

Kategoria Superiore

The **Kategoria Superiore**, (lit. Superior Category) officially known as **Abissnet Superiore** for sponsorship reasons, is a professional league for men's <u>association football</u> clubs. At the top of the Albanian football league system, it is the country's primary football competition. It is contested by 10 clubs, and operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the <u>Kategoria e Parë</u>. Seasons run from August to May, with teams playing 36 matches each (playing each team in the league four times, twice at home and twice away).

The competition was founded in 1930 as the **Albanian National Championship** during the reign of King Zog, shortly after the creation of the Albanian Football Association. Since 1930, 45 clubs have competed in recognised competitions, while only nine clubs have won the title: <u>Tirana</u> (26), <u>Dinamo Tirana</u> (18), <u>Partizani</u> (17), <u>Vllaznia</u> (9), <u>Skënderbeu</u> (8), <u>Elbasani</u> (2), <u>Teuta</u> (2), <u>Flamurtari</u> (1), and <u>Kukësi</u> (1). The current champions are <u>Partizani</u>, who won their 17th title in 2022–23.

History

Early history

Football was first introduced to Albania by an English-Maltese priest named Gut Ruter, who visited the Saverian college in Shkodër in 1908. The first football club in Albania was Indipendenca, founded in Shkodër in 1912 by Palokë Nika. [2] The first 90-minute game to be played with two 45 minute halves took place in October 1913 between Indipendenca Shkodër and the occupying Austro-Hungarian Imperial Navy. The game is considered to be the first international game to be

The game is considered to be the first international game to be played in Albania, and it ended in a 2–1 loss for Indipendenca, with the captain and founder of the club Palokë Nika scoring the only goal for the Albanians. [2][3]

Kategoria Superiore

ixat	Kategoria Superiore						
Organising body	FSHF						
Founded	6 June 1930						
Country	Albania						
Confederation	UEFA						
Number of teams	10						
Level on pyramid	1						
Relegation to	Kategoria e Parë						
Domestic cup(s)	Albanian Cup Albanian Supercup						
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa Conference League						
Current champions	Partizani (17th title) (2022–23)						
Most championships	Tirana (26 titles)						
Top goalscorer	<u>Vioresin Sinani</u> (207 goals) ^[a]						
TV partners	MCN TV						
Website	fshf.org/abissnet-superiore (https://fshf.org/competition/abissnet-superiore/)						
Current: 2	023–24 Kategoria Superiore						

World War II championships

Albania was <u>invaded by Italy</u> in April 1939 and <u>World War II</u> soon broke out, meaning the <u>Albanian Football</u> <u>Association</u>, much like the other organisations in the country, ceased operating. Despite the war, three championships were held between 1939 and 1942, with Tirana winning the championships in 1939 and 1942 and

Shkodra winning in 1940. Despite calls to recognise these championships, the Albanian Football Association maintains the position that the championships were not organised by them and cannot be formally recognised. [4][5][6]

Names

N	ame	Period	Notes	
Albanian	English	Period	Notes	
Kampionati Kombëtar Shqiptar	Albanian National Championship	1930–2003	_	
Kategoria Superiore	Superior Category	2003-present	The official name, even though from 2021 for sponsorship reasons the name changes.	
Abissnet	Superiore	2021-present	Sponsored by Abissnet.[7]	

Records

Most points in a season 84 points. KF Tirana (2004–05)

Most points without winning the league title 79 points. KF Elbasani (2004–05)

First Albanian team to qualify for a European competition proper stage. KF Skenderbeu (2017–18) Europa League

Competition format

Since the 2014–15 Kategoria Superiore, the league consists of 10 clubs, who face each other four times in a conventional <u>round-robin tournament</u> for a total of 36 matches. At the end of the season, the two lowest-placed teams are <u>relegated</u> to the <u>Kategoria e Parë</u>, while two highest-placed teams of the Kategoria e Parë are promoted in their place. The 8th ranked team qualifies to the play-off round, which they play against the Kategoria e Parë play-off winner. Teams are ranked by total points, then head-to-head record, then goal difference, and then goals scored.

