

At-a-glance League Charts

English League		
# of professional Leagues	Four and one semi-professional feeder league, the Conference.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August – May.		
	Premier Division 20 teams	Top side declared champions of Premier League. Bottom three automatically down.
	First Division 24 teams	Top two up. Four clubs finishing third to sixth meet in two-legged semi-finals and then one-legged final to determine final promotion spot. Bottom three automatically down.
	Second Division 24 teams	Top two up. Four clubs finishing third to sixth meet in two-legged semi-finals and then one-legged final to determine final promotion spot. Bottom four automatically down.
	Third Division 24 clubs	Top Three up. Four clubs finishing fourth to seventh meet in two-legged semi-finals and then one-legged final to determine final promotion spot. Bottom side relegated from Football League and replaced by the top finishing side from the Conference ¹ .
	Conference 22 clubs	Top team up Bottom three relegated to lower leagues
# of Cup competitions	Six. FA Cup. League Cup. Charity Shield Autoglass Trophy Conference Cup FA Trophy	
Continental qualification (at present)	England supplies three teams for the Champions League and three teams for the UEFA Cup competition. One place is also available for the Inter-Toto competition. UEFA Cup places are awarded to the winners of both the FA and League Cup.	
Non-EEC player rules	National competitions specify that a team can include an unlimited number of players from EEC countries, together with a maximum of three non-EEC players at any one time.	

¹ In recent years there have been seasons in which the club that has finished bottom of the Third Division has avoided leaving the league by way of the side finishing top of the Conference having a ground of insufficient quality to enter the League.



Transfer deadline	The English transfer deadline starts operating from the last Friday in March . Until the final game of the season.
Bosman	In effect. All contracts for players over the age of 24 are subject to the effect of the Bosman ruling when dealing with British only transfers.



MLS		
# of professional Leagues	One professional league.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
	<p>MLS 12 teams. Split into three conferences – East, Central and West. 32 match season – with four matches against every conference opponent and two against every team from other conference except for 1 team in each other group which they play 3 times.</p>	<p>Top two in each conference plus 2 third placed teams with highest points qualify for best of three match play -offs to determine the two conference winners.</p> <p>No relegation at present.</p>
# of Cup competitions	<p>One. US Open Cup - Knockout format encompassing both professional and amateur sides.</p>	
# of professional clubs	12	
Continental qualification	The MLS supplies the winner of its US Open Cup to play in the following season's CONCACAF Cup Winners Cup .	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	<p>21 points – One match suspension. Every additional 11 points – One match suspension. Four points – Dissent, professional foul, extreme force, tripping, shirt-pulling and dangerous play Three points – Obstruction, Repeated fouling, encroachment, deliberate hand-ball (stopping goal) and simulating to deceive. Two points – Deliberate handball, time wasting & encroaching on penalty kick One point – Entering field of play without permission.</p>	<p>First and second Offences – One match suspension. Third and subsequent offences – One match fine and possible extra ban.</p>
Transfer deadline	The deadline for deals between MLS clubs and non-MLS clubs, as well as trades between MLS clubs is August 15.	

Belgium League		
# of professional Leagues	One plus a partially professional Second Division and essentially amateur Third.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May		
	Eerste Klasse / Première division (First Division) 18 teams	Top team = national champion Bottom two relegated.
	Tweede Klasse / Deuxième division (Second Division) 18 teams	Top team promoted to Eerste Klasse First team out of each period enter playoff Winners of playoff also promoted Third from bottom side entered into play off with sides from Third Division A
	Derde Klasse / Troisième division (Third Division) 18 teams	Top side promoted to Tweede Klasse First team out of each period enter playoff Winners of playoff also promoted Bottom two sides drop into lower league football, with third from bottom side contesting league status through play off game.
# of Cup competitions	Belgian Cup / Beker van België / Coupe van Belgique – Knockout format with Second Division sides joining from the fourth round onwards with the First Division sides entering in round five. UEFA Cup place awarded to winner. League Cup / Coupe de la Ligue / Liga Cup – Knockout competition involving all professional sides in the country.	
# of professional clubs Continental qualification (at present)	22. All First Division sides plus Royal Antwerp FC, KV Kortrijk, RWD Molenbeek, KV Oostende. Belgium currently receives one place in the Champions League Second Round qualifying stage for its league champions. Three UEFA Cup places; one for the winner of the Belgian Cup and two for the second and third place sides in the First Division. Two Inter-Toto Cup places are up for grabs.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	Every three yellow cards leads to one suspension.	Two yellow cards (red) lead to automatic suspension of one game. If a Red card is issued singularly then a disciplinary committee determines the suspension.
Non-EEC player rules	There are no restrictions to the number of non-EEC players.	
Transfer deadline	Until December 31 st : First Division sides are unlimited in their transfer dealings with one another (Domestic players only). Second and Third Division sides can sell players to teams in a lower division than themselves. (Domestic players only) and buy or sell players to any side outside of the league. Until March 31 st : First Division sides can buy or sell players from outside of the Belgian league.	



