

- Association founded 1880
- Affiliated to FIFA in 1911



Flag



Association emblem



World map



## Football in Northern Ireland

Football is Northern Ireland's favourite sport, but the national team has not enjoyed success for many years now. At the FIFA World Cup in 1958 and 1982, Northern Ireland finished in 8th and 9th position respectively, but they last qualified for the finals in 1986, finishing in 21st place. It is perhaps therefore no surprise that to find the greatest names in Northern Irish footballing history, one has to look at the country's past. William McCrum introduced the penalty kick to the Laws of the Game, while Billy Bingham achieved world fame as a player and later coached the Northern Irish national team for many years. George Best was one of the most enigmatic footballers ever seen by the footballing world, and Norman Whiteside became the youngest ever player in FIFA World Cup finals history when he appeared at the age of 17. The Irish Football Association - the world's fourth oldest football association - celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005.

## The Goal project

As the original project submitted on 1 May 2003 was not realised, the Northern Ireland association proposed an alternative to the Goal Bureau on 21 March 2007. An international-sized artificial pitch will now be laid to fulfil the aim of maintaining the same training conditions throughout the year for the Londonderry football academy. The pitch will form part of the training complex to be built under the auspices of the municipal council.

## Financing of Goal project

### Project

An artificial pitch for the regional football academy in Londonderry

### Project approved on

21 March 2007

### Status

Implementation

### Total cost

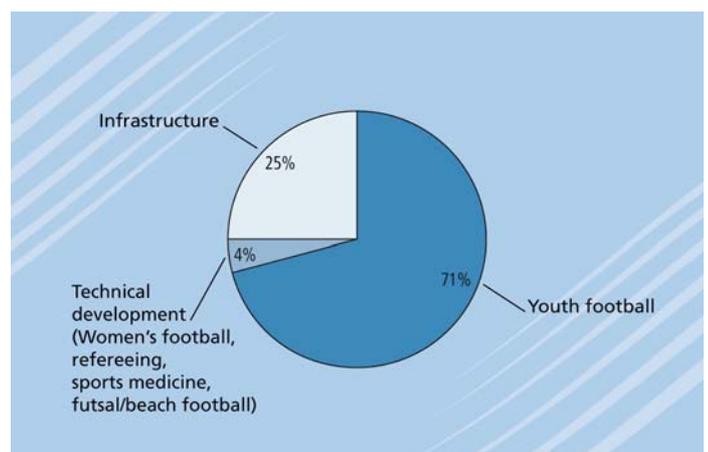
USD 400,000

Financed by

### Goal

USD 400,000

## Use of FAP funds



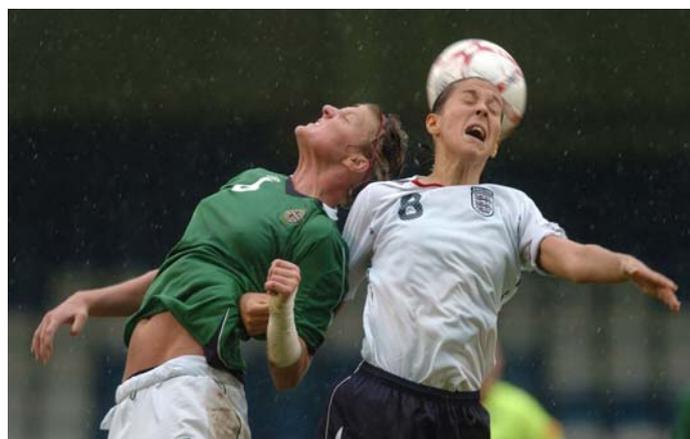
**Football education and courses**

	No of courses until 1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>FUTURO III regional courses</b>																					
Refereeing (men and women)																					
Coaching (men)																					
Coaching (women)																					
Administration and management																					
Football medicine																					
<b>Seminars</b>																					
Women's football																					
Futsal																					
Com-Unity																					
MA Seminars																					
<b>MA courses</b>																					
Administration																					
Refereeing (men and women)						●						●		●							
Coaching (men and women)																					
Beach soccer																					
Futsal																					
Olympic solidarity coaching courses																					
<b>Development courses and academies (1975 - 1990)</b>	<b>0</b>																				
<b>FUTURO I-II courses for all football branches</b>																					

●: Course host country    □: Course participant in another country

**Women's football**

When, in 1995, today's FIFA President said "The future of football is feminine", it was more than mere lip service. It reflected a strong belief in the huge potential that women's football has to develop. Ever since, FIFA has given targeted support for the efforts of associations who offer women the same opportunities to develop as male players. Launched in 1998, FIFA's Financial Assistance Programme (FAP) introduced a requirement in 2004 for the associations and confederations to invest at least 4% of their FAP funding into women's football. This threshold was increased to 10% in 2005. On top of this commitment, FIFA also promotes the women's game in more general ways by directly financing women's matches and organising competitions and symposiums. Thanks to its development programmes, FIFA is also playing an active role in the training of administrators, coaches, referees and sports doctors.



Women's power during Northern Ireland versus England

Does an organised women's football set-up exist?	yes
If so, since when?	2002
From which age on, players are registered?	6
Women's teams (open or over 16 years)	43
Women's teams (below 16 years, youth)	57
National competition (or women's league)	n/a
Regional competitions	n/a
University competitions	yes
School competitions	yes
Futsal competitions	no
National "A" team	yes
National youth teams: age categories U-15, U-16, U-17, U-19, U-21	



Joy after having beaten the Czech women's national team