

Macedonian First Football League

The **Macedonian First Football League** (Macedonian: Прва македонска фудбалска лига, Albanian: *Liga e Parë e Futbollit të Maqedonisë*), also called **Macedonian First League**, **1. MFL**, and **Prva Liga**, is the highest professional football competition in Macedonia. It is a professional league competition for football clubs located at the top of the Macedonian football league system and has been operating since the 1992–93 season. It is organized by the Football Federation of North Macedonia.

Format

Throughout the 1. MFL history, the number of clubs competing at the top level has been gradually decreased until the 2020–21 season. Below is a complete record of how many teams played in each season throughout the league's history:





- 18 clubs = **1992–1993**
- 16 clubs = **1993–1995**
- 15 clubs = **1995–1996**
- 14 clubs = **1996–2001**
- 12 clubs = **2001–2014**
- 10 clubs = **2014–2020**
- 12 clubs = **2020–present**

The league has 12 teams, and each team plays the other sides three times, for a total of 33 matches each.^[2]

Due to the UEFA ranking coefficients ranking (shown below), the winners of the league enter the 1st qualifying round of the Champions League, while the second and third placed teams enter the 1st qualifying round of the UEFA Europa Conference League alongside the winner of the Macedonian Football Cup. At the end of the season, the bottom 2 teams are relegated to the Macedonian Second League while the eighth placed team enter a play-off with the winner of the tie between second placed teams of the two groups in the Macedonian Second League.



UEFA rankings

UEFA country ranking for league participation in 2021–22 European football season (Previous year rank in italics)^{[3][4]}

- 52  (52)  Besta-deild karla
- 53  (48)  Macedonian First League

Macedonian First Football League Прва македонска фудбалска лига

	
Founded	1992
First season	1992–93
Country	 North Macedonia
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	12
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	2. MFL
Domestic cup(s)	Macedonian Football Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa Conference League
Current champions	Struga (1st title) (2022–23)
Most championships	Vardar (11 titles)
Top goalscorer	Besart Ibraimi (173 goals)
TV partners	MRT Arena Sport ^[1] Sport Klub
Website	ffm.mk (http://ffm.mk/)
Current: 2023–24	

- 54  (53) [Montenegrin First League](#)
- 55  (55) [Campionato Sammarinese di Calcio](#)



Macedonian
First League's
former logo

Current teams (2023–24)

Club ^[5]	Position in 2022–23 ^[6]
Bregalnica Štip	5th
Brera Strumica	9th
Gostivar	2nd in 2. MFL
Makedonija G.P.	7th
Rabotnički	8th
Sileks	4th
Shkëndija	3rd
Shkupi	2nd
Struga	1st
Tikvesh	6th
Vardar	3rd in 2. MFL
Voska Sport	1st in 2. MFL



History

In 1923, the first national [Yugoslav Football Championship](#) was held, and regional championships were also played. The clubs of the [Vardar Banovina](#), territorially similar to present day Macedonia, played within the [Belgrade Football Subassociation](#) league until 1927,^[7] when a separate [Skoplje Football Subassociation](#) league was formed.^[8] The champions of the subassociation leagues were granted a place in the qualifiers to the Yugoslav Championship. [Gragjanski Skopje](#) became the only Macedonian club to participate in the national league, first in 1935–36 when the championship was played in a cup format,^[9] and then in 1938–39, when it was played in a normal league system with Gragjanski finishing 10th out of 12 teams.^[10] In 1939, the Yugoslav league system was changed, with the creation of separate Serbian and Croato-Slovenian leagues which served as qualifying leagues for the final phase of the Yugoslav Championship.^[11] The clubs from the Skopje Subassociation aimed to qualify to the [Serbian League](#), however only Gragjanski managed to participate, in 1939–40 (5th place)^[12] and 1940–41 (8th place).^[13]

List of seasons

Most titles

The titles won by clubs since independence are shown in the following table:^[14]^[15]

Club	Titles	Runners-up	Winning years
<u>Vardar Skopje</u>	11	2	<u>1992–93</u> , <u>1993–94</u> , <u>1994–95</u> , <u>2001–02</u> , <u>2002–03</u> , <u>2011–12</u> , <u>2012–13</u> , <u>2014–15</u> , <u>2015–16</u> , <u>2016–17</u> , <u>2019–20</u>
<u>Shkupi</u> (<i><u>FK Sloga Jugomagnat</u></i> 1927–2009)	4	4	<u>1998–99</u> , <u>1999–2000</u> , <u>2000–01</u> , <u>2021–22</u>
<u>Rabotnički Skopje</u>	4	3	<u>2004–05</u> , <u>2005–06</u> , <u>2007–08</u> , <u>2013–14</u>
<u>Shkendija</u>	4	2	<u>2010–11</u> , <u>2017–18</u> , <u>2018–19</u> , <u>2020–21</u>
<u>Sileks Kratovo</u>	3	5	<u>1995–96</u> , <u>1996–97</u> , <u>1997–98</u>
<u>Pobeda Prilep</u>	2	2	<u>2003–04</u> , <u>2006–07</u>
<u>Makedonija Gjorce Petrov</u>	1	1	<u>2008–09</u>
<u>Renova Djepchishte</u>	1	–	<u>2009–10</u>
<u>Struga</u>	1	–	<u>2022–23</u>
<i><u>Metalurg Skopje</u></i>	–	3	–
<i><u>Milano Kumanovo</u></i>	–	2	–
<u>Belasica Strumica</u>	–	2	–
<u>Horizont Turnovo</u>	–	1	–



Macedonian First League Trophy

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External links

- [Macedonian First League season standings and results](http://www.uefa.com/memberassociations/association=mkd/domesticleague/index.html) (<http://www.uefa.com/memberassociations/association=mkd/domesticleague/index.html>) at [UEFA.com](http://www.uefa.com)
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