonment and fine of more than £200,000) against an operator in Singapore who was selling pirate devices both in-person and online
- Securing police raids in Turkey to disable one of the most infamous and globally popular free-to-access sports piracy networks

New broadcast cycle starts with record distribution

Season 2025/26 marked the start of a new four-year domestic broadcast rights cycle, with more matches shown live than ever before



A record 277 matches were broadcast live in the UK in Season 2025/26 (the highest ever number, excluding the Covid-affected 2020/21 season), a notable increase on the 2022 to 2025 cycle.

Both live viewer hours (up 13 per cent) and individuals watching (up five per cent) grew across broadcast partners, with 127 matches reaching audiences of over one million UK viewers. It was a record season for Sky in terms of both live viewer hours and unique individuals watching.

The increase in live matches broadcast has helped drive a 20 per cent rise in the number of people watching live Premier League coverage over the last decade.

Within the UK, the Premier League generates a higher live viewership than all UEFA club competitions, the FA Cup and EFL competitions combined.

54%

of the total UK TV audience (33.2m individuals) watched live Premier League fixtures or Match of the Day highlights in 2025/26

Growing global reach

The Premier League's global appeal continues to grow. The competition is the UK's most successful broadcast export, available to watch in 189 countries and 1.2 billion homes.

This global popularity attracts investment and visitors to the UK, as well as projecting a positive image of the country overseas.

Season 2025/26 was broadcast to more homes than ever before, reaching a cumulative live audience of 1.5 billion. This was significantly higher than other domestic football competitions, with the Premier League providing 44 of the top 50 global audiences for European domestic league matches.

Eighty per cent of Premier League viewers are based overseas and a large proportion of broadcast revenue is generated from international markets, with exports valued at £1.8 billion in 2024/25. This almost matches the rest of the UK's TV sector combined (£2 billion), highlighting the League's scale within the UK's creative economy. This international appeal helps attract visitors to the country and acts as a source of soft power for the UK.

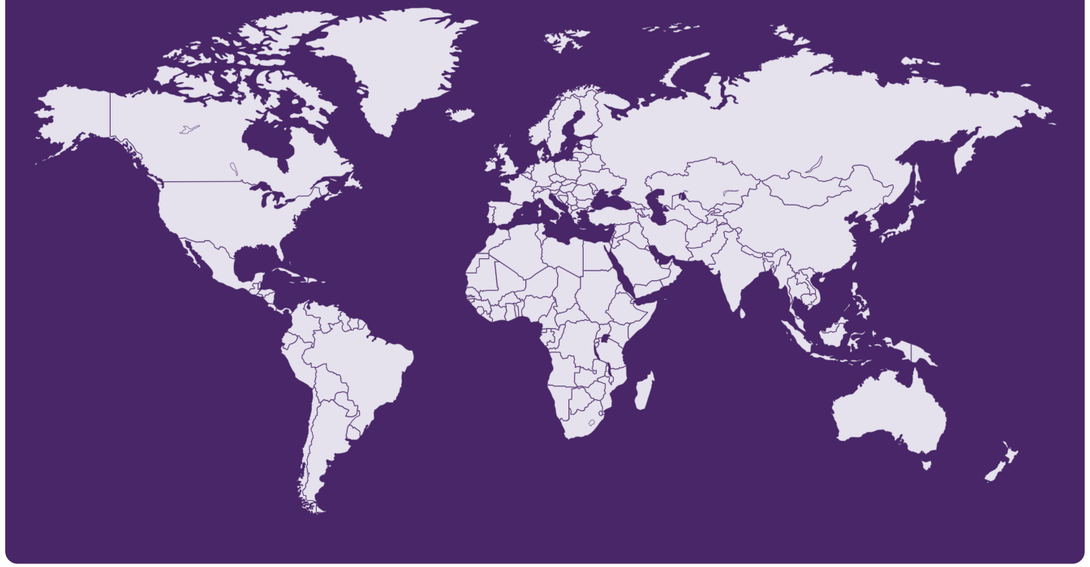
Worldwide engagement

1.9bn
people follow the Premier League

1.5bn
cumulative live TV audience in 2025/26

1.2bn
homes can watch the Premier League

189
countries (out of 193 UN member states) receive coverage



United Kingdom

Sky had its greatest season for live viewer hours (470 million) and live unique reach, with 16.9 million individuals watching at least three consecutive minutes of live coverage.

Match of the Day highlights were watched on linear TV by 27.2 million unique individuals, equivalent to 44 per cent of the total UK TV audience.

TNT's average slot audience of 933,000 was the fifth-highest on record since TNT/BT Sport first broadcast the Premier League in Season 2013/14.

Studios

Global broadcast innovations

The Premier League has significantly invested in its media operations to provide a best-in-class service

Premier League Studios launched for the start of Season 2026/27, building on the League's commitment to providing a world-leading level of international media content production and distribution.

The new studios mark a significant step forward in how the League produces, distributes and supports the competition's content around the world – with more than 100 broadcasters in 189 territories benefitting.

It reflects the League's continued growth and its increasing appeal overseas, while meeting the evolving needs of broadcasters and clubs.

Premier League Studios was fully operational when the 2026/27 season kicked off, and also hosted broadcaster workshops and the League's launch event in pre-season.

Investment positively impacting creative sector

Premier League Studios marked the single largest operational investment in the Premier League's history. With two studios and a brand new site built over 73,000 square feet – roughly the size of a football pitch – the facility reflects the League's commitment to innovation.

The site integrates cutting-edge technology, increasing the quality of output and opening up opportunities for localisation and multi-platform production.

More than 300 people are employed through Premier League Studios, and 220 workers were on site each day throughout its construction. This contributes to the 2,500 jobs supported by the Premier League in the creative sector, with companies investing heavily in their services to deliver the competition worldwide.

Premier League Studios provides:

- All 380 matches in ultra high-definition
- 2,600 matchday interviews
- Year-round access to the Premier League Content Service
- 25,000 on-demand assets

The League's broadcast partners and clubs remained fully serviced throughout nine months of Premier League Studios' construction.



Pundit Leon Osman uses new Premier League Studios technology



Broadcasting the Premier League globally

1.2bn
global reach

73,000
square-foot facility, including two studios

300+
people employed through Premier League Studios

40+
multi-use content suites

Premier League+

Video streaming service launched in Singapore

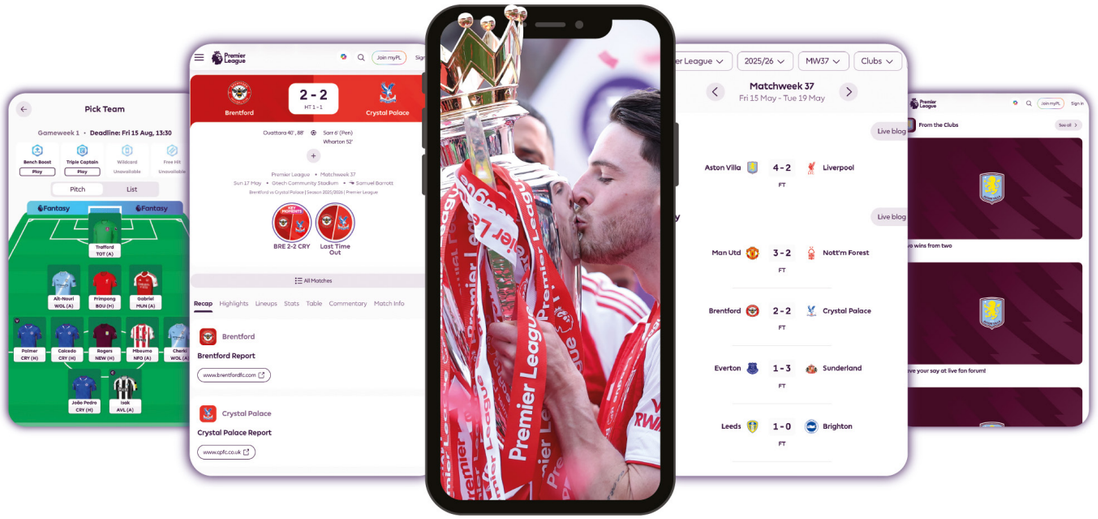
The Premier League launched Premier League+, a new direct-to-fan streaming service, in Singapore at the start of Season 2026/27. This marked a significant milestone in how fans in the country can experience the competition.

With a round-the-clock channel produced by Premier League Studios, Premier League+ complements long-term broadcast partner StarHub's existing offering by bringing together all 380 live Premier League fixtures, as well as FA Cup and FA Community Shield matches.

Premier League Chief Media Officer, Paul Molnar, said: "Working together with our valued long-term partner StarHub, we've created a service that combines every live Premier League match with innovative features and exclusive content, giving fans in Singapore more ways than ever to connect with the competition they love."

Digital transformation fuels record fan growth

Launching new platforms and fan experiences led to a record season for digital engagement in 2025/26 – benefitting fans, clubs and broadcasters



The Premier League produced two consecutive seasons of record-breaking growth amid a digital transformation that incorporated the launch of a suite of new products in 2025/26.

A new app and website provide a more seamless experience for fans around the world. They position the Premier League as a gateway to official club and broadcaster platforms through enhanced personalisation, features and content. This serves fans with the content and features they want based on their favourite clubs and players, their interests, preferences and even their region.

Video views across all platforms significantly rose to 27 billion (up 114 per cent on Season 2024/25), while total users on the website and app surpassed 125 million (up 26 per cent) – both new records. The culmination was a 28 per cent increase in fan data records and a 17 per cent increase in data records passed to clubs – encapsulating the collective benefits of the Premier League's new digital products and direction.

Growing digital engagement

27bn
video views (+114%)

125m
total engaged users (+26%)

68.8m
direct fan relationships (+28%)

Premier League Shop

Launched online in June 2025, the Premier League Shop marked the League's first owned e-commerce offer. In addition to diversifying commercial revenue, the shop also grows direct fan relationships and generates fan records, while providing supporters with a dedicated destination for official Premier League and partner merchandise.

Collaborating with clubs

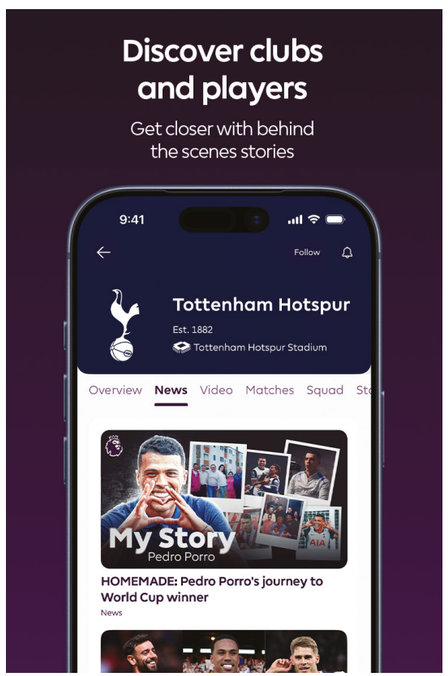
Alongside a range of giveaways and mutual promotions, the Premier League's commitment to providing digital promotion for clubs paid widespread dividends. Amplification of club content was up by 146 per cent year on year, while the League drove more than 33 million referrals to club news and content (up 55 per cent), led by deeper integration and collaboration.

Driving new audiences

The Premier League launched new channels in Brazil (pictured) and Singapore; new initiatives like Player of the Matchweek – driving more than 1.5 million votes, with 30 different winners across 11 clubs – and new content collaborations with the likes of the NFL, NBA and with Indian cricketers in collaboration with JioStar.

A record 13.3 million fans around the world played Fantasy Premier League, which was revamped with new chips, leagues, scoring rules and multiple partner integrations.

In parallel, Season 2025/26 saw enhanced activations on the Premier League's social impact work, partnering with Samaritans for Together Against Suicide and Gay Times for Premier League With Pride. Michael Carrick also helped to spearhead a celebration of Premier League Kicks and the League's More Than a Game campaign.





Engaging a record number of U.S. fans

The Premier League captivated fans across the United States in their millions, with record numbers tuning in and a series of activations

The Premier League's popularity in the United States continues to grow, with events in the country engaging fans nationwide and viewing figures hitting new highs.

Following the 2025 Premier League Summer Series, the season began with NBC Sports' most-watched opening weekend as an average of two million viewers tuned in to watch Manchester United vs Arsenal. This popularity remained throughout the season, with the total and live cumulative audience increasing by seven per cent compared with 2024/25.

The Gunners went on to help break another record for the U.S. when their away match against Manchester City became the most-watched Premier League game in NBC's history. An average of 2.6 million viewers tuned in as fans followed the tense and unpredictable title fight into the final weeks.

Two Premier League Mornings Live events enabled fans to engage in person across 2025/26, hosted in Kansas City and Tampa Bay.