Clubs (2023–2024)

Current members

The following teams are competing in the Kategoria Superiore during the 2023–24 season. [8]

Club	Position in 2023–24
Dinamo	2nd (Kategoria e Parë)
Egnatia	3rd
Erzeni	8th
Kukësi	7th
Laçi	5nd
Partizani	1st
Skënderbeu	1st (Kategoria e Parë)
Teuta	6th
Tirana	2nd
Vllaznia	4th

List of champions

Group tournament format Season was not played Season is not officially recognised



Season	Champion	hampion Runner-up Third place Top scorer(s)		Goals	
1930	KF Tirana (1)	Skënderbeu	Bashkimi Shkodran	Selman Stërmasi	5
1931	KF Tirana (2)	Teuta	Uneven group format	Teli Samsuri	9
1932	KF Tirana (3)	Bashkimi Shkodran	Teuta	Selman Stërmasi	11
1933	Skënderbeu (1)	Bashkimi Shkodran	Teuta	Teofik Agaj	7
1934	KF Tirana (4)	Skënderbeu	Bashkimi Shkodran	Mark Gurashi	22
1935			Season was not played		
1936	KF Tirana (5)	Vllaznia	Besa	Riza Lushta	11
1937	KF Tirana (6)	VIIaznia	Besa	Riza Lushta	25
1938			Season was not played		
1939		Season pl	layed, but not officially re	ecognised	
1940		Season pl	layed, but not officially re	ecognised	
1941			Season was not played		
1942		Season pl	layed, but not officially re	ecognised	
1943			Season was not played		
1944			Season was not played		
1945	Vllaznia (1)	SK Tirana	Besa	Xhevdet Shaqiri	9
1946	Vllaznia (2)	Flamurtari	17 Nëntori	Xhevdet Shaqiri	11
1947	Partizani (1)	Vllaznia	Dinamo Korçë	Zihni Gjinali	13
1948	Partizani (2)	Flamurtari	Uneven group format	Zihni Gjinali	12
1949	Partizani (3)	Vllaznia	Ylli i Kuq Durrës	Zihni Gjinali	14
1950	Dinamo (1)	Partizani	Shkodra	Loro Boriçi	6
1951	Dinamo (2)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	59
1952	<u>Dinamo</u> (3)	Partizani	Uneven group format	Refik Resmja	10
1953	Dinamo (4)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	9
1954	Partizani (4)	Dinamo	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	13
1955	Dinamo (5)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	14
1956	Dinamo (6)	Partizani	Puna Tiranë	Refik Resmja	17
1957	Partizani (5)	Dinamo	Puna Korçë	Niko Bespalla	12
1958	Partizani (6)	Besa	17 Nëntori	Skënder Jareci	13
1959	Partizani (7)	17 Nëntori	Flamurtari	Panajot Pano	9
1960	Dinamo (7)	<u>Partizani</u>	17 Nëntori	Skënder Jareci	13
1961	Partizani (8)	Dinamo	17 Nëntori	Panajot Pano	14
1962–63	Partizani (9)	Dinamo	Besa	Panajot Pano	12
1963–64	Partizani (10)	Dinamo	Besa	Robert Jashari	18
1964–65	KF Tirana (7)	<u>Partizani</u>	Dinamo	Robert Jashari	19
1965–66	KF Tirana (8)	<u>Partizani</u>	Dinamo	Iljaz Çeço	12
1966–67	Dinamo (8)	17 Nëntori	Besa	Josif Kazanxhi	17
1968	KF Tirana (9)	Partizani	Dinamo	Medin Zhega	19

