

= Scotland national football team =

The Scotland national football team represents Scotland in international football and is controlled by the Scottish Football Association . Scotland maintains its own national side that competes in the two major professional tournaments , the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA European Championship . Scotland is not a member of the International Olympic Committee and therefore the national team does not compete in the Olympic Games . The majority of Scotland 's home matches are played at the national stadium , Hampden Park .

Scotland are the joint oldest national football team in the world , alongside England , whom they played in the world 's first international football match in 1872 . Scotland has a longstanding rivalry with England , whom they played annually from 1872 until 1989 . The teams have met only five times since then , most recently in November 2014 .

Scotland have qualified for the FIFA World Cup on eight occasions and the UEFA European Championship twice , but have never progressed beyond the first group stage of a finals tournament . The team have achieved some noteworthy results , such as beating the 1966 FIFA World Cup winners England 3 ? 2 at Wembley Stadium in 1967 . Archie Gemmill scored what has been described as one of the greatest World Cup goals ever in a 3 ? 2 win during the 1978 World Cup against the Netherlands , who reached the final of the tournament . In their qualifying group for UEFA Euro 2008 , Scotland defeated 2006 World Cup runners @-@ up France 1 ? 0 in both fixtures .

Scotland supporters are collectively known as the Tartan Army . The Scottish Football Association operates a roll of honour for every player who has made more than 50 appearances for Scotland . Kenny Dalglish holds the record for Scotland appearances , having played 102 times between 1971 and 1986 . Dalglish scored 30 goals for Scotland and shares the record for most goals scored with Denis Law .

= = History = =

= = = Early history = = =

Scotland and England are the oldest national football teams in the world . Teams representing the two sides first competed at the Oval in five matches between 1870 and 1872 . The two countries contested the first official international football match , at Hamilton Crescent in Partick , Scotland on 30 November 1872 . The match ended in a goalless draw . All eleven players who represented Scotland that day played for Glasgow amateur club Queen 's Park . Over the next forty years , Scotland played matches exclusively against the other three Home Nations ? England , Wales and Ireland . The British Home Championship began in 1883 , making these games competitive . The encounters against England were particularly fierce and a rivalry quickly developed .

Scotland lost just two of their first 43 international matches . It was not until a 2 ? 0 home defeat by Ireland in 1903 that Scotland lost a match to a team other than England . This run of success meant that Scotland would have regularly topped the Elo ratings , which were calculated in 1997 , between 1876 and 1904 . Scotland won the British Home Championship outright on 24 occasions , and shared the title 17 times with at least one other team . A noteworthy victory for Scotland before the Second World War was the 5 ? 1 victory over England in 1928 , which led to that Scotland side being known as the " Wembley Wizards " . Scotland played their first match outside the British Isles in 1929 , beating Norway 7 ? 3 in Bergen . Scotland continued to contest regular friendly matches against European opposition and enjoyed wins against Germany and France before losing to the Austrian " Wunderteam " and Italy in 1931 .

Scotland , like the other Home Nations , did not enter the three FIFA World Cups held during the 1930s . This was because the four associations had been excluded from FIFA due to a disagreement regarding the status of amateur players . The four associations , including Scotland , returned to the FIFA fold after the Second World War . A match between a United Kingdom team

and a " Rest of the World " team was played at Hampden Park in 1947 to celebrate this reconciliation .

=== 1950s ===

The readmission of the Scottish Football Association to FIFA meant that Scotland were now eligible to enter the 1950 FIFA World Cup . FIFA advised that places would be awarded to the top two teams in the 1950 British Home Championship , but the SFA announced that Scotland would only attend the finals if Scotland won the competition . Scotland won their first two matches , but a 1 ? 0 home defeat by England meant that the Scots finished as runners @-@ up . This meant that the Scots had qualified by right for the World Cup , but had not met the demand of the SFA to win the Championship . The SFA stood by this proclamation , despite pleas to the contrary by the Scotland players , supported by England captain Billy Wright and the other England players . The SFA instead sent the Scots on a tour of North America .

The same qualification rules were in place for the 1954 FIFA World Cup , with the 1954 British Home Championship acting as a qualifying group . Scotland again finished second , but this time the SFA allowed a team to participate in the Finals , held in Switzerland . To quote the SFA website , " The preparation was atrocious " . The SFA only sent 13 players to the finals , even though FIFA allowed 22 @-@ man squads . Despite this self @-@ imposed hardship in terms of players , the SFA dignitaries travelled in numbers , accompanied with their wives . Scotland lost 1 ? 0 against Austria in their first game in the finals , which prompted the team manager Andy Beattie to resign hours before the game against Uruguay . Uruguay were reigning champions and had never before lost a game at the World Cup finals , and they defeated Scotland 7 ? 0 .

