

Süper Lig

The **Süper Lig** (Turkish pronunciation: [ˈsypær lij], *Super League*), officially known as **Trendyol Süper Lig** for sponsorship reasons,^[3] is a Turkish professional league for association football clubs. It is the top-flight of the Turkish football league system and is run by the Turkish Football Federation. In the 2023 to 2024 season, twenty clubs compete, where a champion is decided and three clubs are promoted from, and relegated to the 1. Lig. The season runs from August to May, with each club playing 38 matches. Matches are played Friday through Monday.

The league succeeded the Turkish Football Championship and the National Division, both being former top-level national competitions. The Süper Lig is currently 9th in the UEFA coefficient ranking of leagues based on club performances in European competitions over the last five years. A total of 75 clubs have competed in the Süper Lig, but only six have won the title to date: Galatasaray (23), Fenerbahçe (19), Beşiktaş (16), Trabzonspor (7), İstanbul Başakşehir (1) and Bursaspor (1).

History

Football in Turkey stems back to the late 19th century, when Englishmen brought the game with them while living in Salonica (then part of the Ottoman Empire).^[4] The first league competition was the Istanbul Football League, which took place in the 1904–05 season. The league went through several variations until the creation of the *Millî Lig* (Süper Lig) in 1959. Between the creation of the Istanbul League and Millî Lig, several other regional leagues took place: Adana (1924), Ankara (1922), Eskişehir (1924), İzmir (1924), Bursa (1924), and Trabzon (1922), to name a few. The first competition to bring forth a national champion was the former Turkish Football Championship, which began in 1924 and continued until 1951.^[5] The championship format was based on a knockout competition, contested between the winners of each of the country's top regional leagues.^[6] The National Division (Turkish: *Millî Küme*) was the first national league competition in Turkey. Started in 1937, the National Division consisted of the strongest clubs from the Ankara, Istanbul, and İzmir leagues. The championship lasted until 1950.^{[7][8]}

The Federation Cup was established in 1956 to decide a national champion. This champion would go on to participate in the European Cup. The competition was held for two seasons until it was replaced by the Millî Lig. Beşiktaş won both editions and qualified for the European Cup during the two-year span. However, since the TFF failed to register their name for the draw in time, Beşiktaş could not participate in the 1957–58 season after all.^{[9][10]}

Turkish Süper Lig	
	
Organising body	<u>Turkish Football Federation</u> (TFF)
Founded	21 February 1959
Country	<u>Turkey</u>
Confederation	<u>UEFA</u> (Europe)
Number of teams	<u>20</u> (since 2023–24)
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	<u>TFF First League</u>
Domestic cup(s)	<u>Turkish Cup</u> <u>Turkish Super Cup</u>
International cup(s)	<u>UEFA Champions League</u> <u>UEFA Europa League</u> <u>UEFA Conference League</u>
Current champions	<u>Galatasaray</u> (23rd title) (2022–23)
Most championships	<u>Galatasaray</u> (23 titles)
Most appearances	<u>Umut Bulut</u> (515) ^[1]
Top goalscorer	<u>Hakan Şükür</u> (249) ^[2]
TV partners	<u>List of broadcasters</u>
Website	<u>tff.org</u> (<u>https://www.tff.org/Default.aspx?pageID=</u>



Fenerbahçe–Galatasaray match in the Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium

The top clubs of Ankara, Istanbul, and İzmir competed in the 1959 Turkish National League. The first season took place in the calendar year of 1959, instead of 1958 to 1959, since the qualifying stages took place in 1958. The 16 clubs who competed in the first season were: Adalet (Istanbul), Altay (İzmir), Ankaragücü (Ankara), Ankara Demirspor (Ankara), Beşiktaş (Istanbul), Beykoz (Istanbul), Karagümrük (Istanbul), Fenerbahçe (Istanbul), Galatasaray (Istanbul), Gençlerbirliği (Ankara), Göztepe (İzmir), Hacettepe Gençlik (Ankara), İstanbulspor, İzmirspor, Karşıyaka (İzmir), and Vefa (Istanbul). The first champions were Fenerbahçe and the first "Gol Kralı" (top scorer) was Metin Oktay. No clubs were promoted or relegated at the end of the first season.^[11]