Season	Champion	Runner-up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
1969–70	KF Tirana (10)	Partizani	VIIaznia	Skënder Hyka	19
1970–71	Partizani (11)	Dinamo	VIIaznia	Panajot Pano	18
1971–72	Vllaznia (3)	17 Nëntori	Dinamo	Ilir Përnaska	19
1972–73	Dinamo (9)	Partizani	Besa	Ilir Përnaska	17
1973–74	Vllaznia (4)	Partizani	Besa	Ilir Përnaska	12
1974–75	Dinamo (10)	VIIaznia	Partizani	Ilir Përnaska	16
1975–76	Dinamo (11)	17 Nëntori	VIIaznia	Ilir Përnaska	19
1976–77	Dinamo (12)	Skënderbeu	VIIaznia	Ilir Përnaska	17
1977–78	Vllaznia (5)	Luftëtari	Partizani	Agim Murati	12
1978–79	Partizani (12)	17 Nëntori	Besa	Agim Murati	13
1979–80	Dinamo (13)	17 Nëntori	VIIaznia	Përparim Kovaçi	18
1980–81	Partizani (13)	Dinamo	17 Nëntori	Dashnor Bajaziti	12
1981–82	KF Tirana (11)	Flamurtari	Dinamo	Vasil Ruci	12
1982–83	Vllaznia (6)	Partizani	17 Nëntori	Dashnor Bajaziti	16
1983–84	Elbasani (1)	KF Tirana	Partizani	Vasil Ruci	12
1984–85	KF Tirana (12)	Dinamo	VIIaznia	Arben Minga, Faslli Fakja	13
1985–86	Dinamo (14)	Flamurtari	17 Nëntori	Kujtim Majaci	20
1986–87	Partizani (14)	Flamurtari	VIIaznia	Arben Arbëri	14
1987–88	KF Tirana (13)	Flamurtari	Labinoti	Agustin Kola	18
1988–89	KF Tirana (14)	Partizani	Dinamo	Agustin Kola	19
1989–90	Dinamo (15)	Partizani	Flamurtari	Kujtim Majaci	19
1990–91	Flamurtari (1)	Partizani	Besa	Kliton Bozgo	29
1991–92	Vllaznia (7)	Partizani	Teuta	Edmir Bilali	22
1992–93	Partizani (15)	Teuta	Besa	Edmond Dosti	21
1993–94	Teuta (1)	KF Tirana	Flamurtari	Edi Martini	14
1994–95	KF Tirana (15)	Teuta	Partizani	Arben Shehu	21
1995–96	KF Tirana (16)	Teuta	Partizani	Altin Çuko	21
1996–97	KF Tirana (17)	VIIaznia	Flamurtari	Viktor Paço	14
1997–98	Vllaznia (8)	Tirana	Partizani	Dorjan Bubeqi	26
1998–99	KF Tirana (18)	VIIaznia	Bylis	Artan Bano	23
1999–00	KF Tirana (19)	Tomori	Teuta	Klodian Arbëri	18
2000–01	Vllaznia (9)	Tirana	Dinamo	Indrit Fortuzi	30
2001–02	Dinamo (16)	<u>Tirana</u>	Partizani	Indrit Fortuzi	24
2002–03	KF Tirana (20)	VIIaznia	Partizani	Mahir Halili	20
2003–04	KF Tirana (21)	Dinamo	VIlaznia	Vioresin Sinani	36
2004–05	KF Tirana (22)	Elbasani	Dinamo	Dorian Bylykbashi	24
2005–06	Elbasani (2)	Tirana	Dinamo	Hamdi Salihi	29
2006–07	KF Tirana (23)	Teuta	Vllaznia	Vioresin Sinani	23