The 1958 FIFA World Cup finals saw Scotland draw their first game against Yugoslavia 1 ? 1 , but they then lost to Paraguay and France and went out at the first stage . Matt Busby had been due to manage the team at the World Cup , but the severe injuries he suffered in the Munich air disaster meant that trainer Dawson Walker took charge of the team instead .

=== 1960s ===

Under the management of Ian McColl , Scotland enjoyed consecutive British Home Championship successes in 1962 and 1963 . Jock Stein , John Prentice and Malky MacDonald all had brief spells as manager before Bobby Brown was appointed in 1967 . Brown 's first match as manager was against the newly crowned world champions England at Wembley Stadium . Despite being underdogs , Scotland won 3 ? 2 thanks to goals from Denis Law , Bobby Lennox and Jim McCalliog . Having defeated the world champions on their own turf , the Scotland fans hailed their team as the " unofficial world champions " . Despite this famous win , the Scots failed to qualify for any major competitions during the 1960s .

=== 1970s ===

After Tommy Docherty 's brief spell as manager , Willie Ormond was hired in 1973 . Ormond lost his first match in charge 5 ? 0 to England , but recovered to steer Scotland to their first World Cup finals in 16 years in 1974 . At the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany , Scotland achieved their most impressive performance at a World Cup tournament . The team was unbeaten but failed to progress beyond the group stages on goal difference . After beating Zaïre , they drew with both Brazil and Yugoslavia , and went out because they had beaten Zaïre by the smallest margin .

Scotland appointed Ally MacLeod as manager in 1977 , with qualification for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina far from assured . The team made a strong start under MacLeod by winning the 1977 British Home Championship , largely thanks to a 2 ? 1 victory over England at Wembley . The Scotland fans invaded the pitch after the match , ripping up the turf and breaking a crossbar . Scotland 's good form continued as they secured qualification for the World Cup with victories over Czechoslovakia and Wales .

During the build @-@ up to the 1978 FIFA World Cup , MacLeod fuelled the hopes of the nation by stating that Scotland would come home with a medal . As the squad left for the finals in Argentina , they were given an enthusiastic send off as they were paraded around a packed Hampden Park . Thousands more fans lined the route to Prestwick Airport as the team set off for South America . Scotland 's first game was against Peru in Córdoba . Two spectacular goals by Teófilo Cubillas meant that the result was a 3 ? 1 loss . The second game was a very disappointing 1 ? 1 draw against Iran . The disconsolate mood of the nation was reflected by footage of Ally MacLeod in the dugout with his head in his hands .

After taking a single point from their opening two games , Scotland had to defeat the Netherlands by three clear goals to progress . Despite the Dutch taking the lead , Scotland fought back to win 3 ? 2 with a goal from Kenny Dalglish and two from Archie Gemmill , the second of which is considered one of the greatest World Cup goals ever ; Gemmill beat three Dutch defenders before lifting the ball over goalkeeper Jan Jongbloed into the net . The victory was not sufficient to secure a place in the second round , and Scotland were eliminated on goal difference for the second successive World Cup .

== = 1980s == =

MacLeod resigned as manager shortly after the 1978 World Cup , and Jock Stein , who had won nine consecutive Scottish league titles and the European Cup as manager of Celtic , was appointed as his successor . After failing to qualify for the 1980 European Championship , Scotland qualified for the 1982 FIFA World Cup from a tough group including Sweden , Portugal , Israel and Northern Ireland , losing just one match in the process . They beat New Zealand 5 ? 2 in their first game at the World Cup , but lost 4 ? 1 to a Brazil team containing Socrates , Zico , Eder and Falcão . Scotland were again eliminated on goal difference , after a 2 ? 2 draw with the Soviet Union .

Scotland qualified for the 1986 FIFA World Cup , their fourth in succession , in traumatic circumstances . The squad went into their last qualification match against Wales needing a point to progress to a qualifying playoff against Australia . With only nine minutes remaining and Wales leading 1 ? 0 , Scotland were awarded a penalty kick , which was calmly scored by Davie Cooper . The 1 ? 1 draw meant that Scotland progressed , but as the players and fans celebrated , national coach Jock Stein suffered a heart attack and died shortly afterwards . His assistant Alex Ferguson took over . Scotland qualified by winning 2 ? 0 against Australia in a two @-@ leg playoff , but were eliminated from the tournament with just one point from their three matches , a goalless draw with Uruguay following defeats by Denmark and West Germany .