The 2. Lig (Second League) was created at the start of the 1963–64 season and the Millî Lig became known as the 1. Lig (First League). Before the foundation of a second division, the bottom three clubs competed with regional league winners in a competition called the *Baraj Games*. The top three teams of the group were promoted to the Süper Lig. After the foundation of a new second division in 2001, known as the 1. Lig, the formerly titled 1. Lig was rebranded as Süper Lig.^[12] The Süper Lig is home of the Fenerbahçe–Galatasaray derby, the most watched football game in Turkey. It is considered to be one of the best and most intense in the world, being ranked among the greatest football rivalries of all time by various international sources.^{[13][14][15]}

On 12 December 2023, the Turkish Football Federation suspended all league games indefinitely following an incident during a match between MKE Ankaragucu and Caykur Rizespor which involved fans being able to successfully invade the pitch and people, including recent MKE Ankaragucu president Faruk Koca, being arrested after attacking referee Halil Umut Meler.^{[16][17]} Koca would resign from MKE Ankaragucu as well.^[17] However, on 13 December, the same day Meler was discharged from the hospital it was soon agreed that Super Lig matches would resume on 19 December.^{[18][19]}

Format

There were 18 clubs in the Süper Lig until 2020. 20 Clubs are competing in the Süper Lig starting from 2020. During the course of the season (from August to May) each club plays the others twice (a double round robin system), once at their home stadium and once at that of their opponents, for a total of 38 games. Teams receive three points for a win and one point for a draw. No points are awarded for a loss. Teams are ranked by total points, then head-to-head record, then goal difference, and then goals scored. At the end of each season, the club with the most points is crowned champion. If points are equal, the head-to-head record and then goal difference determine the winner. The three lowest placed teams are relegated to the 1. Lig and the top two teams from the 1. Lig, together with the winner of play-offs involving the third to seventh placed 1. Lig clubs are promoted in their place.^[20]

- 16 clubs: 1959
- 20 clubs: 1959–1962
- 22 clubs: 1962–1963
- 18 clubs: 1963–1964
- 16 clubs: 1964–1966
- 17 clubs: 1966–1968
- 16 clubs: 1968–1981
- 17 clubs: 1981–1982
- 18 clubs: 1982–1985



Former design of the Süper Lig Trophy, used from 2015 until 2022.

- 19 clubs: 1985–1987
- 20 clubs: 1987–1988
- 19 clubs: 1988–1989
- 18 clubs: 1989–1990
- 16 clubs: 1990–1994
- 18 clubs: 1994–2020
- 21 clubs: 2020–2021
- 20 clubs: 2021–2022
- 19 clubs: 2022–2023
- 20 clubs: 2023–present

Qualification for European competitions






The champions qualify for the second qualifying round of the Champions League. The runners-up, third place and the Turkish Cup winners qualify for the second qualifying round of the Europa Conference League. If the Turkish Cup winner has already qualified for European competition through their league finish, then the team that finishes fourth in the league takes their place.

Media coverage

UEFA ranking

As of March 1, 2024^[21]

Süper Lig ranks 9th in UEFA Country Rankings 2024. The league made a big breakthrough in the early 90s and became one of the most valuable leagues in Europe. Süper Lig achieved the best ranking in its history in 2001 by rising to 7th place. In 1982, the league dropped to 28th place, achieving the worst ranking in its history.

Ranking			Member association	Coefficient					
2022	2023	Mvmt		2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total
11	11	–	 <u>Serbian SuperLiga</u>	6.000	6.000	5.500	9.500	5.375	32.375
20	12	 +8	 <u>Turkish Süper Lig</u>	5.500	5.000	3.100	6.700	11.800	32.100
14	13	 +1	 <u>Swiss Super League</u>	3.900	6.400	5.125	7.750	8.500	31.675

Süper Lig UEFA ranking by years^[22]