Both were held in collaboration with NBC Sports across two days and attracted thousands of fans to watch their teams' matches at free fan festivals. NBC's studio team broadcast live from the events, held at KC Live! and the Armature Works respectively.

Premier League Hall of Fame inductee and all-time top scorer Alan Shearer joined fans at both events, alongside Jermain Defoe in Kansas City and a range of club legends.

More than 120,000 fans have attended the 12 Premier League Mornings Live festivals since they began in 2017, creating unique experiences for audiences across the United States.

2.6m

record audience for NBC's most-watched Premier League match ever, Manchester City vs Arsenal

120,000+

fans have attended Premier League Mornings Live since 2017

7%

rise in total and live cumulative audience compared with 2024/25





Coast to Coast connects U.S. fans with all 20 clubs

The 2026/27 season started with a first-of-its-kind initiative in which all 20 Premier League clubs held free watch parties for their fans across the opening weekend.

Coast to Coast took place in 17 cities across North America, celebrating football, community and club pride, bringing the excitement of the Premier League directly to fans. It was the League's first countrywide fan activation in the United States.

Working alongside partners and American sports franchises, fans were treated to unforgettable moments alongside iconic former sportspeople. This included Robbie Fowler, Premier League Hall of Fame members Ashley Cole and Andrew Cole, and National Football League legend Joe Montana.

The Premier League's Official Beer, Guinness, activated at 17 events, while Coca-Cola, Topps, PUMA and EA SPORTS supported experiences with products, grassroots support, giveaways and gaming.

New Jersey benefits from coach development

During Coast to Coast, 60 local coaches and 230 young people benefitted from NEXTGEN Coach activity in New Jersey.

Workshops across the week helped to develop the local football workforce, with expertise from Premier League and Newcastle United Foundation staff. Some of the activity took place on a mini pitch in Kearny, opened by the League and EA SPORTS FC as part of the 2023 Premier League Summer Series.

Participants were also joined by former Newcastle player Jonas Gutierrez, who spoke about the role coaches play in supporting young players.

This formed part of the League's three-year partnership with the State of New Jersey and the U.S. Soccer Foundation, which includes a commitment to developing more than 500 local football coaches and providing sports development resources to more than 10,000 youth players from under-served communities.

NEXTGEN Coach, the Premier League's international coach development programme, has supported grassroots coaches in 29 countries to date (pages 58-59).



Premier League
NEXTGEN

Growing international community development

The Premier League continued its support for football and communities around the world across Season 2025/26

The Premier League held the inaugural NEXTGEN Beijing Cup in April 2026, the first edition of its international youth development tournament to be staged in China.

The competition, co-hosted by the League and the Beijing Football Association, brought together teams from Premier League and Chinese academies, with matches held at the National Olympic Sports Centre.

The teams played 16 matches in total, split across two groups, culminating in Arsenal's 2-0 victory over Zhejiang FC in the final to claim the title.

Official broadcast partner Migu aired the full tournament, reaching hundreds of thousands of fans in China. The League and Chinese Professional Football League (CFL) also held a knowledge exchange between senior staff across the two organisations, while Academy players benefitted from a series of cultural experiences.

President of the Beijing Football Association, Liu Jun, said: "The tournament not only enhanced the competitive level of local Academy teams but also encouraged deeper exchanges between China and the UK in training philosophy, coaching methods and talent development systems. In doing so, it has injected fresh momentum into the high-quality growth of youth football in Beijing and across China."

Alongside the tournament, the Premier League delivered the NEXTGEN Coach programme, reinforcing its commitment to grassroots football in the region. Forty grassroots coaches from across China received targeted training, led by Premier League staff and Academy coaches from Burnley and Chelsea. On the final day, 64 young players took part in a showcase event at the Beijing Xiaohuamao Football Training Centre.

The Premier League has been investing into grassroots football in China for 17 years. The programme previously partnered with the British Council to develop more than 6,500 grassroots coaches, referees and teachers across 29 cities, laying the foundations for the work that continues today through NEXTGEN Coach.



Celebrating first year in India

The Premier League opened its first office in India in April 2025, building on its longstanding work in the region to promote football and engage millions of passionate fans.

The League's first major initiative saw a week-long programme of activity take place, including Premier League Live, a fan park screening supported by official broadcast partner JioStar.

Former Premier League and England striker Michael Owen joined fans, coaches and then-Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer as they saw the League's international work in action.

Later in the season, the League celebrated its one-year anniversary of the India office by holding its inaugural NEXTGEN Coach programme in Goa.

Through a combination of fan engagement and community-focused initiatives, the Premier League reinforced its commitment to India as a key region. It continues to work with partners, including JioStar, to engage with fans and local communities in the future.

League commits to NEXTGEN Coach in Singapore

The final NEXTGEN Coach activity of Season 2025/26 took place in Singapore. A series of events were delivered in partnership with the Football Association of Singapore (FAS), official broadcast partner StarHub, and Care Corner, as well as coaches from Arsenal and Brighton & Hove Albion.

The Premier League has committed to deliver NEXTGEN Coach in Singapore for at least two more years to make a lasting impact on the country's football ecosystem. This underscores the League's continued engagement in the region, where it opened its first international office in 2019.

The NEXTGEN Coach programme combines the League's international expertise with FAS' local insight to deliver an approach tailored to Singapore's football community. Through structured training and ongoing development, coaches are empowered to create positive, welcoming environments where young people can thrive on and off the pitch.

Former Premier League players Joe Cole and Nemanja Vidic attended to support the NEXTGEN Coach events in summer 2026.

International community support

41,000
coaches, teachers and referees supported

29
countries

2.3m
young people impacted

Investment is making a tangible difference, with 92 per cent of coach development participants reporting a new perspective on coaching and 94 per cent recognising the value of the League's support.

Partnering for fans and communities

The Premier League's partners continued to create opportunities, enhance fan experiences and support community programmes



BARCLAYS

Barclays celebrate positive community impact
Throughout Season 2025/26, the Premier League and Barclays championed the people, stories and communities that help football to positively impact their local areas nationwide.

They recognised exceptional community leaders through the Barclays Community Icon award. Margaret Burke (pictured) was celebrated in December for her positivity and for embracing the community opportunities offered at the AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust.

Barclays also celebrated the achievements of people from under-represented groups across grassroots and community football through their ongoing partnership with the Football Black List.

These activations demonstrated a shared commitment to promoting positive impact and inclusion.

PUMA | Topps

PUMA and Topps create Premier League Kicks Cup memories
PUMA established a strong presence both on and off the pitch in its first season as the Premier League's Official Ball Supplier. Alongside providing the match ball for every Premier League fixture, PUMA supported fan engagement initiatives, community programmes and retail activations that helped bring the partnership to life for supporters.

PUMA also celebrated 20 years of Premier League Kicks by gifting every participant at the Premier League Kicks Cup final a pair of football boots, creating a lasting impact for more than 380 young people taking part in the programme.

Topps helped to make the event even more memorable as part of a range of fan and community initiatives, giving participants the opportunity to feature on their own personalised trading card and sample Topps' latest Premier League collection ahead of its launch.



Microsoft

Premier League Companion launches
The League's partnership with Microsoft launched with the Premier League Companion, an AI-powered assistant functionality within the Premier League website and app that is grounded in over 30 years of data and content.

The Companion helps answer fan queries about the Premier League and its clubs, as well as serving tailored content to fans based on their preferences, bringing them closer to their favourite teams and players.

For Season 2026/27, the Companion has been expanded to include a Fantasy Premier League (FPL) Companion, which helps fans with decision-making related to their FPL team. The FPL Companion launch drove a five-fold increase in overall Companion usage during its first week.

Adobe

Adobe elevate the digital fan experience
Adobe became the Premier League's Official Digital Fan Experience and Creativity Partner at the start of Season 2025/26, supporting the League's ambition to create richer, more personalised fan experiences. Adobe technologies are helping the Premier League to better understand supporters' digital preferences and deliver more relevant content, communications and experiences across its digital platforms.

Adobe Express and Firefly introduced new creative opportunities for supporters, including the ability for Fantasy Premier League managers to create personalised team badges. Across Season 2026/27, the League and Adobe will develop additional weekly content for fans to celebrate their team's performance and achievements.

EA SPORTS FC

ePremier League debuts overseas
In 2025/26, EA and the Premier League produced the most expansive and exciting ePremier League programme to date. In the competition's eighth season, the live finals and group stages moved to MediaCity, Manchester. Defending champions Manchester City defeated Leeds United in a compelling 8-6 final. It was a third successive title for City and Matias Bonanno, with his teammate Jafonso winning the title in his debut ePremier League season.

The ePremier League also went overseas for the first time in Season 2025/26, delivering an FC Fan Festival at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in August 2025 as part of the Premier League Summer Series. The fan-focused competitive gaming event attracted more than 1,000 attendees.

In January 2026, the Premier League and EA then took the ePremier League to Shanghai, putting on an ePremier League China event played on FC Mobile (pictured). This featured leading FC Mobile players and content creators pairing up to represent their club. Arsenal came out on top in the final, narrowly beating Brentford to claim their inaugural ePremier League title.



More Than a Game


Premier League
Premier League
Premier League

Premier League

More than a game.

The Premier League proudly provides unprecedented financial support for football at all levels and communities across the country, delivered through a network of football club charities. Funding for the Football Foundation and the Premier League Stadium Fund also helps grassroots and non-league teams to thrive. This nationwide support is underpinned by the competition's continued success.

Supporting all levels of football

127,000+

grassroots teams have used Football Foundation-funded sites

Premier League Stadium Fund

1,000+

non-league and women's clubs supported through infrastructure grants totalling £227 million

GIRLS' EMERGING TALENT CENTRE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

70

free FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centres funded

Supporting communities

Foundation

2.5m+

people have benefitted from in-person Premier League Foundation programmes

Premier League Kicks

650,000+

participants in free Premier League Kicks sessions at more than 5,000 venues nationwide

Premier League Primary Stars

Premier League Inspires

20,000

schools engaged in Premier League education programmes

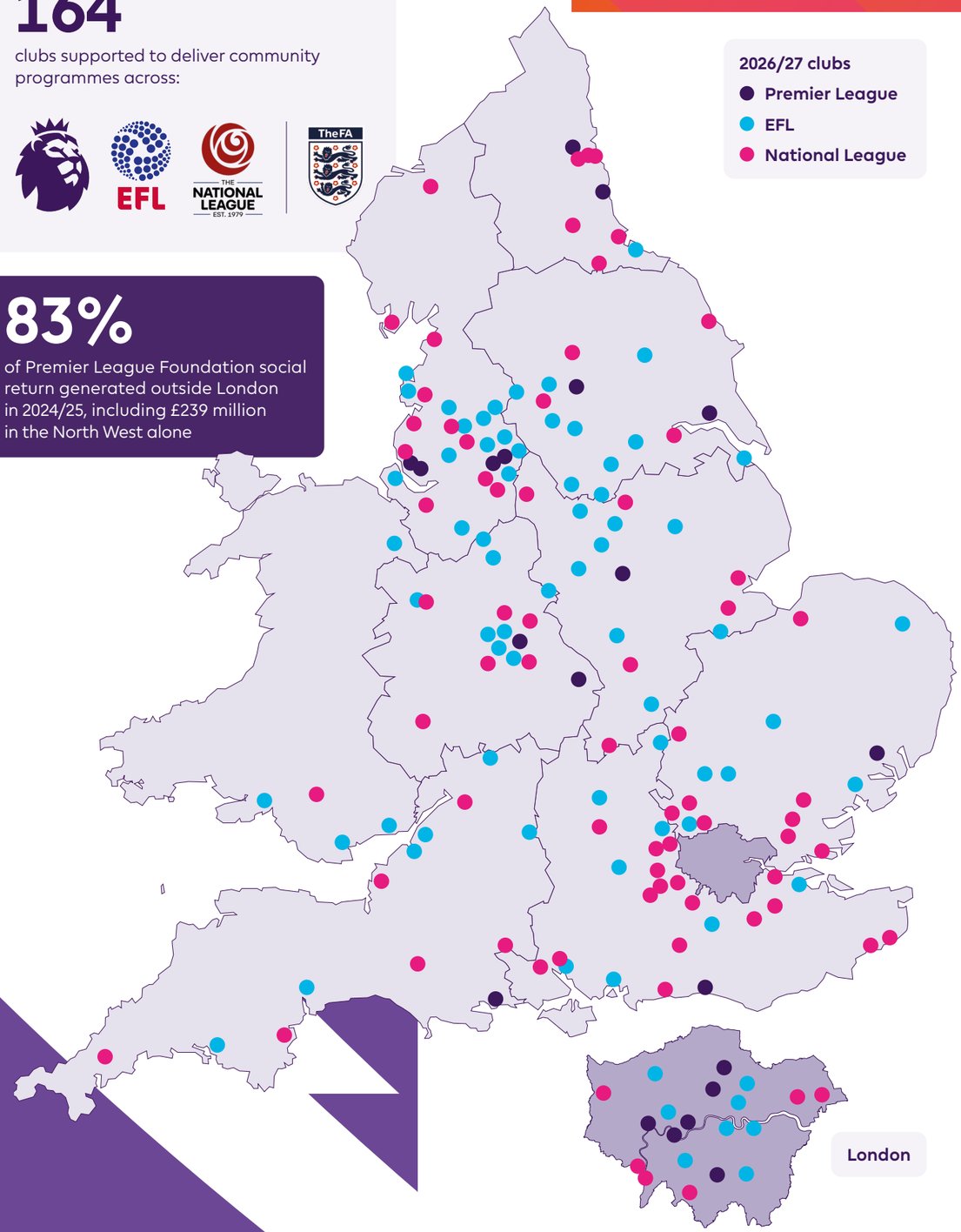
164

clubs supported to deliver community programmes across:

EFL · THE NATIONAL LEAGUE EST. 1979 · The FA

83%

of Premier League Foundation social return generated outside London in 2024/25, including £239 million in the North West alone



Foundation

Community support for 15 years

The Premier League Foundation celebrated 15 years of investment into communities across England and Wales in 2025/26, building on the Premier League's longstanding support



The Premier League Foundation is one of the world's largest sporting charities. It was established in 2010 to create positive sporting, health, personal and education opportunities for children, young people and the wider community.

