

CHARTER STANDARD LEAGUES

INFORMATION FOR CLUBS



CHARTER STANDARD
LEAGUES



PROGRAMME

BENEFITS, CRITERIA

AND SUPPORT



The FA Charter Standard League programme delivers on the vision of the FA Charter Standard Brand:

“Offering everybody in grassroots football a high-quality, safe, enjoyable experience that is nationally recognised.”

The FA Charter Standard League Programme helps to:

- Target investment.
- Deliver an improved service and support structure to leagues.
- Improve communication with leagues.
- Ensure succession planning within leagues.
- Rationalise existing league structures.
- Help implement the principles of Long Term Player Development.
- Grow football for underrepresented groups.
- Improve efficiency and sustainability of leagues.
- Deliver on the Respect Programme.

The Charter Standard League Programme assesses your league on its ability to provide a high quality, safe and enjoyable football experience against a standard set of criteria. It will also encourage your league to continuously develop, through on-going support from the County FA and the review and update of a league development plan, as part of an annual health check.

How will your league benefit from the Programme?

By signing up to working towards Charter Standard League status, your league will be demonstrating that it is willing to work towards a minimum operating standard and to raising standards and addressing poor behaviour within the league and member clubs, by encouraging teams to gain Charter Standard Club status as part of the Charter Standard League criteria. It will also be demonstrating, by reviewing what it does well, what it wants to do better and by identifying how it can improve, that it is committed to developing better players and to investing in its workforce.

When registering as working towards Charter Standard League status, your league will receive:

- Support from County FA staff, to include initial briefing and quarterly support meetings.
- FA guidance resources.
- Networking opportunities.
- One free Enhanced CRB check and three three free places (one on each workshop) for Safeguarding, Welfare Officer and Equality workshops.

The benefits of achieving Charter Standard League status, are that your league will have a clear development plan in place, together with an agreed support package with the County FA to help you achieve your vision for the league. The league will also be demonstrating that it is committed to the Respect programme and will have procedures in place to improve standards and address poor behaviour in the game, a key priority for all those involved in Football. Your league will also gain recognition that it is committed to a quality experience for all and that you are a well run league.

In addition, on achieving Charter Standard League status, your league will receive:

- A certificate, crystal award and use of the Charter Standard League logo.
- Enhanced County FA support, to include a support visit and annual health check.
- Two free Enhanced CRB checks and six free places (two on each workshop) for Safeguarding, Welfare Officer and Equality workshops.
- Three free FA/CFA training workshops per season.
- UMBRO Fair Play Award voucher.
- Access to free tickets for England women's and youth internationals.

What are the Programme criteria and evidence requirements?

The criteria for the Programme have been developed in consultation with the Charter Standard Working Group, which includes league and County FA representatives, to ensure that it drives forward the desired outcomes of the National Game Strategy and is a key delivery vehicle for the FA's Respect Programme.

The criteria for the Programme are divided into six development areas, reflecting the approach of the National Game Strategy:

- Growth and Retention.
- Raising Standards and Addressing Behaviour.
- Better Players.
- Running the Game.
- Workforce Development.
- All Goals and Enablers.

For each development area, a number of criteria have been identified, together with the minimum evidence that Leagues will be expected to have in place, to demonstrate that they meet the required criteria, as detailed in the tables overleaf.

Your County FA representative will introduce you to the criteria and evidence requirements and highlight the support that you can access to guide you through the process. Supporting documentation to help you achieve the required criteria can be accessed at www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/CharterStandard/League/. Leagues will be required to keep all relevant evidence for the Programme together in an evidence folder.

What support is available?

The Charter Standard League Programme is seen as a critically important Programme by The FA and County FAs across the country, in terms of driving forward the National Game Strategy.

County FAs are committed to:

- Providing Charter Standard League briefings at league meetings.
- Supporting leagues with up to four support/assessment visits (individually or through workshops with other leagues to share best practice).
- Arranging a presentation of the Charter Standard League certificate and plaque once award has been gained.
- Supporting leagues to access three continuous professional development opportunities per season.
- Supporting leagues with on-going development support through an annual visit, linked to the annual Charter Standard League healthcheck process.
- Promoting Charter Standard Leagues

Further information

Please contact your County FA office if you require more information, or visit TheFA.com/GrassrootsNew/CharterStandard/League/ for all the latest programme documentation and support resources.