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
18	19	20	19	15	18	19	21	21	22
1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
18	19	17	18	19	23	23	23	22	23
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
25	25	28	27	26	27	26	24	26	24
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
24	23	18	13	12	10	11	8	14	14
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	7	8	10	10	11	15	14	11	11
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
11	10	11	10	11	12	11	10	10	10
2020	2021	2022	2023						
11	13	20	12						

Clubs

Stadiums and locations



Team	Home city/borough	Home province	Stadium	Capacity
<u>Adana Demirspor</u>	<u>Adana</u>	<u>Adana</u>	<u>New Adana Stadium</u>	33,543
<u>Alanyaspor</u>	<u>Alanya</u>	<u>Antalya</u>	<u>Alanya Oba Stadium</u>	10,130
<u>Ankaragücü</u>	<u>Ankara</u>	<u>Ankara</u>	<u>Eryaman Stadium</u>	20,560
<u>Antalyaspor</u>	<u>Antalya</u>	<u>Antalya</u>	<u>Corendon Airlines Park</u>	32,537
<u>Başakşehir</u>	<u>Başakşehir</u>	<u>Istanbul</u>	<u>Başakşehir Fatih Terim Stadium</u>	17,156
<u>Beşiktaş</u>	<u>Beşiktaş</u>		<u>Tüpraş Stadium</u>	42,590







Team	Home city/borough	Home province	Stadium	Capacity
<u>Fatih Karagümrük</u>	<u>Fatih</u>		<u>Atatürk Olympic Stadium</u>	76,761
<u>Fenerbahçe</u>	<u>Kadıköy</u>		<u>Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium</u>	47,834
<u>Galatasaray</u>	<u>Sarıyer</u>		<u>Rams Park</u>	52,280
<u>Gaziantep</u>	<u>Gaziantep</u>	<u>Gaziantep</u>	<u>Kalyon Stadium</u>	33,502
<u>Hatayspor</u>	<u>Antakya</u>	<u>Hatay</u>	<u>Mersin Stadium</u> ^[note 1]	25,497
<u>İstanbulspor</u>	<u>Büyüçekmece</u>	<u>Istanbul</u>	<u>Esenyurt Necmi Kadioğlu Stadium</u>	7,500
<u>Kasımpaşa</u>	<u>Kasımpaşa</u>		<u>Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Stadium</u>	14,234
<u>Kayserispor</u>	<u>Kayseri</u>	<u>Kayseri</u>	<u>RHG Enertürk Enerji Stadium</u>	32,864
<u>Konyaspor</u>	<u>Konya</u>	<u>Konya</u>	<u>Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium</u>	42,000
<u>Pendikspor</u>	<u>Pendik</u>	<u>Istanbul</u>	<u>Pendik Stadium</u> ^[23]	2,500
<u>Rizespor</u>	<u>Rize</u>	<u>Rize</u>	<u>Rize City Stadium</u>	15,332
<u>Samsunspor</u>	<u>Samsun</u>	<u>Samsun</u>	<u>Samsun 19 Mayıs Stadium</u>	33,919
<u>Sivasspor</u>	<u>Sivas</u>	<u>Sivas</u>	<u>New Sivas 4 Eylül Stadium</u>	27,532
<u>Trabzonspor</u>	<u>Trabzon</u>	<u>Trabzon</u>	<u>Şenol Güneş Sports Complex</u>	40,782

1. Hatayspor plays their home matches in Mersin due to Hatay Stadium having been affected by the 2023 Turkey–Syria earthquakes.

Champions

Only six clubs have been champions since the introduction of the Super League: Galatasaray 23 times, Fenerbahçe 19 times, Beşiktaş 16 times (see note below), Trabzonspor 7 times, and Bursaspor and İstanbul Başakşehir once each.

Teams in **bold** compete in the Süper Lig as of the 2023–24 season.