The Premier League's annual investment via the independent charity has almost quadrupled in just over a decade. It has now committed more than £450 million since the Foundation's formation in 2010 up to 2028.

Today, the Foundation supports 111 football club charities and player foundations across the Premier League, EFL and National League to address important societal issues and to have a life-changing impact in their local communities.

More than 2.5 million participants have benefitted from regular face-to-face delivery on Premier League-funded programmes, with 1.3 million young people engaged annually through digital resources.

> **"The Premier League is a global success story – but it's more than that. The Premier League believes in people, and it believes in the power of people to make a difference."**
>
> **Lisa Nandy**
> Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

111

club charities and player foundations supported, with £450m committed by the Premier League into the Premier League Foundation from its formation up to 2028

substance.

New study highlights widespread contribution

An independent study by social research agency Substance showcased how the 20 Premier League club charities and Premier League Foundation programmes deliver notable improvements in wellbeing, physical and mental health, education and employment, as well as strengthening social cohesion and community connection.

The report found that Premier League club charity and Premier League Foundation delivery is projected to generate £4.3 billion of social value between 2025 and 2028. Benefits and cost savings are linked to increased activity, improved confidence and life satisfaction, education and employability, volunteering, social action, crime reduction and stronger community cohesion.

Premier League support also enables professional club charities to leverage additional partnership funding to increase the scale of their impact.

Every £1 invested through the Premier League Foundation into community programmes amounts to £21 in social value.

This positive social impact is felt nationally, with 83 per cent of the social return on investment from the Premier League Foundation generated outside London in 2024/25.

£4.3bn

in social value to be generated by Premier League-funded delivery, 2025 to 2028

A nationwide network

More than 7,500 people are employed to deliver Premier League-funded programmes through club charities across the Premier League, EFL and National League.

One of them is Kayleigh, Head of Community, Engagement and Safeguarding at Hull City's Tigers Trust (pictured). A former Premier League Kicks participant, Kayleigh started volunteering through the programme in 2011.

She has remained with Tigers Trust since in a variety of roles, but continues to lead Premier League Kicks sessions. "Having the opportunity to volunteer and interact on the programme has been massive," Kayleigh said. "My journey is just one of thousands that I could look at across the network. I wouldn't be able to put into words what the programme has done for me."

In 2026, Kayleigh was awarded the Police and Crime Commissioner's Commendation for her exceptional contribution to supporting at-risk children across the region. She is one of more than 600 funded programme participants who have gone on to find employment with their club or club charity.



7,500+

people employed to deliver Premier League-funded community activity



Premier League
Kicks

Two decades of impact

Premier League Kicks uses the power of football to inspire young people in some of the most deprived communities across England and Wales

Launched with four pilot clubs in 2006, today 93 football club charities across the Premier League, EFL and National League deliver Premier League Kicks alongside local police forces throughout England and Wales.

The League's flagship community programme celebrated its 20-year anniversary in Season 2025/26. During that time, it has supported hundreds of thousands of young people to play, coach and officiate. More than half of delivery is within the most under-served neighbourhoods, enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of over 650,000 participants aged eight to 18.

In addition to providing young people with access to free football and sports activities, Premier League Kicks has also inspired thousands through workshops, mentoring and routes into education, training and employment. More than 300 people in the club charity workforce are former Premier League Kicks participants, supporting a culture of positive role-modelling.

20 years of Premier League Kicks

650,000+
participants, with 94,000 in 2025/26

5,000+
venues with free sessions

40
out of 44 police force areas covered across England and Wales

38%
ethnically diverse participants in 2025/26

Above:
Premier League Kicks Cup enabled more than 1,400 young people to represent their local clubs in 2025/26

Safer communities through Police Partnerships

Forty-nine professional football club charities across England and Wales received a share of £900,000 in Premier League funding to develop Police Partnership projects with their local forces. These are aimed at strengthening community relationships and reducing the risk of reoffending.

Premier League investment is match-funded locally by partners including police forces, Violence Reduction Units and Police and Crime Commissioners. This brings the total investment through the partnerships to more than £2 million.

Delivery will take place through Premier League Kicks, which was established in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and is now delivered alongside 40 police forces.

The funding builds on a pilot between 2023 and 2025 in which more than £1 million was jointly invested. Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation were one of the club charities funded, and crime associated with their cohort of participants fell by 65 per cent in just under 12 months.

In London, 11 clubs from across the Premier League and EFL are working in collaboration with the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit to address city-wide issues.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said: "I am incredibly proud that my Violence Reduction Unit has joined forces with the Premier League and London's football club charities to scale up activities and positive opportunities for young people."





LBU LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Positive long-term community influence

A study by Leeds Beckett University, commissioned by the Premier League Foundation, highlighted the long-term impact of Premier League Kicks and its influence on local communities.

Findings showed the programme's benefits extend beyond participation, influencing alumni's wellbeing, relationships and contributions to their communities.

Ninety-eight per cent of alumni reported mental health and wellbeing improvements from Premier League Kicks, while 93 per cent said the programme helped them get into less trouble. The research also found that 86 per cent of alumni believe it helped to improve their career opportunities.

93%
of alumni believe Premier League Kicks helped them get into less trouble

Supporting schools nationwide

Premier League Primary Stars inspires learning across primary schools

Using the appeal of football clubs and players, Premier League Primary Stars supports children aged five to 11 to be active and develop essential life skills in classrooms, playgrounds and on sports fields across the country.

Available to every primary school in England and Wales, more than 19,700 schools (88 per cent of those in England and Wales) deliver the football-focused education programme to increase children's subject interest, understanding and confidence.

More than 650 free teaching resources support the development of crucial skills and values in curriculum-linked sessions for physical education (PE), personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), maths and English. Unsurpassed in world sport, the resources engage 1.3 million children online and in person annually.

Attendances by primary school children have now topped 20 million over 10 years, with sessions delivered by 103 football club charities in the Premier League, EFL and National League.

10 years of Premier League Primary Stars

103

Premier League, EFL and National League club charities delivering

19,700+

schools engaged

83,500+

teachers using free resources



Encouraging active schoolchildren

Premier League Primary Stars supports both educational development and physical activity, highlighted by the annual Premier League Primary Stars Football Tournament.

In 2026, hundreds of children from 60 schools across England and Wales came together to take part in the national finals at Molineux Stadium. Building on nationwide regional qualifiers involving more than 800 young people, the two-day event opened with a mixed competition for girls and boys, followed by a girls' tournament on the second day.

Participants represented their local professional clubs, wearing first-team kits in games overseen by Pro Ref officials.

Dan Barden, a PE teacher at Leechpool Primary, led the Brighton girls' team. He said: "That the Premier League is involved in setting up tournaments like this, providing a place for the children to grow and perform, is fantastic. I never thought we'd get the opportunity to do something like this."





"Premier League Primary Stars is where I first fell in love with the game."

Ethan Nwaneri
Arsenal forward, on loan to Borussia Dortmund

More than 460,000 free books distributed

To mark World Book Day 2026 and the National Year of Reading, the Premier League provided more than 120,000 free books to children across England and Wales through Premier League Primary Stars.

The giveaway formed part of the League's partnership with the National Literacy Trust on Premier League Primary Stars literacy activity. A World Book Day virtual quiz also attracted an audience of more than one million pupils.

Earlier in the year, the Premier League backed the National Literacy Trust and Government's 'Go All In' initiative to tackle the decline in reading for pleasure.

Since 2017, the Premier League has distributed more than 460,000 free books through Premier League Primary Stars, and its free resources reach over 1.3 million children annually.

Premier League Inspires

Expanding young people's horizons

Premier League Inspires helps secondary school-age pupils at risk of not achieving their potential

Premier League Inspires creates life-changing opportunities for young people who may be at risk of not reaching their potential, helping them to develop the personal skills and positive attitudes needed to succeed in life.

The secondary school targeted intervention programme launched in 2019. It uses the power of football to prepare young people for further education and employment through a series of face-to-face mentoring sessions, workshops and social-action projects.

Now in its seventh year of delivery, Premier League Inspires has engaged more than 55,000 young people aged 11 to 18, supporting them in more than 1,000 educational establishments across England and Wales.

The Premier League announced increased investment into the programme for 2025/26, and again for 2026/27, raising the number of club charities delivering it to 61. The expansion supports the League's partnership with Government on the Youth Guarantee initiative to help young people into education or employment.

The programme has a significant impact on young people's performance in school and their prospects after leaving. On a visit to a session hosted by Sunderland's Foundation of Light, the then-Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson said: "It's inspiring to see the difference the Premier League Inspires programme is making. These are the kinds of innovative, community-rooted approaches that change lives and open doors to brighter futures."

55,000+
young people engaged since 2019

1,000+
schools and alternative education providers engaged

61
Premier League and EFL clubs involved



Young people from more than 50 clubs attended the 2025/26 Premier League Inspires Challenge



League announces ambition to support 250,000 young people at risk of becoming NEET

In October 2026, the Premier League announced a commitment to support 250,000 young people at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) over the next five years.

Long-term investment will enable an expansion of League and professional club charity work nationwide, building on longstanding community programmes.

The ambition was supported by Chair of the Young People and Work Review Alan Milburn during an event at St. James' Park (pictured). There, Newcastle United Foundation participants on Premier League Inspires shared their experiences with Milburn and local business leaders.

Milburn said: "This investment from the Premier League will make a real difference. It will support tens of thousands of young people who are at risk of ending up NEET and give them some hope for the future."

In his interim report on young people and work, Milburn warned that Britain risks a "lost generation" of up to 250,000 more 16 to 24-year-olds becoming NEET over the next five years without urgent action.

The Premier League's funding will enable club charities to increase their work with schools and other local partners, providing trusted relationships, mentoring and activities to give young people a stronger start in adult life.

Sheffield Hallam University

Driving school attainment, attendance and inclusion

Research led by Sheffield Hallam University in 2025/26 highlighted the positive impact of Premier League Inspires on pupils.

Conducted by the Sport Industry Research Group and Sheffield Institute of Education, the independent study revealed that 96 per cent of schools believe Premier League Inspires increases pupils' engagement in lessons, while 92 per cent reported improvements in behaviour.

The findings also demonstrated the programme's role in supporting attendance and inclusion. Of the schools engaged, 80 per cent said Premier League Inspires helped reduce pupil absenteeism, while 86 per cent reported a reduced risk of exclusion among participating pupils.



Of the schools engaged through Premier League Inspires research:

- **96%** agree it increases engagement
- **92%** agree it improves behaviour
- **86%** agree it reduces the risk of exclusion
- **80%** agree it reduces absenteeism

Premier League and PFA collaborate for communities

The Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) partner on a range of initiatives to positively impact local communities through the influence and passion of players

Positive impact of players

The Premier League and Professional Footballers' Association Players' Fund has enabled football club charities across England and Wales to address local challenges and needs since 2007.

The fund supports projects relating to physical and mental health, employability, inclusion, education and people with dementia. It is currently delivered by 54 club charities, with more than 300,000 participants benefitting to date.

Men's and women's first-team and Academy players are heavily involved in funded activity, supporting delivery and raising awareness of the work taking place at their club. This includes former professional players.

Players are personally involved in the development of many Premier League and PFA Players' Fund projects that tap into their own passions and interests. From the Premier League, EFL, National League and professional women's football, players use their own lived experience to inspire initiatives that make a real difference to their local communities.