Bosman	The Bosman ruling is in effect for those players who are at the end of their existing contracts.
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Brazil		
# of professional Leagues	Football within Brazil is comparatively hectic in terms of its league structure, with a vast number of state league competitions in operation. Championship Manager 99/00 contains six competitive regional and state competitions together with the National league championship.	
League Structure	Promotion/Relegation	
National Championship 22 teams Operates from July to December. Two phases: 21 round league competition Three round knockout competition	<p>The winner of the National Championship is determined as follows. The top eight finishing clubs from the first phase league competition are entered into placed into four quarter-final pairings which are played on a first to six points basis. The winner of the final series of games is determined as the National Champion.</p> <p>The bottom two sides at the end of the first phase league stage are relegated to the Second Division.</p>	
National Championship Second Division 22 teams Operates from July to December. Two phases: 21 round league competition Three round knockout competition	<p>The format of the Second Division is the same as the First Division. Promotion places are awarded to the top two sides at the end of the first phase.</p> <p>At the end of the first phase league stage, the two bottom-placed side are relegated from the league.</p>	
National Championship Third Division 22 teams Operates from July to December Two phases 21 round league competition Three round knockout competition	<p>The format of the Third Division is the same as the Second Division. Promotion places are awarded to the top two sides at the end of the first phase.</p> <p>At the end of the first phase league stage, the six bottom-placed side are relegated from the league.</p>	
São Paulo State Championship 12 teams Operates from January to June Two phases: 21 round league competition Two round knockout competition	<p>The winner of the championship is determined as follows. At the end of the league phase, the top four placed sides are placed into two, two-legged, semi-final ties with the winners meeting in a final match to determine the season's champions.</p> <p>The bottom placed side at the end of the league phase is relegated.</p>	



	<p>Rio State Championship 12 teams Operates from January to June Two phases: 18 round league competition Two round knockout competition</p>	<p>The winner of the championship is determined as follows. At the end of the league phase, the top four placed sides are placed into two, two-legged, semi-final ties with the winners meeting in a final match to determine the season's champions.</p> <p>The bottom placed side at the end of the league phase is relegated.</p>
	<p>North Regional Championships 12 teams Operates from January to June Two phases: 18 round league competition Two round knockout competition</p>	<p>The winner of the championship is determined as follows. At the end of the league phase, the top four placed sides are placed into two, two-legged, semi-final ties with the winners meeting in a final match to determine the season's champions.</p> <p>The bottom placed side at the end of the league phase is relegated.</p>
	<p>North East Regional Championships 12 teams Operates from January to June Two phases: 18 round league competition Two round knockout competition</p>	<p>The winner of the championship is determined as follows. At the end of the league phase, the top four placed sides are placed into two, two-legged, semi-final ties with the winners meeting in a final match to determine the season's champions.</p> <p>The bottom placed side at the end of the league phase is relegated.</p>
	<p>Central Regional Championships 12 teams Operates from January to June Two phases: 22 round league competition Two round knockout competition</p>	<p>The winner of the championship is determined as follows. At the end of the league phase, the top four placed sides are placed into two, two-legged, semi-final ties with the winners meeting in a final match to determine the season's champions.</p> <p>The bottom placed side at the end of the league phase is relegated.</p>
	<p>South Regional Championships 12 teams Operates from January to June Two phases: 22 round league competition Two round knockout competition</p>	<p>The winner of the championship is determined as follows. At the end of the league phase, the top four placed sides are placed into two, two-legged, semi-final ties with the winners meeting in a final match to determine the season's champions.</p> <p>The bottom placed side at the end of the league phase is relegated.</p>