Club	Champ-ions ^[24]	Runners-up	Winning seasons	Runners-up seasons
Galatasaray 	23	13	<u>1961–62</u> , <u>1962–63</u> , <u>1968–69</u> , <u>1970–71</u> , <u>1971–72</u> , <u>1972–73</u> , <u>1986–87</u> , <u>1987–88</u> , <u>1992–93</u> , <u>1993–94</u> , <u>1996–97</u> , <u>1997–98</u> , <u>1998–99</u> , <u>1999–00</u> , <u>2001–02</u> , <u>2005–06</u> , <u>2007–08</u> , <u>2011–12</u> , <u>2012–13</u> , <u>2014–15</u> , <u>2017–18</u> , <u>2018–19</u> , <u>2022–23</u>	<u>1956–57</u> ¹ , <u>1957–58</u> ¹ , <u>1959</u> , <u>1960–61</u> , <u>1965–66</u> , <u>1974–75</u> , <u>1978–79</u> , <u>1985–86</u> , <u>1990–91</u> , <u>2000–01</u> , <u>2002–03</u> , <u>2013–14</u> , <u>2020–21</u>
Fenerbahçe 	19	24	<u>1959</u> , <u>1960–61</u> , <u>1963–64</u> , <u>1964–65</u> , <u>1967–68</u> , <u>1969–70</u> , <u>1973–74</u> , <u>1974–75</u> , <u>1977–78</u> , <u>1982–83</u> , <u>1984–85</u> , <u>1988–89</u> , <u>1995–96</u> , <u>2000–01</u> , <u>2003–04</u> , <u>2004–05</u> , <u>2006–07</u> , <u>2010–11</u> , <u>2013–14</u>	<u>1959–60</u> , <u>1961–62</u> , <u>1966–67</u> , <u>1970–71</u> , <u>1972–73</u> , <u>1975–76</u> , <u>1976–77</u> , <u>1979–80</u> , <u>1983–84</u> , <u>1989–90</u> , <u>1991–92</u> , <u>1993–94</u> , <u>1997–98</u> , <u>2001–02</u> , <u>2005–06</u> , <u>2007–08</u> , <u>2009–10</u> , <u>2011–12</u> , <u>2012–13</u> , <u>2014–15</u> , <u>2015–16</u> , <u>2017–18</u> , <u>2021–22</u> , <u>2022–23</u>
Beşiktaş 	16	14	<u>1956–57</u> ¹ , <u>1957–58</u> ¹ , <u>1959–60</u> , <u>1965–66</u> , <u>1966–67</u> , <u>1981–82</u> , <u>1985–86</u> , <u>1989–90</u> , <u>1990–91</u> , <u>1991–92</u> , <u>1994–95</u> , <u>2002–03</u> , <u>2008–09</u> , <u>2015–16</u> , <u>2016–17</u> , <u>2020–21</u>	<u>1962–63</u> , <u>1963–64</u> , <u>1964–65</u> , <u>1967–68</u> , <u>1973–74</u> , <u>1984–85</u> , <u>1986–87</u> , <u>1987–88</u> , <u>1988–89</u> , <u>1992–93</u> , <u>1996–97</u> , <u>1998–99</u> , <u>1999–00</u> , <u>2006–07</u>
Trabzonspor 	7	9	<u>1975–76</u> , <u>1976–77</u> , <u>1978–79</u> , <u>1979–80</u> , <u>1980–81</u> , <u>1983–84</u> , <u>2021–22</u>	<u>1977–78</u> , <u>1981–82</u> , <u>1982–83</u> , <u>1994–95</u> , <u>1995–96</u> , <u>2003–04</u> , <u>2004–05</u> , <u>2010–11</u> , <u>2019–20</u>
İstanbul Başakşehir	1	2	<u>2019–20</u>	<u>2016–17</u> , <u>2018–19</u>
<u>Bursaspor</u>	1	—	<u>2009–10</u>	

¹ Beşiktaş formally requested that championships won in the 1956–57 and 1957–58 editions of the Turkish Federation Cup be counted as Turkish Professional First Division championships to the Turkish Football Federation. The Cup was established in 1956 to find a national champion to represent Turkey, after UEFA decided that only national champions could participate in the European Cup.^[25] Beşiktaş had therefore earned the right to represent Turkey in the European Cup in the 1957–58 and 1958–59 seasons.^[26] The ruling on this matter was announced in a press release on March 25, 2002, which indicated that the championships won by Beşiktaş in the Federation Cup would be counted as national league championships.