Premier League Professional Footballers' Association

Players' Fund

300,000+
unique participants engaged

500+
individual player and scholar engagements in 2025/26

400,000+
sessions

4,250+
venues

Brentford icons support school students

With investment from the Premier League and PFA Players' Fund, former Brentford players Karleigh Osborne and Marcus Gayle are supporting Brentford FC Community Sports Trust's BeeComing You programme.

The initiative helps secondary school pupils to build their life skills, emotional literacy and confidence.

Gayle (pictured) said: "The Premier League and PFA Players' Fund is an incredible opportunity to connect with the students in years nine to 12 from our community. We can ensure our students will come away having a clearer sense of purpose."



Tullis-Joyce recognised for environmental impact

Goalkeeper Phallon Tullis-Joyce plays a leading role in Manchester United Foundation's Eco Reds programme. Supported by the Premier League and PFA Players' Fund, Eco Reds teaches schoolchildren about the environment and sustainability.

Tullis-Joyce plans and delivers lessons at local schools about marine biology and the environment. She also joined Eco Reds participants on an educational visit to Chester Zoo (pictured) and in a recycling-focused workshop.

She was recognised for her involvement in the project as both PFA Community Champion and the WSL's Champion of Change.



Professional Footballers' Association

"We know from our work with players that they feel passionately about using their influence in positive ways to drive change in their communities."

Maheta Molango
PFA Chief Executive

Premier League and PFA Core Fund

The Premier League and PFA Core Fund supports football club charities to become stronger, more sustainable organisations, underpinning key infrastructure and a network of staff and volunteers.

More than £59 million of funding from the Premier League and PFA has been distributed by the Premier League Foundation to date. This helps football club charities to effectively respond to local need, delivering high-quality programmes and value for money.

Between 2025 and 2028, £24 million of Premier League investment through the Premier League Foundation will be delivered in partnership with the PFA. This is supporting a network of more than 7,500 people to deliver programmes.

EFL and National League support

The Premier League, via its partnership with the PFA, also invests in EFL in the Community and the National League Trust.

This investment supports the community organisations connected to all 144 EFL and National League clubs, ensuring they can deliver significant social impact in communities across England and Wales.

EFL IN THE COMMUNITY

NATIONAL LEAGUE TRUST

Creating opportunities throughout women's football

The Premier League provides dedicated funding and support for women's and girls' football, from grassroots to career pathways

The Premier League is removing barriers to football for women and girls through community programmes, grassroots football, the professional game and career pathways.

Between 2025 and 2028, the Premier League is providing more than £35 million of investment specifically into women's and girls' football, including a £20 million loan for Women's Super League Football (page 78).

This positively impacts young women and girls across the football pyramid and throughout communities, as well as supporting bespoke women's football programmes delivered via The FA. Co-funding through the Football Foundation (pages 82-83) and Premier League Stadium Fund (pages 80-81) also ensures high-quality, accessible facilities for women and girls at grassroots, non-league and professional levels.



Developing careers

The Premier League provides a range of support to help develop pathways for women and girls into jobs within football. The Premier League has invested £2.25 million via The FA to develop and diversify the future football workforce, with a focus on women's football.

More than 1,900 young women were supported in 2025/26 through Premier League Changemakers. The programme aims to empower, inspire and develop personal skills and positive understanding of leadership through the power of football.

Premier League funding has also enabled full bursaries for women employed at clubs across the English football pyramid to enrol on the Women in Football Leadership Course, and an expansion of the course itself.

Positively impacting communities

Each season, more than 100,000 young women and girls take part in face-to-face Premier League-funded community programmes delivered by more than 100 professional club charities.

With investment through The FA, the Premier League also supports girls' football in school, after school and in communities.

PlayHers successfully launched as an inclusive national programme delivered through The FA, Youth Sport Trust, Premier League-funded club charities and schools. It aims to help seven to 11-year-olds grow in confidence, build essential life skills and enjoy the game. It trained more than 300 teachers over Season 2025/26 and reached more than 6,300 young people – with a particular impact in areas of deprivation.

500,000+

girls engaged through digital resources, and 100,000+ on in-person programmes

Broadening the girls' football talent pathway

GIRLS' EMERGING TALENT CENTRE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Premier League investment of £6.8 million between 2025 and 2028 into FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centres enables more than 4,600 girls to play for free at 70 sites across the country.

The sites focus on creating a wider and more diverse talent pool for the future game. Since their launch, they have increased participation by players from under-served communities by 25 per cent.

Co-funding for the Football Foundation has also benefitted facilities used by more than 18,500 women's and girls' teams, in addition to specific funding for inclusive and accessible facilities (pages 82-83).



Premier League support for women's football at all levels

Supported by Premier League

	Direct investment for
Women's Super League Women's Super League 2	Premier League Stadium Fund WSL Football
FA Women's National League North and South FA Women's National League regional divisions	Premier League Stadium Fund Women's National League
Women's regional and county leagues	The FA Football Foundation
Talent pathways and grassroots	The FA Football Foundation



Supporting all levels of football

Premier League support extends across the men's and women's game through competition funding and support for infrastructure

Premier League investment into the top levels of women's football enables WSL Football (tiers one and two) and the FA Women's National League (FAWNL, tiers three and four) to continue growing the game.

Part of the League's package of support for WSL Football includes a £20 million interest-free loan through a co-operation and funding agreement. This provides investment for recruitment and the development of long-term projects. It is underpinned by extensive knowledge-sharing between the Premier League and WSL Football on a wide range of areas such as broadcasting, commercial and football operations.

The League is also supporting the delivery of the FA Women's National League strategy with £2.7 million from 2025 to 2028, enabling development and league operations. This is in addition to investment into facilities used by more than 50 clubs across the women's game through the Premier League Stadium Fund.

A core part of the FAWNL's strategy centres on improving environments to foster excellence both on and off the pitch across the leagues. Funding for the strategy has enabled a focus on propelling club standards and protecting and enhancing positive culture and behaviour. As a result, 100 per cent of all clubs now meet the FAWNL's minimum standards, helping to drive change across the leagues.

Enhancing facilities to benefit all levels

The Premier League Stadium Fund (pages 80-81) is a key source of support for non-league and women's football across the country. Its investment into infrastructure across the men's and women's pyramid enables clubs to ensure their stadiums meet modern-day requirements, as well as providing additional benefits for their local communities such as hosting grassroots teams and Premier League 2 fixtures.

Uxbridge have received £236,000 in Premier League funding, including £150,000 in 2023 to support a major redevelopment of their stadium. This led to a new 3G pitch being installed with LED floodlights, and a new stand for supporters. The club's Honeycroft ground not only hosted its own sides, but also Watford FC Women and the Wycombe Wanderers Academy (pictured).

Investment supporting National League and beyond

The Premier League's four-year investment package for the National League and its 72 clubs up to 2028 more than doubles the funding that was agreed for 2022 to 2025. The Premier League has committed £23.6 million, largely to support clubs with their running costs and sustainability, and an additional £3.6 million to the National League Trust and its network of 72 clubs.

Over the next three years, further funding will be provided by the Premier League through the Premier League Stadium Fund towards projects that will help clubs enhance their revenue, both on matchdays and non-matchdays.

In Season 2025/26, the Premier League also extended its support for the football pyramid by committing £1.8 million to Step 3 and 4 leagues between 2025 and 2028 via its partnership with The FA. The investment is intended to help further professionalise the leagues and increase clubs' support.

National League Cup

The National League Cup gives further opportunities for National League sides to play regular matches against England's best Under-21s, providing a revenue boost for competing teams.

National League clubs keep all gate receipts and split a £1 million prize pot funded by the Premier League. In 2025/26, this saw winners Boreham Wood awarded £125,000 in prize money alone, as well as hosting seven additional home games – including an entertaining final against West Ham United Under-21s.

The tournament continued to attract fans in its second season, with a crowd of nearly 3,000 attending Manchester United Under-21s' trip to Rochdale.

"The Premier League does a tremendous amount to support football at every level, from grassroots and community initiatives right through to the professional game. Their backing of the football pyramid is invaluable."

Phil Alexander
National League Chief Executive



Boreham Wood celebrate their National League Cup final victory over West Ham United Under-21s

Premier League Stadium Fund

Improving non-league infrastructure for more than 25 years

The Premier League Stadium Fund has provided investment for more than 1,000 clubs to develop their facilities

The Premier League Stadium Fund was established in 2000 to support clubs throughout the Men's and Women's Football Pyramid with improving their facilities for fans, players and officials.

In that time, the Premier League has invested more than £227 million through 6,500 grants. The fund, which is administered by the Football Foundation, is designed to ensure clubs meet The FA's Stadium Accreditation Criteria, while also helping improve their financial and environmental sustainability, and providing better and more inclusive matchday experiences.

Improving the matchday experience

£227m+
funding

6,500+
grants

1,000+
clubs

100+
leagues

The Premier League Stadium Fund supports:

Steps 1-6 of the National League System
Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Football Pyramid

970+
stands

630+
clubhouses and changing rooms

570+
pitch improvements

800+
floodlights

60+
facilities for disabled supporters

Pitch perimeter barriers

Following a review of pitch perimeter barriers across the National League System and Women's Football Pyramid, The FA updated its Stadium Accreditation Criteria to help clubs mitigate potential safety risks by removing or protecting concrete walls around their pitches.

The Premier League and FA are providing funding, administered by the Premier League Stadium Fund, to help clubs complete the works required. The initial phase of the programme began in July 2026.

Truro City build new home

Step 2
Cornish club Truro City were left without a home in 2021 but, supported with a grant of £377,000 from the Premier League Stadium Fund, opened the purpose-built Truro City Stadium in 2024. Their average crowd soared to more than 2,300 after returning home, having temporarily relocated to Plymouth.



Funding impacts Wythenshawe community

Step 4
Wythenshawe have benefitted significantly from both Premier League Stadium Fund and Football Foundation investment, with a combined £776,000 enabling them to develop their grass pitches, changing pavilion and floodlights. The club now runs more than 60 teams for the local community.





Revenue doubled at Heaton Stannington

Step 4
Heaton Stannington used £250,000 from the Premier League Stadium Fund to increase their financial sustainability, investing in covered seating, an upgraded bar, hospitality room and club shop. The improvements helped to double the club's revenue on matchdays, with Newcastle United legends Shay Given and Shola Ameobi visiting in 2026 to celebrate the impact (pictured).

Haywards Heath Town boosting business

Step 5
Investment of £123,000 from the Premier League Stadium Fund has helped Haywards Heath Town boost their finances, with LED floodlights lowering bills and energy use, and a hospitality refurbishment contributing to a 40 per cent increase in matchday food revenue.



Transforming grassroots across England

For more than 25 years, the Premier League has co-funded the Football Foundation to improve thousands of pitches and facilities across grassroots sport

Premier League investment through the Football Foundation, alongside The FA and Government, has enabled communities across England to benefit from high-quality grassroots sports sites.

More than 127,000 teams have used new or improved facilities such as grass and 3G pitches, often in under-served areas.

The League has co-funded £1.3 billion into the Football Foundation since its launch in 2000, improving sites nationwide. Alongside local partners, this has supported total investment into grassroots sport of £2.8 billion, enabling more people to be active and play football in better environments.

25 years of the Football Foundation

127,000+
grassroots teams playing at Football Foundation-funded sites

15,620+
grass pitches built or improved

1,355+
3G pitches

1,780+
changing pavilions provided

Recent national impact

Football Foundation Hubs
The Football Foundation has invested more than £23 million in four Hub sites across Leeds: Holbeck, Green Park, Bodington and Woodhall.

The Holbeck site received the largest grant ever awarded by the Football Foundation (£8 million) and will include facilities such as an on-site GP surgery.

3G pitches
More than 1,355 3G pitches have been delivered nationwide. Notable impact includes a £793,000 grant designed to strengthen the women's and girls' pathway at Bootle Football Club, a pitch at the Truro Sports Hub (£746,000 grant), and a women's and girls' flagship site in Tower Hamlets (£617,000 grant).

PlayZones
A grant of £249,000 supported a double PlayZone in Newcastle that comprises a football-only 3G and a multi-sport tarmac for football, basketball and netball.

In Knowsley, Merseyside, £330,000 for a new floodlit PlayZone will provide accessible sport opportunities through partnerships, including with Everton in the Community.



Football Foundation funding partners open the refurbished Burgess Park Sport Centre

Celebrating 25 years

The Football Foundation marked 25 years of transforming community facilities at Burgess Park, South London, where a refurbished sports centre opened thanks to a £2.4 million grant.

Trustees from all three funding partners joined former players Fara Williams and Anton Ferdinand (pictured), who both played at the site as children, to see the impact of longstanding investment.

Ferdinand, who grew up minutes from Burgess Park, said: "I've seen first-hand the impact of Football Foundation-supported facilities in South London and the country more widely. These young people are so lucky to have such brilliant facilities, and I'm excited to see the impact in shaping the next generation of players at all levels."