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# of Cup competitions	Brazilian Cup. Operates from January to May and is comprised of teams from the regional and state leagues. Five sides from São Paulo League Three sides from North Regional League Four sides from North East Regional League Three sides from the Central Regional League Five sides from the South Regional League. Seven sides from the North / North East Regional League. Four sides the Rio de Janeiro State League	
Continental qualification	The Brazilian National Champions, together with the current holders of the Brazilian Cup, qualify for the Copa Libertadores.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	A player receives a one match suspension after every three yellow cards he receives.	The first red card will a player automatically suspended for one match. Subsequent dismissals are dealt with on a case by case basis with suspensions ranging from two to five matches.
Non-national player rules	Only two non-Brazilian players are allowed in each team.	
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline for each competition is the last day before the final phase of each competition. A player cannot play in the same competition over the course of a season for two different sides. Therefore, any transfers that are made have to take place between state or regional divisions.	
Pele's Rule	Brazil as a ruling very similar to the Bosman ruling in Europe, allowing players to become free agents at the end of a contract.	

Norwegian League		
# of professional Leagues	Two.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: April to October.		
	Premier Division 14 teams	The division's top club is the national champion. The bottom two sides are relegated to the First Division. There is also a play-off between the side finishing third from bottom of the Premier and the side that finished third in First Division for a final place.
	First Division 16 teams	The top two sides are automatically promoted to the Premier Division. The third placed side is entered into a two-legged play-off with the third from bottom side from the Premier Division. The bottom four sides are relegated from the First Division.
# of Cup competitions	Norwegian Cup. The winner of which is awarded a UEFA Cup place.	
Continental qualification (at present)	Norway is currently in receipt of two Champions League places, for the top two sides in the Premier Division, two UEFA Cup places and two Inter-Toto Cup invitations.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	League: After reaching three yellow cards the player receives a one-match ban. With a further two cautions he will receive another one league match ban, with subsequent one league match bans for each yellow card thereafter. Cup: Upon receiving two yellow cards the player automatically receives a one match ban in the competition. Each caution thereafter is met with a one-match ban in the competition.	A red card results in an automatic one-match suspension.
Non-national player rules	Only one non-EEC player is allowed in any team.	
Transfer deadline	Those players transferred after the end of August are not eligible to play for their new side until the following season.	
Bosman	The Bosman ruling does not apply to transfers within Norway. However, it is applicable out of contract players wishing to make free transfers to foreign teams.	

Dutch League	
# of professional Leagues	Two.
League Structure	Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May.	
	Dutch KPN-Telecompetition 18 teams
	The side finishing top is declared the season's league champions. The bottom finishing side is automatically relegated to the Toto Division, whilst the side's finishing second and third from bottom are entered into a play-off competition, details of which are given below with the Toto Division.
	Dutch Toto Division 18 teams Played over a normal league programme. However, for the purposes of the end of season play-offs the season is also broken into four separate series. Rounds one to eight form the first series, rounds nine to 16 the second, rounds 17 to 26 the third and rounds 27 to 34 the fourth and final.
	The side finishing top is automatically promoted to the KPN-Telecompetition. The sides finishing two and third in the final league table, together with the winners of each of the season's series and those side's finishing second and third from bottom of the KPN-Telecompetition are entered into the end of season play-offs. The play-offs are split into two four team groups with each side playing six matches. The winners from each group is then promoted to or remains in the KPN-Telecompetition. There is no relegation from the Toto Division.
# of Cup competitions	Amstel Cup: The Dutch equivalent of the FA Cup. Super Cup: Season's curtainraiser with the current league champions meeting last season's Amstel Cup winners.
# of professional clubs	36.
Continental qualification (at present)	The Dutch League at present supplies the top three teams in the KPN-Telecompetition to the Champions League, the two teams with the next highest league positions plus the winner of the Amstel Cup to the UEFA Cup and two into the Inter-Toto Cup
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards
	After reaching three yellow cards the player receives a one-match ban, with subsequent one league match bans for each yellow card thereafter.
	Red Cards
	Red card suspensions are dealt with by a disciplinary committee that can give suspensions ranging from one match to an entire season.
Non-national player rules	There are currently no restrictions on the number of foreign players.
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline operates from the first weekend in April until the end of the season.
Bosman	The Bosman ruling is in full effect with any player able to leave a club for no fee at the end of his contract.