Star rating system

The honor of Golden Stars was introduced in football to recognize sides that have won multiple championships or other honours by the display of gold stars on their team badges and jerseys. In Turkey, clubs are permitted to place a golden star above their crest for every five national championships won. As of the 2023–24 season Galatasaray are permitted four golden stars, Fenerbahçe and Beşiktaş are permitted three golden stars, and Trabzonspor are permitted one golden star to be placed above their crest on their jerseys.

League participation

As of 2024, 75 clubs have participated. Note: The tallies below include up to the 2023–24 season. Teams denoted in bold are current participants.

- 66** seasons: **Galatasaray**, **Beşiktaş**, **Fenerbahçe**
- 54** seasons: **MKE Ankaragücü**
- 50** seasons: Bursaspor, Trabzonspor

- **48** seasons: Gençlerbirliği
- **42** seasons: Altay
- **31** seasons: Gaziantepspor,^[27] **Samsunspor**
- **30** seasons: Eskişehirspor, Göztepe
- **28** seasons: **Antalyaspor**
- **25** seasons: **İstanbulspor**
- **23** seasons: **Konyaspor**
- **22** seasons: Adanaspor, **Çaykur Rizespor**
- **21** seasons: Denizlispor
- **20** seasons: Boluspor, Kocaelispor, **Adana Demirspor**, Kasımpaşa
- **19** seasons: **Kayserispor**
- **18** seasons: **Sivasspor**
- **16** seasons: Karşıyaka, **İstanbul Başakşehir**^[28]
- **15** seasons: Mersin İdmanyurdu^[29]
- **14** seasons: Vefa, Zonguldakspor^[30]
- **13** seasons: Ankara Demirspor, Kayseri Erciyesspor,^[31] Sarıyer
- **12** seasons: PTT^[32]
- **11** seasons: Diyarbakırspor, Malatyaspor, Orduspor, Sakaryaspor
- **10** seasons: Altınordu, İzmirspor, Kardemir Karabükspor, Şekerspor,^[33] **Fatih Karagümrük**
- **9** seasons: Ankaraspor, Feriköy
- **8** seasons: Beykozspor, Giresunspor, Hacettepe Gençlik,^[34] **Alanyaspor**
- **7** seasons: Akhisarspor^[35]
- **6** seasons: Manisaspor
- **5** seasons: Vanspor,^[36] Yeni Malatyaspor, Zeytinburnuspor , **Gaziantep FK**
- **4** seasons: Elazığspor, **Hatayspor**
- **3** seasons: Aydınspor, Bakırköyspor, Çanakkale Dardanelspor, Erzurumspor,^[37]
- **2** seasons: Yozgatspor,^[38] Adalet,^[39] Akçaabat Sebatspor,^[40] Balıkesirspor, Beyoğluspor, Büyükşehir Belediye Erzurumspor,^[41] Hacettepe, Yeşildirek
- **1** season: Bucaspor,^[42] Kahramanmaraşspor, MKE Kırıkkalespor, Petrolofisi,^[43] Siirtspor,^[44] Ümraniyespor, **Pendikspor**

Player records

Most goals

Most appearances

Rank	Player	Goals ^[45]	Apps	Rate
1	<u>Hakan Şükür</u>	249	489	0.51
2	<u>Tanju Çolak</u>	240	282	0.85
3	<u>Hami Mandıralı</u>	219	476	0.46
4	<u>Metin Oktay</u>	217	258	0.84
5	<u>Aykut Kocaman</u>	200	360	0.58
6	<u>Feyyaz Uçar</u>	191	376	0.51
7	<u>Burak Yılmaz</u>	188	327	0.57
8	<u>Serkan Aykut</u>	188	336	0.56
9	<u>Umut Bulut</u>	163	515	0.31
10	<u>Fevzi Zembem</u>	146	305	0.48