New sites were also opened in Derby, Sunderland and West Bromwich in the same month during the 25th anniversary celebrations. This included the Silksworth Park PlayZone, which also received funding from EA SPORTS FC FUTURES, opened by former Premier League Golden Boot winner Kevin Phillips.

Welcoming facilities for women and girls

In October 2025, the Football Foundation launched the new Lionesses HERe to Play Fund to provide women and girls with more safe, welcoming and inclusive grassroots football facilities.

The fund provides clubs and organisations with the chance to apply for grants of up to £25,000 for items to make their facilities more inclusive, such as better lighting, sanitary bins and cubicle showers.

It forms part of the League and Football Foundation's continued efforts to make football accessible to more women and girls. As part of that, European Championship-winning goalkeeper Mary Earps opened a new pitch named after her in Nottinghamshire.

Thanks to a £660,000 grant from the Football Foundation, the Mary Earps Pitch provides a high-quality site for the local community, with priority access for women and girls. It is one of 35 such pitches set to open across the country.

Earps said: "The next generation of women and girls in this area will feel welcome and encouraged to fall in love with the game just like I did. That's a huge amount of progress."

Everyone's Game



Everyone's Game

The Premier League and its clubs are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) to ensure football is welcoming for all. A range of programmes are in place to help fans, players, officials and staff in the League and beyond.

Initiatives include No Room For Racism, Premier League With Pride and Together Against Suicide, as well as the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The League also supports clubs through the Premier League Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Standard (PLEDIS).



28 Premier League Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Standard

clubs using the Premier League Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Standard to embed EDI

128

nationalities represented in the Premier League to date



"Premier League support for clubs throughout the competition, and those now in the EFL, is having a notable impact on addressing structural barriers to equality, diversity and inclusion in a number of ways. Clubs are actively working to make the game more inclusive across the staff experience and for players, coaches and fans, with evident and material progress."

David Ruebain
PLEDIS Panel Chair

The Premier League promotes EDI and support for fans through:

No room for racism · with pride. · Together Against Suicide

Environmental sustainability

345

National League System and women's clubs funded to switch to LED floodlights

83,500+

teachers across 19,700 primary schools able to use free sustainability resources



League-funded LED floodlights at Brackley Town

Highlighting ongoing action through No Room For Racism

The League and clubs continued to promote the season-long work underpinning No Room For Racism



The Premier League and all 20 clubs renewed their commitment to celebrating diversity and inclusion in Season 2025/26, as well as to tackling discriminatory abuse within football.

In October 2025, during Black History Month, clubs showcased the power of education in addressing racial prejudice.

Figures from across football then came together to mark five years of the No Room For Racism Action Plan in April 2026.

Graduates from the League's inclusive coaching programmes; referee Farai Hallam; Futures Development Programme alumni; and members of the League's Black Participants Advisory Group (BPAG), Darren Moore and Paul Nevin, shared how they and the League are helping to diversify the game (pictured).

Hallam, who has been supported by the Elite Referee Development Plan (page 39) and oversaw his first Premier League fixture in 2026, said: "It's important to remember the impact football can have on not just individuals, but on society. One big area of that is representation."

"So much around football makes the game beautiful. The programmes the Premier League runs to give opportunities to people from diverse backgrounds, who are aspiring to contribute to the game, are really important. The platform is there."

Darren Moore
England U20 manager and
Premier League BPAG member

Five years of the No Room For Racism Action Plan

Since launching in 2021, the No Room For Racism Action Plan has led to progress across its six pillars, which include:

Action against racism



The League's dedicated team has investigated online racist abuse since 2019. The League and clubs have reiterated the message that racist abuse of players has consequences, including:

- A 20-week suspended custodial sentence, a three-month curfew, a three-year ban from football and an order to pay costs
- A suspended custodial sentence and a three-year football ban
- An individual in Germany was convicted and sentenced to a €1,000+ fine

4,000+

investigations into online abuse of Premier League players and staff

Community support



A new No Room For Racism education resource was made available to all primary schools throughout England and Wales in 2025 through Premier League Primary Stars. This saw clubs represented in a nationwide poetry competition celebrating diversity. Year 6 student Michaela won, saying: "My teachers and my family inspired me because they teach me that there's no room for anyone to be racist."

She and her classmates were surprised by teacher and musician MC Grammar.

510,000+

children and 16,000 teachers benefitting from free No Room For Racism resources

Player pathways



The Premier League's effort to drive greater access to men's and women's football falls primarily into two initiatives: the South Asian Action Plan and FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centres (page 77).

The South Asian Action Plan is a long-term initiative designed to address the under-representation of British South Asian players and staff within professional football. Season 2025/26 culminated in the fifth Emerging Talent Festival in 2026 at Loughborough University, attended by clubs from across the country.

3,300+

players and 900 coaches engaged through the South Asian Action Plan

Further detail on other pillars of the No Room For Racism Action Plan can be found on:

Developing coaching pathways: pages 36-37 | Enhancing executive pathways: page 38 | Embedding equality: pages 94-95

Premier League with pride.

Reiterating support for the LGBTQ+ community

A new initiative highlighted the Premier League and clubs' commitment to driving change within football by bringing together season-long LGBTQ+ work



The Premier League and its clubs reaffirmed their longstanding commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ inclusion, representation and diversity in all areas of football in Season 2025/26.

These efforts were brought together under Premier League With Pride, a new initiative developed in consultation with clubs, representatives from LGBTQ+ supporters' groups and a wide range of stakeholders.

With Pride focuses on embedding three core themes throughout the League and clubs' work: education, celebration and action.

Education

The League delivers equality-focused education across community programmes, as well as to players within the Academy system and club staff.

Specific LGBTQ+ inclusion education resources were launched through With Pride for children and young people taking part in community programmes including Premier League Primary Stars, Premier League Kicks and Premier League Inspires.

Academy players from Under-9s to Under-21s receive education on identity and inclusion. Clubs are also required to deliver mandatory EDI training for staff and players as part of the PLEDIS. Similarly, the League offers dedicated sessions, workshops and resources to players, parents and club staff.

Celebration

With Pride was celebrated over dedicated match rounds in February, during LGBTQ+ History Month.

In Season 2025/26, all Premier League clubs had or were in the process of establishing an official LGBTQ+ supporters' group. These groups were celebrated during the dedicated match rounds through a series of illustrations by artist Ashton Attzs, which featured on League and club channels.

A collaboration with Gay Times celebrating LGBTQ+ fans from all 20 Premier League clubs was also published to mark the launch of Premier League With Pride (pictured).

Action

Clear processes are in place to challenge and sanction all forms of discriminatory abuse wherever it occurs, and the League is committed to ensuring there is no place for homophobia or transphobia within stadiums or online.

The Premier League Matchday Observer Programme operates at all 380 matches across the season (page 48), while the League's specialist team proactively monitors social media platforms to identify abusive content directed at players.

There is also an online reporting system to support players, managers and their families who receive discriminatory abuse on social media.

SWITCHBOARD
LGBTQIA+ Support Line

Switchboard collaboration promotes free support

The Premier League's collaboration with Switchboard provides fans, staff, players and the wider public with access to a free and confidential LGBTQ+ listening service.

It ensures anyone who needs support can speak to trained volunteers who offer non-judgemental information and a safe space to talk. This can be particularly helpful for individuals who are questioning or struggling with their sexuality, or who have been impacted by discrimination.

"Through our collaboration with the Premier League, we will ensure LGBTQ+ people across the football community know they're not alone and that support from our trained volunteers is on hand, 365 days a year."

Stephanie Fuller
Switchboard CEO

Matchday suicide prevention expanded League-wide

The League's Together Against Suicide initiative developed after a successful pilot in 2025/26

The Premier League launched Together Against Suicide in September 2025 to raise awareness of the information and expertise available to those affected by suicide or suicidal thoughts.

The initiative was created with suicide prevention charity Samaritans in collaboration with broadcaster Roman Kemp and Tottenham Hotspur Chief Executive Vinai Venkatesham. It was backed by all 20 clubs, with the League funding a pilot programme for 11 to provide bespoke support for fans at home matches throughout the season.

After the successful pilot in 2025/26, the Premier League provided funding for all 20 clubs, and three relegated to the EFL, to offer tailored environments at home matchdays during Season 2026/27. These give fans the opportunity to talk in safe, non-judgemental settings, while also signposting them to trusted support organisations and services.

In the week after the launch of Together Against Suicide in September 2025, Samaritans recorded up to 300 more callers to its national helpline each day.

Working alongside Samaritans and other partners, the League has supported more than 3,000 Premier League and club staff, as well as fans, with training around suicide prevention. This supports conversations that help to improve people's understanding of the issue and remind them that suicide is preventable.

Samaritans Chief Executive Julie Bentley said: "The response to last season's pilot showed the positive impact football can have in reaching people who may otherwise struggle in silence. We are delighted to see all 20 Premier League clubs involved as we continue working together to raise awareness of suicide prevention."

The Department of Health and Social Care is also a partner in the Together Against Suicide initiative as part of its Men's Health Strategy.

Premier League
Together Against Suicide

15
crisis interventions where immediate on-site support was needed

30,000
conversations facilitated on matchdays

200-300
more callers per day to Samaritans' national helpline the week after Together Against Suicide launched

SAMARITANS



Clubs unveil benches to promote conversation

A number of Premier League clubs installed dedicated benches near their grounds to facilitate fans and the local community starting conversations in 2026.

Brentford unveiled their sixth 'Talking is the Best Tactic' bench on World Suicide Prevention Day, while Fulham and Tottenham Hotspur partnered with suicide prevention charity Legend on the Bench for theirs.

Spurs' bench pays tribute to Joe Lyons, a fan who died by suicide in 2020. Joe's family joined first-team midfielder Conor Gallagher to unveil the bench, alongside former player and Legend on the Bench founder Micky Hazard. Gallagher said: "To know we have a bench dedicated to Joe is really special. So many fans come to games every week and seeing the bench makes them think. It's going to help. Stuff like this is so important – it's more important than football."

Each of the benches features signposting to support services and reminds passersby that 'someone is always listening'.





"Reaching those who are struggling where they are is vital, and we've already seen the powerful role that sports clubs can play. The Premier League touches millions of people's lives every week, and it is fantastic to have all 20 clubs now showing such important leadership."

Yvette Cooper
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Mental health support for fans, players and communities

The Premier League has a longstanding commitment to supporting mental health and wellbeing through its clubs and community programmes.

Premier League Primary Stars resource packs about wellbeing topics are available to every primary school in England and Wales. Meanwhile, the Premier League and PFA Players' Fund enables projects that support mental health in local communities.

All 20 Premier League clubs have a Player Care Lead, and the League provides £2 million per season for EFL clubs to employ full-time player care staff in their academies. Players across all age groups also receive education sessions on mental and emotional wellbeing.

Embedding EDI across the game

The Premier League supports clubs throughout the season to further enhance EDI across their operations

The Premier League is committed to promoting EDI in all areas of football, and its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Standard (PLEDIS) is central to that.

The PLEDIS is a systemic change framework that helps clubs drive continuous improvement and meaningful culture change through independent accreditation.

All Premier League clubs are assessed under the PLEDIS, as well as clubs relegated from the League into the EFL.

Clubs are provided with a suite of learning and development opportunities to further their ability in core principles of the PLEDIS, such as demographic data monitoring and matchday incident management.

Premier League Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Standard

Of the 28 clubs currently part of the PLEDIS:

22
at or working towards Advanced Level

2
working towards Intermediate Level

4
working towards Preliminary Level

Crystal Palace strengthen EDI commitment through inclusive events

Crystal Palace achieved the Advanced Level of the PLEDIS in October 2025 for their "sustained and deliberate application of EDI principles".

The club ran a range of initiatives throughout the season to support fans, employees and communities from a diverse range of backgrounds. This included the Level Up – Women in Sport Series held at Selhurst Park to support young women into roles within the sports industry.

The Celebrating Black Legacy in British Football event marked Black History Month, also held at the stadium, and Palace For All fixtures across the men's and women's teams promoted EDI to fans.

The club's sensory room was refurbished for supporters with disabilities, and a groundbreaking vision enhancement system is available for fans with sight loss.



A Crystal Palace fan using a pioneering vision enhancement system, an initiative that helped the club achieve the Advanced Level of the PLEDIS



The Premier League provides funding and delivery grants to a range of organisations, as well as working closely with The FA, EFL and PFA. This supports accessibility, disability advocacy, anti-discrimination and EDI programmes, creating a more welcoming and inclusive experience across the game.

Premier League working alongside: The FA, EFL, WSL Football, Professional Footballers' Association

Funding and support for:

Kick It Out
A core funding partner, helping Kick It Out to tackle discrimination, promote inclusion and support its Fan Education programme.

Women in Football
A long-standing partnership provides support for training and personal development, networking, mentors and group coaching.