In July 1986 , Andy Roxburgh was the surprise appointment as the new manager of Scotland . Scotland did not succeed in qualifying for Euro 1988 , but their 1 ? 0 away win over Bulgaria in the final fixture in November 1987 helped Ireland to a surprise first @-@ place finish and qualification for the finals in West Germany .

== = 1990s == =

Scotland qualified for their fifth consecutive World Cup in 1990 by finishing second in their qualifying group , ahead of France . Scotland were drawn in a group with Costa Rica , Sweden , and Brazil , but the Scots lost 1 ? 0 to Costa Rica . While they recovered to beat Sweden 2 ? 1 in their second game , they lost to Brazil in their third match 1 ? 0 and were again eliminated after the first round .

By a narrow margin , Scotland qualified for the UEFA European Championship for the first time in 1992 . A 1 ? 0 defeat by Romania away from home left qualification dependent upon other results , but a 1 ? 1 draw between Bulgaria and Romania in the final group match saw Scotland squeeze through . Despite playing well in matches against the Netherlands and Germany and a fine win against the CIS , the team was knocked out at the group stage . Scotland failed to qualify for the 1994 FIFA World Cup . The team finished fourth in their qualifying group behind Italy , Switzerland and Portugal . When it became clear that Scotland could not qualify , Andy Roxburgh resigned from his position as team manager .

New manager Craig Brown successfully guided Scotland to the 1996 European Championship tournament . The first game against the Netherlands ended 0 ? 0 , raising morale ahead of a much anticipated game against England at Wembley Stadium . Gary McAllister missed a penalty kick and a goal by Paul Gascoigne led to a 2 ? 0 defeat . Scotland recovered to beat Switzerland 1 ? 0 with a goal by Ally McCoist . England taking a 4 ? 0 lead in the other match briefly put both teams in a position to qualify , but a late goal for the Netherlands meant that Scotland were again knocked out on goal difference .

Brown again guided Scotland to qualification for a major tournament in 1998 , and Scotland were drawn against Brazil in the opening game of the 1998 World Cup . John Collins equalised from the penalty spot to level the score at 1 ? 1 , but a Tom Boyd own goal led to a 2 ? 1 defeat . Scotland drew their next game 1 ? 1 with Norway in Bordeaux , but the final match against Morocco ended in an embarrassing 3 ? 0 defeat .

During the qualification for the 2000 European Championship , Scotland faced England in a two @-@ legged playoff nicknamed the " Battle of Britain " by the media . Scotland won the second match 1 ? 0 with a goal by Don Hutchison , but lost the tie 2 ? 1 on aggregate .

== = 2000s == =

Scotland failed to qualify for the 2002 FIFA World Cup , finishing third in their qualifying group behind Croatia and Belgium . This second successive failure to qualify prompted Craig Brown to resign from his position after the final qualifying match . The SFA appointed former Germany manager Berti Vogts as Brown 's successor . Scotland reached the qualification play @-@ offs for Euro 2004 . Scotland beat Netherlands 1 ? 0 at Hampden Park , but suffered a 6 ? 0 defeat in the return leg . Poor results in friendly matches and a bad start to the 2006 World Cup qualification caused the team to drop to a record low of 77th in the FIFA World Rankings . Vogts announced his resignation in 2004 , blaming the hostile media for his departure .

Walter Smith , a former Rangers and Everton manager , was brought in to replace Vogts . Improved results meant that Scotland rose up the FIFA rankings and won the Kirin Cup , a friendly competition in Japan . Scotland failed to qualify for the 2006 FIFA World Cup , finishing third in their group behind Italy and Norway . Smith left the national side in January 2007 to return to Rangers , with Scotland leading their Euro 2008 qualification group . Alex McLeish was named as Smith 's successor and Scotland 's twentieth manager . McLeish guided Scotland to wins against Georgia , the Faroe Islands , Lithuania , France and Ukraine , but defeats by Georgia and Italy ended their chances of qualification for Euro 2008 . These improved results , particularly the wins against France , lifted Scotland into the top 20 of the FIFA world rankings .