Argentinean League		
# of professional Leagues	Two	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Opening season operates from: August to December.		
Closing season operates from: March to June.		
	Argentinean Premier Division 20 teams.	Each season produces two league champions from the Opening and Closing seasons. Clubs are relegated according to a average points total of their past three seasons in the league. The bottom two clubs in this average move to either the Metropolitan or Interior Zone of the Second Division.
	Argentinean Second Division Metropolitan Zone: 13 teams Interior Zone: 17 teams.	Promotion to the Premier Division is, from both zones and for both seasons, via a series of play -off competitions. The bottom clubs from both seasons of the Interior and Metropolitan Zones are relegated out of the league. Four in total.
# of Cup competitions	None	
Continental qualification (at present)	The champions from both the Opening and Closing seasons of the Premier Division are entered into the Copa Libertadores.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	A player receives a one-match suspension for every five yellow cards received.	Those Players receiving red cards have the length of their suspension determined by a disciplinary committee.
Non-national player rules	Four foreign players are allowed in each squad.	
Transfer deadline	A maximum of two players can be purchased between the Opening and Closing seasons, with unlimited transfers allowed in the interval between the end of the Closing season and the start of the Opening one.	

Japanese League		
# of professional Leagues	Two.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: March – December.		
	<p>J-League Division One 16 teams Each season is split into two 15-match stages.</p> <p>J-League Division Two 10 teams One stage competition</p>	<p>The winners of both league stages contest a two-leg play-off to determine the season's champions. The bottom two sides at the end of the season are relegated to J-League Division Two. The top two sides are promoted to the J-League Division One.</p> <p>No relegation.</p>
# of Cup competitions	<p>Emperor's Cup: Similar to FA Cup with J-League's 1 & 2 mixing it with university and amateur sides. Yamazaki Nabisco Cup: Japanese football's version of the League Cup. Xerox Super Cup: Japan's opening game to the season, contested by the previous season's winners of the J-League and the Emperor's Cup.</p>	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
Non-national player rules	<p>J-League: A player receiving three yellow cards is automatically suspended for the next game. Cup: A player receiving two yellow cards is automatically suspended for one match. Any one club can have up to five foreign players. Of which only three can be declared in a sixteen-man matchday squad.</p>	<p>Those players receiving red cards will receive a ban of between one and four games which is determined by a disciplinary committee.</p>
Transfer deadline	The first league stage has a transfer deadline of the beginning of May, whilst the second stage has one at the end of October.	

Scottish League	
# of professional Leagues	Four.
League Structure	
Operates from: August to May.	
	<p>Premier Division 12 teams with each side playing every side three times. Table then splits into 2 leagues of 6 with each team playing 5 matches more</p> <p>Mid-season break from the end of December until the end of January.</p>
	<p>Promotion/Relegation</p> <p>The side finishing top are the season's league champions.</p> <p>The bottom team is relegated to the First Division.</p>
	<p>First Division 10 teams</p> <p>The top side is promoted to the Premier Division.</p> <p>The bottom two sides are automatically relegated</p>
	<p>Second Division 10 teams</p> <p>Top two sides promoted to the First Division.</p> <p>Bottom two clubs relegated to Third Division.</p>
	<p>Third Division 10 clubs</p> <p>Top two teams promoted</p> <p>No relegation.</p>
# of Cup competitions	<p>Three.</p> <p>Scottish Cup: Seven round knockout competition involving all clubs from the Premier Division and Scottish League, together with a number of pre-qualifying non-league sides.</p> <p>League Cup: Six round knockout competition involving all clubs from the Premier Division and Scottish League.</p> <p>Challenge Cup: Five round knockout competition involving clubs from the First, Second and Third Divisions.</p>
# of professional clubs	
Continental qualification (at present)	Scotland presently supplies its current Premier League champions into the Champions League, with two additional UEFA Cup places given to the side finishing as runners-up in the Premier League and the current holders of the Scottish Cup.
Non-national player rules	National competitions specify that a team can include an unlimited number of players from EEC countries, together with a maximum of three non-EEC players at any one time.
Transfer deadline	The Scottish transfer deadline starts operating from the last Friday in March . Until the final game of the season.
Bosman	In effect. All contracts for players over the age of 24 are subject to the effect of the Bosman ruling when dealing with British only transfers.