Level Playing Field – For disabled sports fans
Continued funding and support for campaigning to bring about an inclusive experience for all disabled supporters.

Switchboard LGBTQIA+ Support Line
Switchboard's free, confidential support for the LGBTQ+ community is promoted through Premier League With Pride across League and club channels.

Samaritans
Samaritans provide training to club staff on suicide prevention activity, and their confidential support is promoted as part of Together Against Suicide.

White Ribbon .org.uk
White Ribbon UK supports gender equality, promotes safe spaces for women and girls, engages males in allyship, and challenges harmful gender norms.

Football Black List
Celebrating leaders of African and Caribbean heritage at its annual event, proudly supported for 10 years by the Premier League.

Supporting fan education

Supported with funding from the Premier League, Kick It Out's Fan Education Programme has provided more than 400 free sessions for individuals who have been identified as displaying poor or discriminatory behaviour at football grounds or on social media. Individuals are often identified through the League's Matchday Observer Programme (page 48) and develop understanding through restorative educational practices.

Accelerating positive environmental change

The Premier League continues to work with fans and clubs to improve environmental sustainability across football

The Premier League's Environmental Sustainability Strategy launched in 2024/25 to set out the League's ambition to accelerate positive environmental change. The strategy established three strategic priorities:

1. **Adapt our business**, becoming net zero by 2040
2. **Future-proof the game** by supporting decarbonisation across the League
3. **Engage and inspire** by raising awareness through our programmes and platforms

The League remains committed to addressing environmental issues and to building on existing work to support long-term change.

It is working to future-proof the game through its LED Floodlight Fund (page 97), and raising awareness of environmental issues through free sustainability-related Premier League Primary Stars resources available to 83,500 primary school teachers.

Environmental sustainability training is also offered to all academies and first-teams through the Life Skills and Personal Development programme, and the League's digital channels reached 29 million users with environmental-related messaging in 2025/26.

Environmental Sustainability Commitment aims achieved

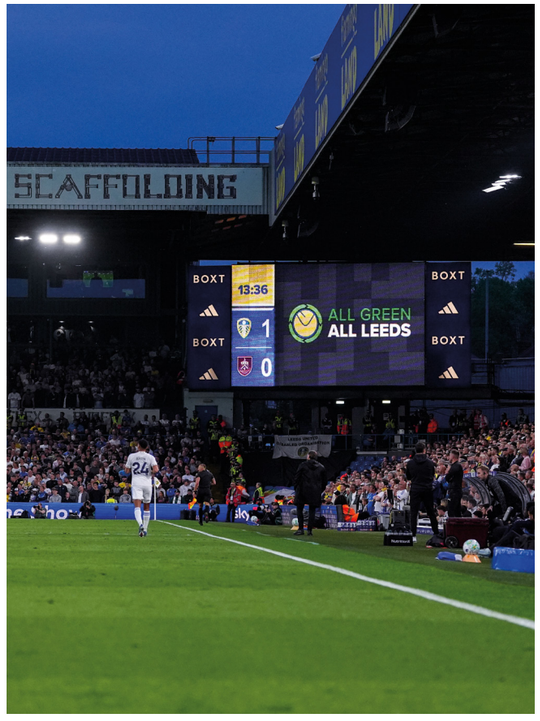
The Premier League and clubs agreed to an Environmental Sustainability Commitment in 2024, which established a minimum standard of action on environmental issues across four measures.

The first phase of these commitments was successfully completed during Season 2025/26, with all Premier League clubs developing formal sustainability policies supported by League guidance and resources. This established a consistent framework for environmental sustainability across the League for the first time.

It also helped to ensure environmental considerations are embedded into clubs' governance and decision-making processes. Clubs relegated from the Premier League to the EFL continued to receive support to develop sustainability policies.

The League also worked with clubs to establish the first competition-wide greenhouse gas emissions baseline. This has created a shared evidence base to better understand the League's emissions and identify where collective action can have the greatest impact. The findings will help to inform future environmental initiatives, improve reporting consistency across clubs and strengthen the quality of environmental data.

Supporting this work, the League has also collaborated with bodies from across European football, including UEFA and other domestic leagues, to produce a standardised approach to measuring fan travel emissions in football. This methodology was published by UEFA in August 2026.





LED floodlights reducing emissions across football

As part of the Premier League's Environmental Sustainability Strategy, funding for LED floodlights has enabled more than 345 clubs to reduce their energy consumption and bills.

Through the LED Floodlight Fund, the Premier League has invested £7.5 million to help all clubs across the National League System and Women's Football Pyramid switch to LED floodlights. These consume up to 50 per cent less energy compared with older systems, meaning they last longer, cost less to run and considerably reduce carbon emissions.

Ingles FC, in Leicestershire, replaced their metal halide system with LED floodlights in 2024, supported by a £45,000 grant from the Premier League. Chair Adam Smith said: "The lights have made a massive difference. They've really helped with the energy savings and costs."

Sustainability central to Leeds' stadium development

Environmentally conscious construction is a core part of Leeds United's West Stand redevelopment project, set to boost capacity at Elland Road to 53,000.

The project remains in its early stages, but the club's plans involve a range of sustainability measures. These include transitioning away from fossil fuels through air source heat pumps to provide low-carbon heating and hot water, as well as fully electric catering.

The new stand is being designed to reduce emissions by 17 to 20 per cent beyond standard requirements, supported by better insulation, efficient systems and solar panels on the roof. Water efficiency will also be improved through flood prevention schemes, with plans in place to deliver a 10 per cent net gain in biodiversity around the stadium by planting new trees and hedgerows.

And with travel being a significant contributor to the competition's environmental footprint, Leeds are improving walkways, bike travel, park and ride schemes, and support for electric vehicles. The club has also hired a coordinator to enable more efficient and less environmentally impactful travel.

Chelsea reducing supply chain impact

Chelsea have implemented a series of changes at their Cobham Training Centre to reduce the impact of supplies required by the club.

Water is captured and reused from the on-site lake, and biological disease controls are in place among the site's extensive trees and wildflowers to lower the need for chemical pesticides.

Recycling is at the forefront of decisions, too. Scalping removes the top layer of playing surfaces for compost used on pitches and in club gardens, saving 1,200 truck movements to and from the ground annually.

Green waste at all three Chelsea sites – the men's first-team stadium, training ground and the women's stadium – is also recycled.

£7.5m

invested to help National League System and women's clubs switch to LED floodlights

Putting safeguarding first





Premier League clubs again supported FA Play Safe, a national campaign endorsed by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which aims to amplify the importance of safeguarding

The Premier League is committed to promoting and protecting the rights, safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk.

The League believes that everyone should be able to enjoy football and participate in Premier League activities in safe, inclusive and supportive environments. Safeguarding is a core organisational responsibility and is embedded across all areas of work.

The League's approach is underpinned by strong governance, clear accountability, continuous learning and a culture in which safeguarding is recognised as a shared responsibility. A dedicated Safeguarding Team provides advice, support and oversight across the organisation.

Working in partnership with clubs, the League provides guidance, learning opportunities and tailored support to strengthen local safeguarding arrangements. A robust audit framework designed to promote continuous improvement across the game enables independent monitoring of compliance with Premier League Safeguarding Standards.

Independent auditing of standards

A number of Premier League clubs and their club charities were subject to an independent audit process during Season 2025/26, undertaken by Barnardo's Training and Consultancy. This assessed clubs against the requirements of the League's Safeguarding Standards, with recommendations provided where practice can be improved. This allows the Premier League to support clubs and their respective club charities in meeting the standards and addressing any areas of risk.

Parent and player voice

For the past eight seasons, the Premier League has commissioned a survey of Academy players' parents and guardians. The feedback is used by the Premier League to help guide priorities and to enhance the Academy experience. Responses in 2025/26 showed a positive overall reception of players' experiences in Premier League club academies.

Education and empowerment

The League has designed and delivered tailored learning for coaching staff across the Academy system. The training provides space to reflect, share experiences and strengthen skills that support the dynamic, high-performance nature of Academy life. It has a focus on child-centred practice and builds on the strong foundations coaches bring to their roles.

Coaches are supported to deepen their understanding of how factors such as adversity, trauma, neurodivergence and life circumstances can affect a young person's behaviour, wellbeing and performance. Through case studies and live scenario work with professional actors, they explore how to respond effectively in complex situations, from holding difficult conversations to recognising when additional support may be needed.

The League has also hosted a number of online awareness sessions aimed at further promoting the understanding of key areas to stakeholders including Academy parents, host families, club staff and partner organisations.

GoodCorporation review

During Season 2025/26, GoodCorporation carried out a review to assess the Premier League against an enhanced audit framework, including a review of the League's internal safeguarding culture.

The comprehensive process addressed employees and consultants, clubs and relevant third parties – including commercial partners and industry stakeholders. GoodCorporation also undertook a detailed review of Premier League safeguarding governance measures, procedures and practice, and observed their application in international and domestic events.

GoodCorporation's findings set out that the Premier League is "acknowledged by internal and external stakeholders as a benchmark of safeguarding standards". Safeguarding is well embedded within governance, culture, policies and systems underpinned by a strong culture of shared ownership. The review also provided recommendations for enhancing practice, which are being implemented.

Governance



Structure and governance

The Premier League's structure and governance support the competition's continued success and growth, with robust regulatory practices

Structure

The Premier League is a private company limited by shares, of which its shareholders are the 20 member clubs at any given time and The FA, which holds a special share. Each club holds a single share, giving them an equal vote on all matters and a right to the distribution of broadcast and commercial revenues.

The FA's special share means that certain actions can only be taken with its approval, such as the appointment and re-appointment of any Directors. At the end of each season, shares are transferred from relegated clubs to those promoted from the EFL.

Shareholders (Season 2026/27)

Arsenal, Aston Villa, AFC Bournemouth, Brentford, Brighton & Hove Albion, Chelsea, Coventry City, Crystal Palace, Everton, Fulham, Hull City, Ipswich Town, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Newcastle United, Nottingham Forest, Sunderland, Tottenham Hotspur, The FA



Advisory Groups

In addition to the Sub-Committees of the Board (page 103), a number of Advisory Groups are constituted to provide advice and support to the Board and the Executive on key areas. These include permanent groups such as the Broadcast, Commercial, Game Improvement, and Legal Advisory Groups, along with non-permanent groups such as the Strategic Advisory Group.

All Advisory Groups are chaired by either a senior member of the League's Executive or a member of the Board, and include representation from member clubs as well as other external stakeholders where appropriate. Each group also has its own terms of reference which have been approved by the Board.

- **Broadcast Advisory Group** provides advice and support in the development and execution of broadcast media strategy and subsequent recommendations to clubs
- **Commercial Advisory Group** provides advice and support in relation to sponsorship and licensing opportunities, as well as strategy
- **Game Improvement Advisory Group** provides advice and support in relation to all aspects of Premier League football and identifying and recommending improvements to enhance the game and viewing experience
- **Legal Advisory Group** provides advice and support in relation to proposed amendments to Premier League Rules and other regulations

Board Sub-Committees

Under the Premier League's Articles of Association, and to support the consultation with clubs, the Board delegates some of its powers to Sub-Committees

Audit and Finance Committee

Members

Dharmash Mistry
Committee Chair

Matthew Ryder KC
INED

Simon Capper
Chief Financial Officer, Newcastle United

Alistair Mackintosh
CEO, Fulham

Main activities and key outcomes

- Review and approval of the Season 2024/25 audited financial statements and review of the draft audited accounts, providing challenge in relevant areas
- Meeting with the external auditors to discuss audit report findings
- Recommendation for Deloitte to continue as external auditor
- Review and approval of the Season 2026/27 budget

Nominations Committee

Members

Alison Brittain
Committee Chair

Dharmash Mistry
INED

Billy Hogan
CEO, Liverpool

Nicholas Randall KC
Chair, Nottingham Forest

Main activities and key outcomes

- Completion of a Board Skills Matrix review to help assess current Board composition and identify future needs
- Review of succession planning and recommendations for development
- Recommended re-appointment of INEDs reaching the end of their first three-year term (including the Chair)
- Review of the Season 2024/25 Board Performance Review and agreement on the approach for future Board Performance Reviews
- Approval of senior executive hires

Remuneration Committee

Members

Mai Fyfield
Committee Chair

Alison Brittain
INED

Paul Barber
CEO and Deputy Chair, Brighton & Hove Albion

Roger Bell
Chief Financial Officer, Manchester United

Main activities and key outcomes

- Approval of the Chair and INED fees for Season 2025/26
- Assessment and scoring of group performance objectives for Season 2024/25 and approval of group performance objectives for the 2025/26 annual discretionary bonus scheme
- Review of Gender Pay Report 2025
- Salary benchmarking for key executives and approval of packages for senior executive hires
- Approval of proposed salary percentage increases applied to staff from Season 2026/27 and bonus award arrangements
- Annual review of reward processes

The Board

2025/26 Board activity
There were no changes to the composition of the Board during Season 2025/26.