After the narrow failure to qualify for Euro 2008 , McLeish left to join Premier League club Birmingham City . Southampton manager George Burley was hired as the new manager , but he came in for criticism from the media after the team lost their first qualifier against Macedonia . After Scotland lost their fourth match 3 ? 0 to the Netherlands , captain Barry Ferguson and goalkeeper Allan McGregor were excluded from the starting lineup for the following match against Iceland due to a " breach of discipline " . Despite winning 2 ? 1 against Iceland , Scotland suffered a terrible 4 ? 0 defeat by Norway in the following qualifier , which left Scotland effectively needing to win their last two games to have a realistic chance of making the qualifying play @-@ offs . Scotland defeated Macedonia 2 ? 0 in the first of those two games , but were eliminated by a 1 ? 0 loss to the Netherlands in the second game . Burley was allowed to continue in his post after a review by the SFA board , but a subsequent 3 ? 0 friendly defeat by Wales led to the SFA sacking Burley .

== = 2010s == =

The SFA appointed Craig Levein as head coach of the national team in December 2009 . In UEFA Euro 2012 qualification , Scotland were grouped with Lithuania , Liechtenstein , Czech Republic and world champions Spain . They took just four points from the first four games , leaving the team needing three wins from their remaining four games to have a realistic chance of progression . They

only managed two wins and a draw and were eliminated after a 3 ? 1 defeat by Spain in their last match . Levein left his position as head coach following a poor start to 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification , having taken just two points from four games .

Gordon Strachan was appointed Scotland manager in January 2013 , but defeats in his first two competitive matches meant that Scotland were the first UEFA team to be eliminated from the 2014 World Cup . Scotland finished their qualification section by winning three of their last four matches , including two victories against Croatia . In UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying , Scotland appeared to have a better chance of qualification as the finals tournament was expanded from 16 teams to 24 . After losing their opening match in Germany , Scotland recorded home wins against Georgia , the Republic of Ireland and Gibraltar . Steven Fletcher scored the first hat @-@ trick for Scotland since 1969 in the game with Gibraltar . Later in the group , Scotland produced an " insipid " performance as they lost 1 ? 0 in Georgia . A home defeat by Germany and a late equalising goal by Poland eliminated Scotland from contention . After a win against Gibraltar in the last qualifier , Strachan agreed a new contract with the SFA .

In qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup , Scotland were drawn in the same group as England , facing their rivals in a competitive fixture for the first time since 1999 .

= = Competitive record = =

= = = FIFA World Cup = = =

Scotland did not compete in the first three World Cup competitions , held in 1930 , 1934 and 1938 . FIFA ruled that all its member associations must provide " broken @-@ time " payments to cover the expenses of players who participated in football at the 1928 Summer Olympics . In response to what they considered to be unacceptable interference , the football associations of Scotland , England , Ireland and Wales held a meeting at which they agreed to resign from FIFA . The Scottish Football Association did not rejoin FIFA as a permanent member until 1946 . The Scottish Football Association declined to participate in 1950 although they had qualified , as Scotland were not the British champions .

Scotland have since qualified for eight finals tournaments , including five consecutive tournaments from 1974 to 1990 . Scotland have never advanced beyond the first round of the finals competition ? no country has qualified for as many World Cup finals without progressing past the first round . They have missed out on progressing to the second round three times on goal difference : in 1974 , when Brazil edged them out ; in 1978 , when the Netherlands progressed ; and in 1982 , when the Soviet Union went through .

= = = UEFA European Championship = = =

Scotland have qualified for two European Championships , but have failed to advance beyond the first round on both occasions . Their most recent participation was at the 1996 European Championship , where the Netherlands progressed instead of Scotland on goals scored .

= = = Other honours = = =

British Home Championship

Winners (24) : 1884 , 1885 , 1887 , 1889 , 1894 , 1896 , 1897 , 1900 , 1902 , 1910 , 1921 , 1922 , 1923 , 1929 , 1935 , 1936 , 1946 , 1949 , 1951 , 1962 , 1963 , 1967 , 1976 , 1977

Shared (17) : 1886 , 1890 , 1903 , 1906 , 1908 , 1912 , 1927 , 1931 , 1935 , 1939 , 1953 , 1956 , 1960 , 1964 , 1970 , 1972 , 1974

Rous Cup

Winners (1) : 1985

Kirin Cup

Winners (1) : 2006

= = Stadium = =

Hampden Park in Glasgow is the traditional home of the Scotland team and is described by the Scottish Football Association as the National Stadium . The present stadium is one of three stadiums to have used the name . Stadiums named Hampden Park have hosted international matches since 1878 . The present site was opened in 1903 and became the primary home ground of the Scotland team from 1906 , as it has hosted every match against England since then . The attendance record of 149 @, @ 415 was set by the Scotland v England match in 1937 . Safety regulations reduced the capacity to 81 @, @ 000 by 1977 and the stadium was completely redeveloped during the 1990s , giving the present capacity of 52 @, @ 000 . Hampden is rated as a category four (elite) stadium within the UEFA stadium categories , having previously held the 5 ? star status under the old rating system .

