

Durham County FA Performance 2022-23 Review

In line with our commitment to publicly disclose information the following shows our targets and achievements throughout the 2022-23 season in which our performance can be measured and ensure accountability.

Registered Players

Measure	Target	Q1 July - September	Q2 October - December	Q3 January - March	Q4 April - June
Participation					
Player					
Registered Disability	300	368	424	442	448
Registered Female	5332	6020	6703	6847	6808
Registered Male	35145	35448	37179	37788	37134

Registered Disability Players. 2021-22 season we reached a final number of 393 players. I am pleased to report that we surpassed that target by an additional 55 players. Player registration still remains a challenge but Andrea Fyall, our Football Development Officer (Disability) continues to offer club and league support which has helped to increase our numbers. 2022-23 season saw an increase in our recreational offer for both Adults and Youths and we hope this develops further into 23-24 season with clubs providing a disability offer.

Registered Female Players. Our Female numbers have increased significantly from 2021-22 season which we ended with 6017, this season our final number was 6808. Age groups within affiliated Mini Soccer, Youth and Open Age continue to be strong but the most growth was seen within our Women's Recreation Just Play sessions which engaged 367 women across 13 sessions. From this we were able to create a league of 10 teams engaging 130 women. Our Durham Women's League continue to grow with 33 teams registered for season 2023/24 across 3 divisions. We continue to support clubs with creating affiliated teams through the Weetabix Wildcats and Squad Girls recreational programme where we have 43 Weetabix Wildcat sessions and 13 Squad Girls session county wide. For more information on how to get involved in affiliated or recreational football please contact; Helen Edwards, Football Development Officer (Women & Girls)

Registered Male/Mixed Players. Our Male participation target was set as a 'retain' so our priority was to aim for the same number of players we had when we came out of lock down. Our target for the 2022/23 season was 37,134 players, and we ended the season with 35,145 players. The additional 1,989 players put us 5.7% above our target.

We achieved these numbers through our affiliated and recreational offers which include; Mini Soccer, Youth, Futsal, Open Age, Veterans and Walking Football.

Walking Football was an area in which we saw extended growth. Our Football Development Officer (Male Participation) Dan McElhone created a league with Over 50 and Over 60 Divisions alongside the 41 weekly recreational sessions in the County.

A challenging area has been the drop off in Adult 11 v 11 football, a common trend across the country which has unfortunately seen a number of teams fold across the season for various reasons. We intend to work closely with Clubs and Leagues to identify Clubs who are at risk of folding and introduce early interventions in order to support clubs and reduce the risk of Clubs/Teams folding.

Registered Referees

Measure	Target	Q1 July - September	Q2 October - December	Q3 January - March	Q4 April - June
Participation					
Player					
Recruitment	239	188	206	238	276
Retention	764	725	730	734	739
Conversion	143	119	154	179	208
Progression	68	9	20	34	38

We've been able to deliver a successful refereeing programme during the 2022-23 season by delivering on a range of areas. 15 referee courses were delivered which resulted in over 270 newly qualified referees within grassroots football. There is a general acceptance that refereeing numbers are declining and this is unfortunately reflected in our Retention target. 739 referees were retained from season 2021-22 which gives us an overall figure of 1100 referees which included 114 female referees which is up by 39% from the previous season.

We've then been able to support referees by providing high quality workshops through our CORE programmes (Centre Of Referee Excellence) which is made of 4 strands - Promotion, development, level 4 and female. This support has allowed over 50 referee promotions across various levels within grassroots refereeing from our highly professional volunteer workforce such as tutors, coaches, mentors and observers.

We aim to build upon this success going into season 2023-24 by introducing a robust mentoring system for our newly qualified referees and providing more opportunities to all our referees and referee workforce.

Coaching

Measure	Target	Q1 July - September	Q2 October - December	Q3 January - March	Q4 April - June
Participation					
Coaching					
Coaches Attending CPD	773	580	953	1330	2306
Youth Teams with a Qualified Coach	89%	89.3%	90.4%	92.4%	92.8%

Our Coach Development Programme surpassed our target which was set by the FA by a huge 214.6%, as we engaged with 2306 coaches (instances) over the course of the 2023-24 season, with our KPI target set at 733 instances. Over the course of the 2022-23 season we have provided a rich variety in content and structure, with the aim of engaging coaches across the age phases; newly qualified coaches; experienced coaches; and those from all corners of the county.

During the season we delivered 55 standalone workshops, which included Durham FA workshops, a Foundation Phase Coaches Academy, Youth Development Phase Coaches Academy, Goalkeeper Coach Development, Masterclass Events, Female Only Events, Disability Awareness CPD, Autism Awareness CPD, England Learning workshops and a season long programme of CPD at Sunderland AFC Academy, engaging in workshops across the age phases.

Our Female Only Coach Development Group proved to be a huge success once again, delivering 4 workshops over the course of the season, one in partnership with Sunderland Women AFC, engaging 78 female coaches (instances).

In addition to the above, we delivered a comprehensive Club Development Programme, engaging with 11 clubs, delivering 29 workshops and supporting over 400 coaches. This programme allowed us to make Coach Development more accessible and inclusive, enabling us to deliver in-house at clubs across the county.

Finally, our commitment to supporting young people saw us deliver a Young Coaches Academy, for 14-18 year olds, where we were able to engage with and support 50 young people.

As we move into the 2023-24 season, we aim to act upon the feedback received to ensure we are servicing the coaches and the game, providing an enhanced programme of support.

For more information please contact Richard.shuffleton@durhamfa.com

Facilities and Investment

Measure	Target	Q1 July - September	Q2 October - December	Q3 January - March	Q4 April - June
Facilities					
Quality Grass Pitches	155	133	136	178	205

This season has seen an additional 2 full size 3G Football Turf Pitches(FTP) being installed within Durham County FA at Darlington LA and County Durham Council, Eastbourne Sports Complex and Whitworth Academy respectively. In addition, the Jill Scott 3G FTP opened at Perth Green CA in Jarrow, the former ladies England International officially opened the much-needed artificial pitch which had been identified through Football Foundation (FF) Investment through the FA Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for South Tyneside. The LFFP has allowed the County FA and FF to plan a pipeline of large capital 3G and Pavilion projects ready to evolve into this season's facility goals.

The recruitment of an additional part - time Facilities & Investment Officer has allowed Durham FA to invest more resource into improving the quantity and quality of the grass pitches. Significant investment has been made available from the Football Foundation through their Grass Pitch Maintenance Scheme, which requires organisations with the support of the F&I Officer to conduct a PitchPower assessment before they are eligible for funding. We are thrilled to say that we are currently exceeding our target with the number of quality grass pitches (pitches receiving at least a 'good' PitchPower rating). Our immediate focus is to continue to work proactively with the seven local authorities, charities, education establishments and our affiliated clubs to access Football Foundation funding. This will see a continued improvement in the standard of our grass pitches and provide an improved playing experience for all.

If you require advice or you have any queries please contact; chris.hutchinson@durhamfa.com / chris.wood@durhamfa.com