At the Shareholders' Meeting on 21 November 2025, clubs re-appointed Alison Brittain as Chair and Matthew Ryder as an INED for their second three-year terms.

During Season 2025/26, the Board met on nine occasions scheduled at the beginning of the campaign. As part of the scheduled meetings, Board activities included:

- Reviewing the implementation of the League's strategy and key growth initiatives
- Taking regulatory decisions under the Premier League Rules
- Discussions on the League's engagement with the Independent Football Regulator and submissions for the State of the Game Report
- Discussions in respect of the design and implementation of the new Financial System (formally approved by clubs at the 21 November 2025 Shareholders' Meeting), including consultation with stakeholders and the drafting of Rules
- Commercial matters, including discussions surrounding existing and prospective partners and the League's existing commercial model
- Regular updates on safeguarding; equality, diversity and inclusion; compliance and company secretarial matters; risk and the review of financial management reports



Alison Brittain CBE, Chair
Alison is a highly experienced business leader who has been Chair of the Premier League since January 2023, where she also chairs the League's Nominations Committee. She brings considerable experience of operating in consumer-facing, omnichannel service environments with over 30 years' senior management experience in major financial institutions and consumer businesses. She also has significant board-level experience.

Alison is Chair of Dunelm Group plc, the UK's market leader in home furnishings, a Senior Independent Director at Experian plc, a Non-Executive Director at British Airways plc, and Chair and Trustee of The King's Trust Group of Charities (formerly The Prince's Trust Group). She was previously a Non-Executive Director at Marks & Spencer plc and has been a member of the UK Prime Minister's Advisory Councils under a number of administrations.

Alison previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the FTSE 100 company Whitbread plc, the UK's oldest and largest hospitality company. Prior to Whitbread, Alison was a senior executive in the financial services sector, firstly with Barclays plc and Santander and later with Lloyds Banking Group plc, where she successfully led the retail banking division.



Richard Masters, Chief Executive
Richard was appointed Premier League Chief Executive in December 2019, having held the post on an interim basis for a year. He joined the Premier League as Director of Sales and Marketing in 2006 and was later appointed its Managing Director in 2015.

As Chief Executive, Richard oversees all elements of the Premier League's business and competition operations, and is responsible for the continuing success of the world's most-watched football league.

Richard chairs both the Premier League's Broadcast and Strategic Advisory Groups, which enable the League and its clubs to develop strategic growth opportunities and media rights strategies.

He is also a member of the Premier League Foundation and a Trustee of the Football Foundation, and was Chair of the World Leagues Association from 2022 to 2026.

Prior to joining the Premier League, Richard was Commercial Director at the English Football League, and before that held roles at the World Sports Group and the England and Wales Cricket Board.



Mai Fyfield CBE, INED
Mai is an experienced media executive and Non-Executive Director. She was the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer at Sky, responsible for leading strategy and commercial partnerships across the group. During almost 20 years at Sky, she was a key player in the growth and diversification of the business, driving the strategic decisions to launch Sky's own streaming service, add mobile to its product portfolio and significantly grow its wholesale business by partnering with rival platforms.

She also led Sky's bidding process for three Premier League cycles and worked alongside the CEOs of Sky Italia and Sky Deutschland on bids for the UEFA Champions League, Bundesliga and Serie A.

Since leaving Sky, Mai has served on several boards and advised media and private equity clients on a variety of investments and strategic issues. She was previously a Non-Executive Director at Nationwide and at ASOS plc, where she chaired their Remuneration Committees, and in respect of ASOS plc also acted as the Senior Independent Director. She is currently on the boards of Roku, Inc and BBC Commercial, and chairs the Premier League's Remuneration Committee.



Dharmash Mistry, INED
Dharmash is an experienced technology venture capitalist, entrepreneur and Non-Executive Director.

He started his career at Procter & Gamble before moving to The Boston Consulting Group. Dharmash then spent eight years in media as Group Managing Director of emap Consumer Media and emap Performance, the consumer divisions of emap plc. He subsequently co-led the delisting and sale of emap plc from the FTSE 100 in 2008.

Dharmash has been a technology venture capitalist since 2008. He was a partner at Balderton Capital and subsequently set up the London office of Lakestar, leading investments such as Revolut, Glovo, Infarm, Blockchain.com and LoveFilm, and co-founding Blow LTD, which was sold to Holland & Barrett in 2021. He was previously a Non-Executive Director at the BBC, British Business Bank, CMA (Competition and Markets Authority), Hargreaves Lansdown plc and Dixons plc.

He currently sits on the boards of Halma plc and Rathbones plc. Dharmash also chairs the Premier League's Audit and Finance Committee and is the Premier League's representative on the board of The FA.



Matthew Ryder KC, INED
Matthew is a senior barrister (King's Counsel) and is a highly experienced litigator in complex criminal, civil and regulatory work, as well as in public law, data and human rights. Between 2016 and 2018, he was appointed a Deputy Mayor of London, overseeing community engagement, community sport, EDI and data use.

He has led teams at the highest level of litigation, including the UK Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. He authored The Ryder Review, commissioned by the Ada Lovelace Institute, which is a comprehensive examination of the law and regulation of biometric data. He also advised The Lammy Review on racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

Matthew has been a Non-Executive Director for a number of organisations and is currently a board member of the Scott Trust (which owns The Guardian).

At the Premier League he chairs the Legal Advisory Group and is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee. He is also the Board Champion for EDI. His previous board positions include Chair of the UK's Black Cultural Archives and Governor of the University of the Arts London.

The regulation of clubs

A key function of the Premier League Board is to manage the operation and implementation of the Premier League Rules

Premier League Rules

Each member club and its Directors, officials, players and manager are bound by the Rules, which are contained within the Premier League Handbook and are publicly available on the Premier League's website. Any amendments to the Rules require approval from clubs and can only be passed with a two-thirds majority.

The Rules include:

- Expected levels of conduct by clubs and their officials and processes by which any misconduct will be adjudicated and sanctioned
- The terms on which the competition is organised
- The formula under which central funds are distributed to clubs (and relegated clubs)
- Minimum standards of governance and operation in a wide range of areas, from safeguarding and supporter relations to broadcaster access and stadium infrastructure and club academies
- Detailed financial controls and anti-circumvention measures in the form of Associated Party Transaction Rules

The graphics on page 107 provide a snapshot of the number of Rule breaches handled by the Board (and its Football Board, a Sub-Committee of the Board) during Season 2025/26, and totals of the fines issued to individual clubs. During that period, there were 187 sanctions imposed on clubs. From those sanctions, 149 resulted in fines, which cumulatively amounted to £15,865,500. From that figure, £11,420,000 related to instances where the club and League entered into a sanction agreement under the Rules. In each case, these were published on the League's website.

Monies collected from clubs in relation to financial sanctions are allocated to a specific account with a portion of that money redistributed for the benefit of charitable causes.

Compliance

There are a range of disciplinary options available to the Board where a club or individual bound by the Rules fails to comply with them. These include the power to issue fines of up to £100,000, the power to agree sanctions and, where appropriate, to refer the breach to an independent commission.

The League operates an entirely independent Judicial Panel system, with members of the Panel appointed by an independent Chair, The Rt Hon. Sir Gary Hickinbottom, whose five-year term began in February 2025.

It is from this Panel that the Chair selects individuals with relevant experience and expertise to sit on commissions. Allegations of significant Rule breaches are ordinarily referred to an independent commission.

Where a commission is appointed, it has extremely wide sanctioning powers, including the power to impose significant fines and sporting sanctions. Should a club wish to challenge a decision made by a commission (or a fixed penalty from the Board), it can do so under the Rules, with an Appeal Board also selected by the Chair of the Panel.

Where the Board decides to refer a Rule breach to a commission, agrees a significant sanction with a club or a commission takes a decision on a disciplinary matter, it must be publicly confirmed by the League in each case.

New financial system

At the 21 November 2025 Shareholders' Meeting, clubs voted to introduce a new set of financial Rules – Squad Cost Ratio (SCR) and Sustainability and Systemic Resilience (SSR) – replacing the existing Profitability and Sustainability Rules (PSR) for Season 2026/27.

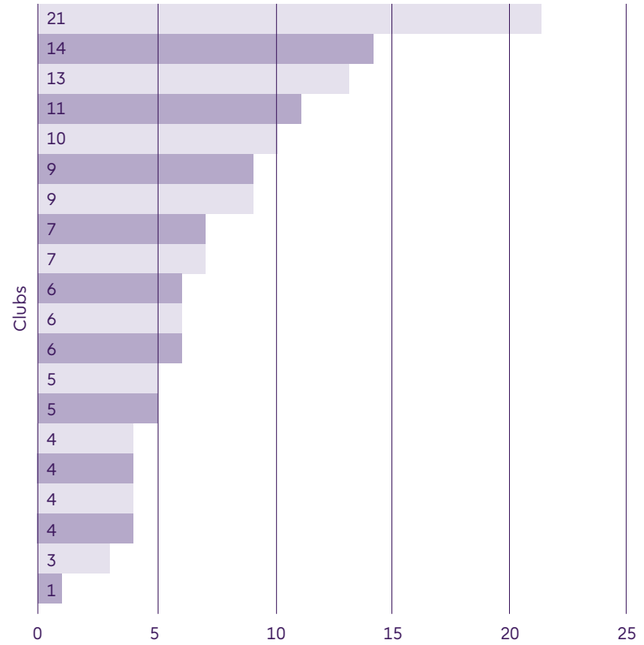
This followed extensive consultation with stakeholders and independent economic and legal analysis to develop a system with the objective of maintaining the League's value, protecting competitive balance and ensuring clubs operate in a financially sustainable way.

Independent Football Regulator

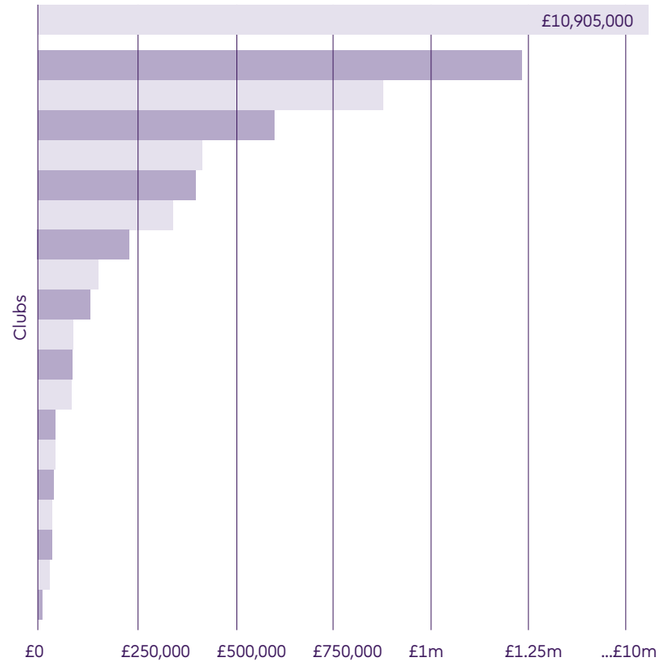
Season 2025/26 marked the first time the League assumed obligations under the Football Governance Act to notify and consult with the Independent Football Regulator in respect of amendments to 'relevant Rules'.

At the end of Season 2025/26, the IFR published its final rules and guidance concerning club licensing. These rules set out the requirements that clubs will have to meet in order to obtain a licence from the IFR. Clubs needed to secure a provisional licence ahead of Season 2026/27.

Sanctions per club resulting in fines



Value of sanctions per club



Owners' and Directors' Test (OADT)

Under the Rules, a club must first make an application to the Board before appointing a Director, whether that is on an individual basis or for multiple Directors as part of a change of control. The Board determines whether an application should be approved following comprehensive due diligence undertaken by the League in respect of the Disqualifying Events contained within the OADT. That decision is then reviewed by the Independent Oversight Panel which has the power to remit any decision back to the Board, if it considers the decision to be unreasonable. This adds an additional layer of independent scrutiny in respect of all Board decisions relating to Director applications and applies to significant changes to club ownership. The Independent Oversight Panel is also chaired by The Rt Hon. Sir Gary Hickinbottom.

During Season 2025/26 there were:

54
approved applications for new Directors received in respect of 17 clubs*

4
approved changes of control, i.e. changes to club ownership (subject to any conditions being met)

0
disqualifications of individuals or entities subject to the OADT

In respect of the above, extensive due diligence was undertaken to determine whether:

a) any applications received were subject to any Disqualifying Events contained within the OADT;
b) the changes of control met the Premier League's Rules.