Season	Champion	Runner-up	Third place	Top scorer(s)	Goals
2007–08	Dinamo (17)	Partizani	Besa	Vioresin Sinani	20
2008–09	KF Tirana (24)	VIIaznia	Dinamo	Migen Memelli	22
2009–10	Dinamo (18)	Besa	Tirana	Daniel Xhafaj	18
2010–11	Skënderbeu (2)	Flamurtari	VIIaznia	Daniel Xhafaj	18
2011–12	Skënderbeu (3)	Teuta	Tirana	Roland Dervishi	20
2012–13	Skënderbeu (4)	Kukësi	Teuta	Migen Memelli	19
2013–14	Skënderbeu (5)	Kukësi	Laçi	Pero Pejić	20
2014–15	Skënderbeu (6)	Kukësi	Partizani	Pero Pejić	31
2015–16	Skënderbeu (7)	Partizani	Kukësi	Hamdi Salihi	27
2016–17	Kukësi (1)	Partizani	Skënderbeu	Pero Pejić	27
2017–18	Skënderbeu (8)	Kukësi	Luftëtari	Ali Sowe	21
2018–19	Partizani (16)	Kukësi	Teuta	Reginaldo	13
2019–20	KF Tirana (25)	Kukësi	Laçi	Kyrian Nwabueze	23
2020–21	Teuta (2)	VIIaznia	Partizani	Dejvi Bregu	16
2021–22	KF Tirana (26)	Laçi	Partizani	Saliou Guindo Taulant Seferi	19
2022–23	Partizani (17)	KF Tirana	Egnatia	Florent Hasani	16

Since 1930, the competition has not been played a total of 9 times: 1935, 1938–44, 1949, 1962. Furthermore, the champion award was not given during the 1968–69 season.

Performance by club

Club	Champions	Runners up	Third places	Seasons
<u>Tirana</u>	26*	14	14	$\frac{1930,1931,1932,1934,1936,1937,1939,^{[b]}}{65,1965-66,1968,1969-70,1981-82,1984-85,1987-88,\\ \frac{1988-89,1994-95,1995-96,1996-97,1998-99,1999-2000,\\ 2002-03,2003-04,2004-05,2006-07,2008-09,2019-20,\\ \frac{2021-22}{2002-200}$
<u>Dinamo</u> ★	18	9	10	1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1966–67, 1972–73, 1974–75, 1975–76, 1976–77, 1979–80, 1985–86, 1989–90, 2001–02, 2007–08, 2009–10
Partizani	17	21	11	1947, 1948, 1949, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962–63, 1963–64, 1970–71, 1978–79, 1980–81, 1986–87, 1992–93, 2018–19, 2022–23
VIlaznia	9*	12	13	1940, b 1945, 1946, 1971–72, 1973–74, 1977–78, 1982–83, 1991–92, 1997–98, 2000–01
Skënderbeu	8	3	3	1933, 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2015– 16, 2017–18
Teuta	2	6	7	<u>1993–94</u> , <u>2020–21</u>
Elbasani	2	1	1	<u>1983–84</u> , <u>2005–06</u>
Flamurtari	1	7	4	<u>1990–91</u>
Kukësi	1	6	1	2016–17
Besa	-	2	12	-
Laçi	-	1	2	-
Luftëtari	-	1	1	-
Tomori	-	1	-	-
Bylis	-	-	1	-
Egnatia	-	-	1	-

[■] Tirana and Vllaznia would have accordingly 28 and 10 titles, if the three seasons played during <u>WW2</u> are officially recognised from AFA.

All time table

The all-time table of football clubs that have participated in the Kategoria Superiore, prior to the $\underline{2022-2023}$ $\underline{\text{season}}$. The ranking is based on the total accumulated points by each club. Teams in **bold** are part of the $\underline{2023-2023}$ $\underline{24 \text{ season}}$.