PROGRAMME CRITERIA

Development area	What are the criteria	What evidence is required
1. Growth and Retention	a) Evidence of how the league plans to retain/grow the number of male, female and disability teams (mini-soccer, small sided and 11v11) as appropriate.	Targets for team retention / growth in the league development plan. Minimum requirement is that the league must plan to retain the current number of teams but that ideally there is projected growth.
2. Raising Standards and Addressing Behaviour	a) At least 60% of teams in the league have Charter Standard Club status.* <i>*All other teams must have Enhanced FA CRB checks for all welfare officers, coaches and managers working with children in youth football or with vulnerable adults.</i> <i>The league will have two years to ensure that all participating clubs have Charter Standard Club status. Any new clubs entering the league after Charter Standard League Status is granted will have 12 months to attain Charter Standard Club status.</i>	Current % of teams in the league with Charter Standard Club status (minimum 60%) Evidence that any welfare officers, coaches and managers working with children in youth football or vulnerable adults in non-Charter Standard Club teams, have undergone Enhanced CRB checks.
	b) The league actively promotes the Respect Programme through implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Respect codes of conduct. Designated spectator areas for games (optional for adult leagues). Captains taking more responsibility for the behaviour of their players. Referee managing the game. 	League rule supporting the implementation of Respect with reference to the use of codes of conduct, designated spectator areas and Captains taking more responsibility. Evidence that member clubs are signed up to the three key Respect initiatives.
	c) The league has an equality policy and complaints procedure that adheres to The FA equality policy and complaints procedure template.	League equality policy and complaints procedure that reflects The FA template.
	d) The league has a safeguarding children policy and procedures that adheres to FA requirements (youth leagues only).	League policy and procedures that reflects FA requirements.
	e) The league has a named Youth League Welfare Officer who has an Enhanced FA CRB check and has been on the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer Workshops (youth leagues only).	Name of Youth League Welfare Officer, CRB number and dates of training.
3. Better Players	a) The league is committed to reviewing existing and developing appropriate competition and training programmes for youth players in line with the principles of Long Term Player Development by evidence of:	Evidence that the existing league structure employs a minimum of 7v7 small sided format for youth football.

Development area	What are the criteria	What evidence is required
	b) Promoting a culture of learning where there is an emphasis on player development over results by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the 2009-10 season, no division to exceed 12 teams (unless permission granted in exceptional circumstances). No league tables at u7 and u8 age groups. Encouraging the provision of flexible-format festivals. 	Evidence of adherence to criteria through league structure, format and development plan.
	c) A coach education programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1. Age Appropriate Coaching Introductory Module.* FA Youth Module 1 (this can be linked to the CFA Coaching Programme).* Two technical in-service days per season of which one must be aimed at coaches working with u11s.* <p>* Adult leagues only required to deliver FA Coaching Adults and not required to deliver u11 in-service.</p>	Dates and titles of held or planned courses, covering the minimum stipulated requirements.
4. Running the Game	a) The league is sanctioned by The FA or CFA, as appropriate.	League sanction number.
	b) The league is signed up to The FA Standard Code of Rule.	Copy of league rules demonstrating adherence to FA Rules.
	c) The league has a Charter Standard League agenda item at league meetings.	
	d) The Youth League Welfare Officer and Charter Standard League Co-ordinator sit on the league committee.	
	e) The League has a web-based administration system for results, tables and fixtures. Full-Time is recommended for this purpose, but isn't mandatory.	League provides evidence of the web-based system it uses to administer the results, tables and fixtures. League has requested access to member services on CFA website.
5. Workforce Development	a) The league has a named volunteer Charter Standard League Co-ordinator.	Name of officer.
	b) The league provides a minimum of three continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities per season for league volunteers and member clubs, ideally on days when there are no fixtures (flexible programmes to include mentoring for club and league secretaries).	Dates and titles/focus of CPD opportunities.
6. All Goals and Enablers	a) The league has a development plan that identifies key development objectives and targets linked to the National Game Strategy key goals and enablers.	Completed three year league development plan to be reviewed and updated annually.
	b) The league has an agreed support package with the CFA.	Completed final page of league development plan confirming County FA support to league, signed by CFA and league.

HOW TO ACHIEVE CHARTER STANDARD LEAGUE STATUS

APPLICATION FORM



Step one: Joining the Charter Standard League Programme

Once your league has decided that it is committed to achieving Charter Standard League status and you have a number of people in the league who are willing to support the process, you should register your interest by completing the Charter Standard League registration form and sending it to your County FA office. Once you have registered, a nominated officer from your County FA will contact you to confirm how to access the resources and incentives for the Programme and to arrange a meeting or invite you to a workshop with other leagues. You can access all the support resources for the Programme via TheFA.com/GrassrootsNew/CharterStandard/League/.

Step two: Auditing and assessing your league

You will meet with the County FA representative to discuss the vision and aspirations of the league and to work through the Programme criteria and evidence requirements, gathering the relevant evidence together in a portfolio, as it becomes available. The County FA representative will sign off criteria on an on-going basis when evidence is presented. Any criteria that require further work will form the basis of an action plan for the league.

Step three: Achieving the criteria

Following the initial meeting with the County FA, you should implement your action plan, gathering outstanding evidence to meet the Programme criteria. A key element of the Programme is the production of a league development plan that identifies how you will build on the criteria, based on the needs of the league. Up to three additional opportunities are available with the County FA to support the process.

Step four: Final sign off

Once all criteria have been met, the FDO will complete a final sign off of the evidence and the league will receive a Charter Standard League certificate and plaque and additional Programme benefits. The FA and the County FA will promote the league's achievement through media opportunities.

Step five: Continuous development and annual health check

You are required to complete an annual health check and update your development plan annually to retain Charter Standard League status. The County FA will provide support with continuous professional development and an annual visit to support the on-going development of your league.

League Details

League name:

League sanction number:

League Contact for The FA Charter Standard League Programme

(all communication relating to the Programme will be directed through this person)

Name:

Position:

Address:

Postcode

Telephone:

Fax:

Mobile:

Email:

Signed:

Date:





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