*Of those 54 approved applications, 19 related to applications included within changes of control

Corporate governance update

The Board remains committed to high standards of corporate governance through its application of the Wates Corporate Governance Principles for Large Private Companies (the Wates Principles)

The Wates Principles provide the Board with a framework to help monitor standards of corporate governance across the organisation and determine where they can be improved across the business. The Board believes this approach has resulted in better engagement with stakeholders and has ultimately built trust with clubs, employees, partners, supporters and other valued stakeholders. The governance framework also provides the right environment for the Board to make high-quality decisions with a focus on the long-term and sustainable success of the competition. An update on the Premier League's corporate governance is reported against these six principles.



1) Purpose and leadership

- The Board continues to play a key role in developing the Premier League's strategy and purpose, in consultation with clubs, with Board members providing their expertise on key growth initiatives.
- Through reporting and measured via employee surveys, the Board monitors the organisation's commitment to its cultural behaviours. Those behaviours are also embedded as part of individual and group objectives, and assessed by the Remuneration Committee.
- INED Matthew Ryder acts as EDI Champion for the organisation.
- There are various mechanisms for employees to provide feedback or raise issues, whether through internal networks or employee surveys. The Premier League also operates a whistleblowing policy for employees to raise any concerns should they arise, with Mai Fyfield acting as the organisation's Whistleblowing Champion.

2) Board composition

- Board composition is reviewed by the Nominations Committee on an annual basis. The most recent review determined that the current size, experience and expertise remain appropriate for meeting the strategic needs of the business.
- The Board is committed to ensuring that its composition is diverse and has approved a set of diversity targets. These targets concern ethnicity and gender, and include both the Board and the organisation as a whole. Progress is reviewed on a bi-annual basis.
- During Season 2025/26, the Board agreed a new cycle of Board Performance Reviews, commencing in Season 2026/27. It also reviewed the League's progress against the Target Governance Model established as part of the wider governance review undertaken in 2021, as well as the effectiveness of previous Board Performance Reviews.

3) Director responsibilities

- The Board's powers are outlined within the Premier League's Articles of Association and within the Rules, which are publicly available and set out and clarify the organisation's relationship with member clubs.
- In conjunction with the conflicts of interest policy, there are clear processes in place to help identify and address any conflicts of interest should they arise.
- The Board delegates authority to Sub-Committees (Audit and Finance, Nominations and Remuneration), with relevant expertise reflected by Committee membership.
- The Board receives regular and timely reports at each Board meeting.

4) Opportunity and risk

- As the Premier League's strategy continues to progress and develop, the Board remains engaged in discussions around creating greater value and future opportunities. The Board also ensures that the strategy remains relevant within a constantly changing environment.
- In addition to formalised periodic updates on high-risk matters, the Board receives bi-annual updates on risk across the business. These generally include any changes to the League's risk profile, an updated risk register, the status of Key Risk Indicators, and details of any risk-related projects being undertaken.
- During Season 2025/26, significant work took place to capture Business Impact Assessments to progress the League's Business Continuity Plans.
- The risk register includes priority risks for different levels of management based on their impact and likelihood, with those risks deemed to have the highest impact and likelihood reserved for the Board.

5) Remuneration

- The League operates both a reward and bonus policy, which are reviewed periodically by the Remuneration Committee. The reward policy sets out the company's approach to remuneration, and the bonus policy sets out employee bonuses and the relevance of both individual and group performance in how those bonuses are determined, including objectives relating to cultural behaviours.
- Employee feedback is also obtained via an annual employee engagement survey to ensure the policy remains fit for purpose.
- The League published its third Gender Pay Report in April 2026, reaffirming its commitment to improving female representation at senior levels of the organisation and to further diversify the workforce, supporting employees to realise their career goals.

6) Stakeholder relationships and engagement

- Meaningful engagement with stakeholders is recognised across the organisation as a critical consideration around how the Premier League operates. Stakeholders include the League's member clubs, other football organisations, commercial partners, football supporters and the Government.
- Regular engagement through meetings, focus groups, Advisory Groups and Committees enables the Board to make considered decisions for the organisation, while understanding the wider impact on stakeholders.
- Engagement with the workforce takes place through a variety of mechanisms, such as employee focus groups, knowledge-sharing sessions, employee networks and regular updates from the Board on important developments.



Premier League workforce data

As of 1 November 2026

By voluntarily publishing its workforce demographics, the Premier League reinforces its commitment to providing a diverse, inclusive and transparent environment where all employees can thrive

The following report reflects the Premier League's workforce demographics as of November 2026, with an average disclosure rate of 83 per cent across the Premier League's UK workforce.

The data highlights progress made by the Premier League to improve the diversity within its workforce. The League remains committed to driving further change, demonstrated by achieving the five-year employee diversity targets set in 2021. These were:

- Two Board members and 42 per cent female employees by July 2026 (achieved)
- Two Board members and 18 per cent of employees from ethnically under-represented groups by July 2026 (achieved)

The Premier League is now focused on making progress towards the ambitious 10-year targets set in 2021.

The 10-year targets are:
- By July 2031: Women to make up 40 per cent of the Board and 50 per cent of the workforce
- By July 2031: Individuals from ethnically under-represented groups to make up 20 per cent of the Board and 30 per cent of the workforce

The League remains focused on improving data completeness, understanding its workforce better, and taking meaningful action to enhance diversity and inclusion at every level of the organisation.

	Total workforce (%)	Board and senior leaders* (%)	All other employees (%)	National data (%)	Local data** (%)
Gender					
Men	53.3	70.2	51.2	49.0	49.0
Women	46.5	29.8	48.5	51.0	51.0
Other specified	0.2	0	0.3	N/A	N/A
Ethnic group					
White	77.3	84.1	76.3	81.7	53.8
Asian or Asian British	6.7	4.5	7.0	9.3	20.7
Black or Black British	5.8	0	6.7	4.0	13.5
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	5.5	2.3	6.0	2.9	5.7
Other ethnic group	2.6	0	3.0	2.1	6.3
Prefer not to say	2.0	9.1	1.0	N/A	N/A
Disability					
Yes	7.4	4.7	7.8	17.8***	15.7***
No	89.9	88.4	90.1	82.2	84.3
Prefer not to say	2.8	7.0	2.1	N/A	N/A
Age					
16-24	3.6	0	4.0	10.3	12.0
25-34	40.4	0	45.6	14.0	21.0
35-44	35.9	38.3	35.6	13.0	17.0
45-54	14.1	44.7	10.2	13.0	14.0
55-64	5.7	17.0	4.3	13.0	11.0
65+	0.2	0	0.3	19.0	12.0
Sexual and/or romantic orientation					
Heterosexual/straight	87.9	86.4	88.1	89.4	86.2
Gay or lesbian	3.6	4.5	3.4	1.5	2.2
Bi (bisexual)	3.0	0	3.4	1.3	1.5
Other specified	0.6	0	0.7	0.3	0.5
Prefer not to say	5.0	9.1	4.4	N/A	N/A

* Senior leaders are members of the Board, Executive Leadership Team and Directors.
** Local data refers to London, where the Premier League's UK office is based.
*** This figure includes those that are retired or unable to work.

The Premier League and the football ecosystem

The League and its clubs make an unparalleled contribution to the domestic game and play a key role in world football

Domestic

Premier League
The competition organiser of the top division of English football, which runs the executive body owned by its 20 member clubs. The Premier League manages the fixture list, administers the Rule book, promotes the League, sells broadcasting and commercial rights and works with partners to make the competition inclusive for everyone. This generates the revenue to put on the best possible competition while helping clubs to develop in all areas.

The Premier League provides world-leading levels of support, including funding for clubs throughout the professional football pyramid, National League System, academies, women's, girls', grassroots and community football.

The Football Association (FA)
English football's governing body, with responsibility for England's national teams, the FA Cups, the FA Women's National League, the National League System, grassroots football, disciplinary matters for professional English football, regulating player agents and administering FIFA's transfer regulations. The FA is a member of FIFA and UEFA, representing the English game's interests internationally.

Premier League clubs train and develop players involved with England's national teams and compete in the FA Cup. The League has invested into women's and girls' football and provides long-term funding to lower-league and grassroots facilities.

English Football League (EFL)
The EFL organises the second, third and fourth divisions in English professional football (the Championship, League One and League Two) and the EFL Cup.

The Premier League makes payments to all EFL clubs and is a significant funder of their academies, youth development and community programmes.

National League
The National League organises the fifth and sixth tiers of English football (National League, National League North and National League South).

The Premier League contributes funding to all National League clubs and supports clubs' youth, community and facility developments.

Women's Super League Football (WSL Football)
An independent company responsible for the Women's Super League and Women's Super League 2. Each club participating in these leagues acts as a shareholder in the company.

WSL Football is supported by the Premier League through a co-operation and funding agreement and knowledge sharing in a wide range of areas.

Professional Game Referees (Pro Ref)
Pro Ref is responsible for the training and development of match officials in English professional football. It provides referees and assistant referees for Premier League matches as well as managing the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system.

The Premier League is a joint-funding partner of Pro Ref along with The FA, EFL and WSL Football.

Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)
The PFA is the union for all current and former professional footballers and scholars in England.

The Premier League is the PFA's primary funder, contributing to the wide range of programmes, grants and projects it offers to members, including educational, financial and wellbeing services.

League Managers Association (LMA)
The LMA is the association for current and former professional football managers and coaches in England.

The Premier League provides funding support to the LMA, the League Coaches Association and the League Administrators Association to deliver services. These include professional education, legal assistance and mental health support.

Supporters

Football Supporters' Association (FSA)
The national, democratic and representative body for football supporters in England and Wales, working to promote, campaign, advise and support on key issues of concern for football supporters at all levels. The FSA works with a range of stakeholders, including leagues, clubs, governing bodies and groups promoting diversity and inclusion. The FSA is a founding member of Football Supporters Europe, which represents supporters across the continent.

The Premier League meets regularly with the FSA and provides the majority of its core funding, underpinning its work across the game.

European

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
UEFA is an organiser of competitions including the Champions League, Europa League, Conference League and the European Championship. Premier League clubs can qualify to compete in UEFA club competitions. UEFA has rules and regulations, but these only apply to clubs that compete in their competitions.

The Premier League engages with UEFA through the European Leagues. The Premier League provided 104 players at UEFA Euro 2024 – more than any other league.

European Leagues
European Leagues represents professional leagues among regional political and sports bodies.

The Premier League is on the European Leagues Board, which provides access to relevant UEFA committees and enables it to participate in a range of European Leagues initiatives that support the game across the region.

European Football Clubs (EFC)
The EFC represents football clubs competing in international competitions with UEFA and FIFA. The UEFA Club Competitions SA – a joint venture between UEFA and the EFC – aims at driving the commercial development of UEFA's club competitions.

Premier League clubs involved in UEFA club competitions are members of the EFC.

Global

International Federation of Association Football (FIFA)
FIFA is the world governing body of football and an organiser of competitions, including the FIFA World Cup and FIFA Club World Cup. It sets the international calendar along with regulations for player transfers and player agents, which are in turn administered by The FA in England. Alongside the four British football associations, FIFA is one of the five permanent members of the International Football Association Board (IFAB), which is responsible for the Laws of the Game that must be adhered to by Premier League players and match officials.

The Premier League engages with FIFA through the World Leagues Association. The Premier League provided 163 players at the 2026 FIFA World Cup – more than any other league.

World Leagues Association
The World Leagues Association represents professional football leagues on a global level among political and sports bodies to foster co-operation between them.

The Premier League is a member of the World Leagues Association Board and Premier League Chief Executive Richard Masters was Chair of the Association from 2022 to 2026.



Coventry City returned to the Premier League after 25 years, rising up from being in League Two in 2017/18



Transforming grassroots

The Football Foundation celebrated 25 years of funding from the Premier League, FA and Government, with more than 127,000 teams using facilities to date



Championing non-league

The Premier League Stadium Fund marked 25 years of investment into more than 1,000 non-league grounds

Community impact

Longstanding support for communities across the country was celebrated through More Than a Game, marking 15 years of the Premier League Foundation and 20 years of Premier League Kicks





Supporting fans

Together Against Suicide and Premier League With Pride launched to support fans, while No Room For Racism continued to reiterate the League and clubs' commitment to diversity

Premier League

Season 2025/26 clubs

Arsenal · Aston Villa · AFC Bournemouth · Brentford · Brighton & Hove Albion · Burnley · Chelsea · Crystal Palace · Everton · Fulham · Leeds United · Liverpool · Manchester City · Manchester United · Newcastle United · Nottingham Forest · Sunderland · Tottenham Hotspur · West Ham United · Wolverhampton Wanderers

Official UK Broadcast Partners

sky sports · TNT SPORTS · BBC SPORT

Official UK Radio Broadcast Partners

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE · talkSPORT

Official Partners

Lead Partner	Official Creativity Partner	Official Bank	Official Soft Drink	Official Beer	Official Cloud and AI Partner	Official Ball
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