As of 15 May 2021

Rank	Player	Apps ^[45]	Years
1	<u>Umut Bulut</u>	515	1999–2011, 2012–2021
2	<u>Oğuz Çetin</u>	503	1981–2000
3	<u>Rıza Çalımbay</u>	494	1980–1996
4	<u>Hakan Şükür</u>	489	1987–2000, 2003–2008
5	<u>Hami Mandıralı</u>	476	1984–1998, 1999–2003
6	<u>Kemal Yıldırım</u>	475	1976–1995
7	<u>Mehmet Nas</u>	447	1997–2014
8	<u>Recep Çetin</u>	437	1984–2001
9	<u>Müjdat Yetkiner</u>	429	1979–1995
10	<u>Bülent Korkmaz</u>	428	1988–2005

As of 15 May 2021

- Bold denotes players still active in the league.
- All players are Turkish unless otherwise indicated.

Turkish football clubs in UEFA competitions

	European Cup / UEFA Champions League		UEFA Cup / Europa League			UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	UEFA Super Cup	UEFA Intertoto Cup		
Club	Semi- finalist	Quarter- finalist	Winner	Semi- finalist	Quarter- finalist	Quarter- finalist	Winner	Winner	Semi- finals	Quarter- finalist
<u>Galatasaray</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1963</u> , <u>1970</u> , <u>1994</u> [‡] , <u>2001</u> , <u>2013</u>	<u>2000</u>	-	-	<u>1992</u>	<u>2000</u>	-	-	-
<u>Fenerbahçe</u>	-	<u>2008</u>	-	<u>2013</u>	-	<u>1964</u>	-	-	-	-
<u>Beşiktaş</u>	-	<u>1987</u>	-	-	<u>2003</u> , <u>2017</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Bursaspor</u>	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1975</u>	-	-	-	<u>1995</u>
<u>Göztepe</u>	-	-	-	<u>1969</u> [#]	-	<u>1970</u>	-	-	-	-
<u>Kayserispor</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>2006</u>	-	-
<u>Trabzonspor</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1999</u>	-
<u>Samsunspor</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1998</u>	-
<u>İstanbulspor</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1997</u>	-

[‡] Galatasaray was one of the final eight teams of the 1993–94 UEFA Champions League group stage, however UEFA does not consider this a quarter-final participation.

Sponsorship

Period	Sponsor	Brand
1959–1963	No sponsor	Turkish Football Championship- Millî Lig
1989–2000	No sponsor	Türkiye 1. Futbol Ligi
2000–2005	No sponsor	Türkiye Süper Ligi
2005–2010	<u>Turkcell</u>	Turkcell Süper Lig ^[46]
2010–2017	<u>Spor Toto</u>	Spor Toto Süper Lig ^[47]
2017–2018	No sponsor	Süper Lig
2018–2019	Spor Toto	Spor Toto Süper Lig ^[48]
2019–2021	No sponsor	Süper Lig
2021–2023	Spor Toto	Spor Toto Süper Lig ^[48]
2023–present	<u>Trendyol</u>	Trendyol Süper Lig ^[3]

Official match ball

- 2008–2010: Nike T90 Omni
- 2010–2011: Nike T90 Tracer
- 2011–2012: Nike Seitiro
- 2012–2013: Nike Maxim
- 2013–2014: Nike Incyte
- 2014–2015: Nike Ordem 2
- 2015–2016: Nike Ordem 3
- 2016–2017: Nike Ordem 4
- 2017–2018: Nike Ordem 5
- 2018–2020: Nike Merlin
- 2020–2021: Adidas Uniforia
- 2021–2022: Adidas Conext 21 Pro
- 2022–present: Puma Orbita

See also

- Turkish Football Championship
- Turkish National Division
- List of foreign Süper Lig players
- List of Süper Lig top scorers
- List of Turkish football champions
- Süper Lig all-time table

References and notes

1. "Türkiye Spor Toto Süper Lig" (<http://arsiv.mackolik.com/Puan-Durumu>). *mackolik.com*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20220219232904/http://arsiv.mackolik.com/Puan-Durumu>) from the original on 19 February

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.tff.org.tr/Default.aspx?pagelD=80>) – Süper Lig (in Turkish)
- Official website (<http://www.tff.org>) – Turkish Football Federation (in Turkish)
- Süper Lig (<https://twitter.com/superlig>) on Twitter

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