Club was disbanded

No.	Club	Apps.	Matches	Wins	Ties	Losses	Goals +/-	GDif.	Points	Titles
1	Tirana	83	2096	1079	543	474	3438:1873	+1565	3132	26
2	Partizani	70	1778	1087	352	308	3148:1547	+1601	2832	17
3	VIIaznia	82	2063	938	497	650	3267:2128	+1139	2743	9
4	Teuta	82	2088	775	592	741	2092:2331	-239	2410	2
5	Dinamo	62	1751	858	478	387	2790:1566	+1224	2378	18
6	Flamurtari	73	1906	663	516	727	2150:2320	-170	2060	1
7	Skënderbeu	66	1565	524	411	620	1674:1904	-230	1681	8
8	Besa	63	1575	542	444	589	1790:1908	-118	1670	_
9	Elbasani	65	1593	513	423	654	1673:2029	-356	1626	2
10	Lushnja	41	1139	299	326	511	1069:1559	-490	1046	_
11	Luftëtari	43	1132	322	270	550	1047:1616	-569	1014	_
12	Laçi	23	747	283	168	296	830:918	-88	959	_
13	Tomori	44	1052	297	321	471	1026:1487	-461	938	_
14	Apolonia	37	989	277	232	465	984:1505	-521	879	_
15	Shkumbini	18	553	211	107	228	660:708	-48	713	
16	Kukësi	11	383	186	97	94	536:356	+180	654	1
17	Bylis	16	484	151	123	211	517:638	-121	570	_
18	Kastrioti	15	494	155	107	231	469:660	-191	527	_
19	Besëlidhja	22	575	148	167	260	556:721	-165	497	_
20	Naftëtari	16	384	90	109	185	322:635	-313	289	_
21	Shkëndija	10	258	68	87	103	217:283	-66	223	_
22	Albpetrol	6	167	49	33	85	158:259	-101	136	_
23	Erzeni	7	134	30	36	68	140:256	-116	123	_
24	Pogradeci	9	210	38	39	133	167:466	-299	118	_
25	Egnatia	3	108	29	28	51	102:129	-27	115	_
26	Sopoti	4	112	36	25	51	107:150	-43	110	_
27	Kamza	4	98	23	21	54	72:139	-67	90	_
28	Burreli	5	109	23	23	63	96:183	-87	77	_
29	Luftëtari Tiranë	5	50	19	7	24	60:64	-4	45	_
30	Spartaku Tiranë	3	66	10	17	39	68:132	-64	37	_
31	Spartaku Shkodër	2	38	12	10	16	45:82	-37	34	_
32	Dinamo Shkodër	1	30	13	7	10	46:41	+5	33	_
33	Dinamo Durrës	3	40	8	13	19	30:71	-41	29	_
34	Selenica	1	30	10	7	13	33:54	-21	27	
35	Gramozi	1	33	6	8	19	25:43	-18	26	
36	Kombinati Tiranë	2	30	7	11	12	28:39	-11	25	_

No.	Club	Apps.	Matches	Wins	Ties	Losses	Goals +/-	GDif.	Points	Titles
37	Korabi	2	58	3	13	42	21:116	-95	21	_
38	Tërbuni	1	36	4	6	26	22:81	-59	18	_
39	Dinamo Vlorë	1	20	6	4	10	19:48	-29	16	_
40	Iliria	1	30	7	2	21	22:64	-42	16	_
41	24 Maj Përmet	1	26	4	5	1	9:44	-35	13	_
42	Ylli Shkodër	1	10	5	1	4	29:15	+14	11	_
43	Liria Korçë	1	10	3	2	5	16:15	+1	8	_
44	Studenti	1	26	1	6	19	9:43	-34	8	_
45	Spartaku Korçë	1	12	2	1	9	10:45	-35	5	_

UEFA rankings

Current rankings (2022–23)

<u>UEFA Country Ranking</u> for league participation in 2022–23 European football season (Previous year rank in italics).

- 37 **(**42) League of Ireland Premier Division
- 38 **(**39) **Macedonian First Football League**
- 39 \(\bullet (36) \) Armenian Premier League
- 40 • (37) **=** Latvian Higher League
- 41 (38) Kategoria Superiore
- 42 **1** (48) --- NIFL Premiership
- 43 <u>1</u> (44) <u>1</u> Erovnuli Liga
- 44 (43) Veikkausliiga
- 45 (41) Moldovan National Division

See also

- List of football clubs in Albania
- List of Kategoria Superiore all-time goalscorers

Notes and references

Notes

- a. 208 goals accoring to Albanian media. [1]
- b. Not yet officially recognized from Albanian Football Association.

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