Portuguese League		
# of professional Leagues	Two	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May.		
	Premier League 18 teams	The side finishing top is the season's league champions. The bottom three sides are relegated to the Second Division.
	Second League 18 teams	The top three sides are promoted to the Premier Division. The bottom three sides are relegated from the league.
	Second League 2 3 groups of 18 teams	Top team promoted in each group Four teams relegated in each
# of Cup competitions	Two. Taça de Portugal / Portuguese Cup: Nine round knockout competition with Second Division sides joining from the third round and Premier Division sides entering in the fourth. The winners are entered into the UEFA Cup. Supercup: This contested over two legs by the previous season's league champions and Portuguese Cup winners.	
Continental qualification (at present)	The top two finishing sides in the Premier League qualify for the Champions League. Whilst the winners of the Portuguese Cup and the sides finishing third, fourth and fifth in the Premier Division are awarded UEFA Cup places. Two Portuguese sides are also invited into the Inter-Toto Cup.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	A player receiving three yellow cards is automatically suspended for the next game.	Those players receiving red cards will receive a ban of two or more games.
Non-national player rules	Premier Division clubs are allowed a maximum of six non-nationals in their squad, with a maximum of four allowed on the field at any one time. Second Division clubs are allowed five in their squad and a maximum of four on the field.	
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline operates all season with the exception of a two month transfer period in December and January.	
Bosman	The Bosman ruling is in effect with any player allowed to move for no fee at the end of his contract.	

Spanish League		
# of professional Leagues		
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May.		
	First Division 20 teams.	The side finishing top is the season's league champions. The bottom three sides are relegated to the Second Division.
	Second Division 20 teams.	The top three finishing sides are promoted to the First Division. The bottom four sides are relegated from the league.
	Second Division B 4 groups of 20 teams	Top 4 in each group go into four groups of four (the top team from each group wins promotion) 5 th bottom team play in playoff to decide the 17 th relegated team Bottom four relegated from each group
# of Cup competitions	Spanish Cup: Seven round knockout competition with a UEFA Cup place the prize for its winner.	
Continental qualification (at present)	Spain is currently awarded four Champions League places for the top four finishing sides in the First Division, three UEFA Cup places for the sides finishing fifth and sixth in the First Division and the winner of the Spanish Cup, together with two places in the Inter-Toto Cup.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	A player automatically receives a one-match suspension for every five yellow cards received in league matches and for every two in cup games.	Those players receiving red cards are automatically suspended for one match, with the possibility of extra matches being added to the ban depending on the nature of the offence that resulted in the sending off.
Non-national player rules	Teams can sign a maximum of six non-EEC players to their squad, with more than four taking the field at any one time.	
Transfer deadline	Transfers are allowed throughout the entirety of close and pre-season periods as well as between 15 December and 15 January.	
Bosman	The Bosman ruling is in effect with any player allowed to move for no fee at the end of his contract.	

Italian League		
# of professional Leagues		
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May.		
	Serie A 18 teams	<p>The side finishing top are the Italian champions.</p> <p>The bottom four sides are relegated to Serie B.</p>
	Serie B 20 teams	<p>The top four sides in the division are promoted to Serie A</p> <p>The bottom four sides are relegated to Serie C1.</p>
	Serie C1/A 18 teams	<p>The side finishing top is promoted to Serie B.</p> <p>The sides in second, third, fourth and fifth places enter two-legged play-off semi-finals. With the winner of a one-legged final match also promoted to Serie B.</p> <p>The bottom side is relegated to Serie C2.</p> <p>The sides finishing second, third, fourth and fifth from the bottom also play-off with the two losing sides relegated to Serie C2.</p>
	Serie C1/B 18 teams	<p>The side finishing top is promoted to Serie B.</p> <p>The sides in second, third, fourth and fifth places enter two-legged play-off semi-finals. With the winner of a one-legged final match also promoted to Serie B.</p> <p>The bottom side is relegated to Serie C2.</p> <p>The sides finishing second, third, fourth and fifth from the bottom also play-off with the two losing sides relegated to Serie C2.</p>

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	Serie C2 A,B,C	<p>The side finishing top is promoted to Serie C1.</p> <p>The sides in second, third, fourth and fifth places enter two-legged play-off semi-finals. With the winner of a one-legged final match also promoted to Serie C1.</p> <p>The bottom side is relegated to Serie D.</p> <p>The sides finishing second, third, fourth and fifth from the bottom also play -off with the two losing sides relegated to Serie D.</p>
# of Cup competitions	<p>Three.</p> <p>Italian Cup: A group and knockout competition featuring all Serie A, B and C1 clubs, with the winner earning for themselves a place in the UEFA Cup.</p> <p>Serie C Cup: Knockout competition featuring all Serie C clubs plus those finishing third and fourth in Serie C1/A and C1/B the previous season.</p> <p>Super Cup: Opening match of the season featuring the previous season's league champions and Italian Cup winners.</p>	
Continental qualification (at present)	<p>The top four sides in Serie A are entered into the following season's Champions League competition, with the sides finishing fifth and sixth entered, with the winners of the Italian Cup, into the UEFA Cup. Two Italian sides are also invited to take part in the Inter-Toto Cup.</p> <p>If two teams finish with the same points in Serie A, a playoff is arranged between the two teams. The team which wins the playoff is placed above the other team in the league.</p>	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	<p>A player receives an automatic one match suspension after receiving six yellow cards. After which he receives a further match ban for every four, three and two cautions.</p>	<p>A red card automatically results in the player receiving a suspension, the length of which is determined by the Giudice Sportivo.</p>
Non-national player rules	<p>Serie A allows five non-EEC players in a squad with three allowed for selection for matches at any one time.</p>	
Transfer deadline	<p>Transfers are allowed at any time between seasons and during January. Free transfers can occur until the end of April.</p>	
Bosman	<p>The Bosman ruling is fully implemented within the Italian league.</p>	

Danish League		
# of professional Leagues	Three.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: July to May. Mid-season break between November and February.		
	Premier Division 12 teams meeting each other three times a season.	Top team declared champion. Bottom two sides relegated to First Division.
	First Division 12 teams.	The sides finishing in the top two places are both promoted to the Premier Division. The bottom four sides relegated to Second Division.
	Second Division 12 teams.	The sides finishing in the top four places are both promoted to the First Division. The bottom four sides are relegated from the league.
# of Cup competitions	One. Danish Cup: Eight round knockout competition featuring all league clubs and some qualifying amateur sides, the winner of which qualifies for the UEFA Cup.	
Continental qualification (at present)	The top two sides in the Premier Division qualify for the following season's Champions League, with the sides finishing third, together with the Danish Cup holders, awarded UEFA Cup places. Two Danish sides are also invited to enter the Inter-Toto Cup.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	Points are awarded for yellow cards depending on the severity of the offence either mild (3 points), medium (4) or hard (6). Players are suspended when their points total reaches or exceeds the following totals 15, 30, 44, 58, 72, 86, 100, 114 and 128. For every point past 128, the player will receive an automatic one match suspension.	Players receiving red cards will receive 24 points added to their disciplinary total, with those receiving a dismissal by two yellow cards getting a further 9 points added to their total.
Non-national player rules	No more than three non-EEC players are permissible within any one club at the same time.	
Transfer deadline	Transfer deadlines come into effect during the last three rounds of each half-season.	
Bosman	The Bosman ruling is in full effect.	

Swedish League		
# of professional Leagues		
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: April to November.		
	Premier Division 14 teams.	<p>The side finishing top are the national champion.</p> <p>The bottom two sides are automatically relegated.</p> <p>The side finishing third from bottom meets the side finishing third from top of the First Division North in a two-legged play-off to determine the final place.</p>
	First Division 12 teams.	<p>The top two sides are automatically promoted to the Premier Division.</p> <p>The side finishing third from top meets the side finishing third from bottom of the Premier Division in a two-legged play-off to determine the final place in the Premier Division.</p> <p>The bottom two sides are automatically relegated.</p>
	Second Division 6 groups of 12 teams	<p>First placed teams play in playoff</p> <p>10th placed team play in relegation playoff</p> <p>Two teams relegated from each group</p>
# of Cup competitions	<p>One.</p> <p>Swedish Cup: All league and some amateur teams are entered into the competition. The first and second rounds involve lower division teams on a group basis, with the bigger teams entering the competition from the third round onwards from which point it is a knockout competition. The winner is awarded a UEFA Cup place.</p>	
Continental qualification (at present)	<p>The Swedish league champions are awarded the nation's single Champions League place, with UEFA Cup spots going to the Premier Division runners-up and the winners of the Swedish Cup. One place is also available for Swedish sides in the Inter-Toto competition.</p>	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	<p>Players receive an automatic one match suspension after getting three yellow cards. Subsequent one match bans are handed out for every two yellow cards the player receives.</p>	<p>Red card suspensions automatically result in a one match suspension. Further sanctions may be imposed upon the player depending on whether the sending off was deemed for a minor or major offence.</p>
Non-national player rules	<p>There is a maximum of three non-EEC players allowed per match.</p>	
Transfer deadline	<p>There is no transfer deadline in effect.</p>	
Bosman	<p>The Bosman ruling is in effect. However, it does not apply on a national level, only when a non-Swedish team is involved in a transfer.</p>	

French League		
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May.		
	Première Division / First Division 18 teams	The side finishing first is declared the French league champions. The bottom three finishing sides are relegated to the Second Division.
	Deuxième Division / Second Division 20 teams	The top three sides are promoted to the First Division. The bottom three finishing sides are relegated to the French National.
	National 20 teams	The top three sides are promoted to the Second Division, provided that they have professional status. The bottom four sides are relegated from the league
# of Cup competitions	Two. Coupe de France / French Cup. Coupe de Ligue / League Cup	
# of professional clubs	38, plus a variable number from within the National.	
Continental qualification (at present)	The top three placed sides in the French First Division qualify for entry into the Champions League. The winners of the Coupe de France and Coupe de Ligue qualify for the UEFA Cup. Two Inter-Toto Cup places are also awarded at present.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	A player that have received three yellow cards within the last ten matches he has played in automatically receives a one match ban.	Players receiving red cards automatically miss their side's next match and normally one other, as determined by the Commission de discipline.
Transfer deadline	No domestic transfers are allowed from January 11 th until the end of the season.	



German League		
# of professional Leagues	Two, plus regional leagues that can be added as additional leagues.	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from: August to May.		
	Bundesliga / First Division 18 teams	Top finishing side is declared German league champions. The bottom three sides are relegated to the Second Division.
	2: Bundesliga / Second Division 18 teams	The top three sides are promoted to the First Division. The bottom four sides are relegated to the regional divisions.
	Regional Leagues 2 groups of 18 teams	Four teams promoted from a series of playoffs Three relegated from each group
# of Cup competitions	Two. German Cup / DFB-Pokal. German League Cup / DFB-Ligapokal	
# of professional clubs	36	
Continental qualification (at present)	Germany currently receives four Champions League places, three UEFA Cup berths for the winners of each cup and the best placed league side not in the Champions League, together with two Inter-Toto Cup places.	
Disciplinary	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
	Every fifth yellow card results in an automatic one match suspension.	Red cards result in an automatic one match suspension with the possibility of an extended ban of two to eight weeks.
Transfer deadline	Player may be transferred between German clubs at any time between July 1 st and January 15 th .	



Australian League		
# of professional Leagues	One	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:		
	National Soccer League 16 teams	No promotion or relegation. A series of finals are played to find the overall winner of the NSL
# of Cup competitions	None	
Continental qualification (at present)	.	
Foreign player rules	3 foreign players are allowed to play in league matches	
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline is on the 17 th April	
Bosman	There is no Bosman rule in Australia	

Irish League	
# of professional Leagues	Two
League Structure	Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:	
	<p>Premier Division 12 teams</p> <p>Top team is declared champions</p> <p>Bottom two sides are relegated to first division.</p> <p>Third bottom side plays off against third placed team in First Division</p>
	<p>First Division 10 teams</p> <p>Top two sides are promoted to Premier Division</p> <p>Bottom two sides are relegated to lower leagues</p>
# of Cup competitions	<p>Four.</p> <p>Irish Presidents Cup</p> <p>Irish League Cup.</p> <p>Irish Challenge Cup</p> <p>Irish Super Cup</p>
Continental qualification (at present)	.
Non-EEC player rules	No foreigner limit
Transfer deadline	The deadline for transfers is the 31 st January
Bosman	<p>In effect.</p> <p>All contracts for players over the age of 24 are subject to the effect of the Bosman ruling when dealing with British only transfers.</p>

Northern Irish League	
# of professional Leagues	Two
League Structure	Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:	
	Premier Division 10 teams First Division 10 teams
	Top team is declared champions Bottom side is relegated to first division. Second bottom side plays off against second placed team in First Division Top side is promoted to Premier Division There is no relegation from this league
# of Cup competitions	Three. FA Cup Gold Cup League Cup.
Continental qualification (at present)	.
Non-EEC player rules	No foreigner limit
Transfer deadline	The deadline for transfers is the 20 th March
Bosman	In effect. All contracts for players over the age of 24 are subject to the effect of the Bosman ruling when dealing with British only transfers.



Welsh League		
# of professional Leagues	One	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:		
	First Division 18 teams	No relegation.
# of Cup competitions	Three. FA Cup. League Cup. Premier Cup	
Continental qualification (at present)	.	
Non-EEC player rules	No foreigner limit	
Transfer deadline	The deadline for transfers is the 20 th March	
Bosman	In effect. All contracts for players over the age of 24 are subject to the effect of the Bosman ruling when dealing with British only transfers.	

Turkish League		
# of professional Leagues		
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:		
	First Division 18 teams	Top side is declared champions. Bottom three sides are relegated to the Second Division.
	Second Division 5 groups of 10 teams After 2 rounds of matches, the top 2 teams from each group play in a promotion group. The rest of the teams stay in their original groups and play for relegation places	Top two side of promotion group are promoted. 3/4/5 th sides playoff against winners of groups for third promotion place Bottom side from each group is relegated to the lower leagues.
# of Cup competitions	Two. FA Cup. League Cup.	
Continental qualification (at present)	.	
Foreign player rules	First Division teams can field 6 foreigners in matches. Second division teams cannot play any.	
Transfer deadline	The deadline for transfers is 31 st January	
Bosman	There is no Bosman rule in Turkey	

Greek League	
# of professional Leagues	Two
League Structure	Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:	
	<p>Premier Division 16 teams</p> <p>Top team is declared champions</p> <p>2000/2001 season Bottom two teams are relegated to Second Division</p> <p>2001/2002 season Bottom side is relegated to Second Division.</p>
	<p>Second Division 16 teams (2000) 14 teams (2001)</p> <p>2000/2001 season Top two sides promoted to First Division Bottom four sides relegated to lower leagues</p> <p>2001/2002 season Top side promoted to First Division. team from Premier Division Bottom two sides relegated to lower leagues</p>
# of Cup competitions	Two. FA Cup. Super Cup.
Continental qualification (at present)	.
Non-EEC player rules	No foreigner limit
Transfer deadline	The first transfer window closes at the end of August. The second transfer window if from the 1 st of January to the 20 th of January
Bosman	The rule applies to Greece



Russian League		
# of professional Leagues	Two	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:		
	Premier Division 16 teams	Bottom two sides are relegated to First Division
	First Division 18 teams	Top two sides are promoted to Premier Division Bottom three sides are relegated to lower leagues
# of Cup competitions	One. FA Cup.	
Continental qualification (at present)	.	
Foreign player rules	Only three foreign players are allowed to play in matches	
Transfer deadline	There are two transfer windows. 1. From 15 th Dec to 24 th Mar 2. From 28 th June to 4 th Aug	
Bosman	The Bosman rule does not apply to Russia	

Polish League		
# of professional Leagues	Two	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:		
	First Division 16 teams	Top team is declared champions Bottom two sides are relegated to Second Division Third bottom side plays off against third team in Second Division
	Second Division 20 teams	Top two teams are promoted. Third team plays against third bottom team of the Premier Division in a playoff Bottom four teams are relegated
# of Cup competitions	Three FA Cup. League Cup. Super Cup	
Continental qualification (at present)	.	
Foreign player rules	Only 3 foreigners are allowed to play in matches.	
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline is on the 20 th February.	
Bosman	The Bosman rule does not apply to Poland	

Croatian League		
# of professional Leagues	Three	
League Structure		Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:		
	A1 Division 16 teams	Top team is declared champions Bottom two teams are relegated to A2 divisions.
	A2A and A2/B Divisions 16 teams in each group	Top team from each group are promoted to A1 division. Bottom two teams of each group are relegated to lower leagues
# of Cup competitions	One. FA Cup.	
Continental qualification (at present)	.	
Foreign player rules	4 foreign players are allowed to play in matches	
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline is on the 30 th March	
Bosman	The Bosman rule does not apply to Croatia	

Finish League	
# of professional Leagues	Two
League Structure	Promotion/Relegation
Operates from:	
	<p>Premier Division 12 teams</p> <p>Top team is declared champions Bottom team is relegated to First Division</p>
	<p>First Division 2 groups of 10 teams</p> <p>After 2 rounds of matches, the top 5 teams from each group play in a group of 10. The other teams stay in their groups and play for relegation places</p> <p>Top team of championship group is promoted to Premier Division. Bottom 2 teams from each relegation group are relegated to lower leagues. The third bottom teams from each relegation group playoff against lower division teams.</p>
# of Cup competitions	One. FA Cup.
Continental qualification (at present)	.
Non-EEC player rules	There are no foreigner limits in Finland
Transfer deadline	The transfer deadline is on the 15 th August.
Bosman	The Bosman rule applies to Finland