Some friendly matches are played at smaller venues . Pittodrie Stadium in Aberdeen and Easter Road in Edinburgh were both used as venues during the 2012 ? 13 season . Other stadiums were also used while Hampden was being redeveloped during the 1990s . Celtic Park , Pittodrie Stadium , Ibrox Stadium and Rugby Park all hosted matches during the 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign , while Tynecastle Stadium , Pittodrie , Celtic Park and Ibrox were used for Euro 2000 qualifying matches . Since the last redevelopment to Hampden was completed in 1999 , Scotland have played most of their competitive matches there . The most recent exception to this rule was in 2014 , when Hampden was temporarily converted into an athletics stadium for the 2014 Commonwealth Games .

= = Media coverage = =

Scotland 's home matches are presently covered by the pay @-@ TV broadcaster Sky Sports . Television rights to away games vary ; Sky Sports currently hold the rights to both home and away qualifiers for Euro 2016 and the 2018 World Cup . The arrangements to show Scotland matches on pay @-@ TV have been criticised by the Scottish Government , who have argued that qualifying matches should be included in the list of sporting events which can only be broadcast on free @-@ to @-@ air television . The Scottish Football Association have argued that limiting the rights to free @-@ to @-@ air broadcasters would severely reduce the amount of revenue that they could generate . An independent advisory panel recommended that qualifying matches played by all four Home Nations be added to the list , but UK Sports Minister Hugh Robertson deferred a decision until the completion of the digital switchover .

BBC Scotland , STV , Setanta Sports , Channel 5 and BT Sport are among other networks that have previously shown live fixtures . All matches are broadcast with full commentary on BBC Radio Scotland and , when schedules allow , BBC Radio 5 Live also . In Australia , Scotland 's national football team home games and selected away games are broadcast by Setanta Sports Australia .

= = Colours = =

Scotland traditionally wear dark blue shirts with white shorts and dark blue socks , the colours of the Queen 's Park team who represented Scotland in the first international . The blue Scotland shirt was earlier used in a February 1872 rugby international , with reports stating that " the scotch were easily distinguishable by their uniform of blue jerseys the jerseys having the thistle embroidered " . The thistle had previously been worn to represent Scotland in the 1871 rugby international , but on brown shirts . The shirt is embroidered with a crest based upon the lion rampant of the Royal Standard of Scotland . Another style often used by Scotland comprises blue shirts , white shorts and red socks . Change colours vary , but are most commonly white or yellow shirts with blue shorts . From 1994 ? 96 a tartan kit was used . The current version of the crest is a roundel similar to the crest used from 1961 to 1988 enclosing a shield , with " Scotland " written on the top and " Est 1873

" on the bottom . In the shield background there are 11 thistles , representing the national flower of Scotland , in addition to the lion rampant . Since 2005 , the SFA have supported the use of Scottish Gaelic on the national team 's strip in recognition of the language 's revival in Scotland .

Scotland have not always played in dark blue ; on a number of occasions between 1881 and 1951 they played in the primrose and pink racing colours of Archibald Primrose , 5th Earl of Rosebery . A former Prime Minister , Lord Rosebery was an influential figure in Scottish football , serving as honorary President of the Scottish Football Association and Edinburgh team Hearts . His colours were used most frequently in the first decade of the twentieth century , but were discontinued in 1909 . The colours were briefly reprised in 1949 , and were last used against France in 1951 . In 1900 , when Scotland defeated England 4 ? 1 . Lord Rosebery remarked , " I have never seen my colours so well sported since Ladas won the Derby " . Rosebery colours were revived as a change kit for the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying matches .

= = Supporters = =

Scotland fans are collectively known as the Tartan Army . During the 1970s , Scotland fans became known for their hooliganism in England , particularly after they invaded the Wembley pitch and destroyed the goalposts after the England v Scotland match in 1977 . Since then , the Tartan Army have won awards from UEFA for their combination of vocal support , friendly nature and charity work . The Tartan Army have been awarded a Fair Play prize by the Belgian Olympic Committee and were named as the best supporters during the 1992 European Championship . The fans were also presented with a trophy for non @-@ violence in sport and were voted by journalists to be the best supporters for their sense of fair play and sporting spirit at the 1998 World Cup in France .

= = Players = =

= = = Current squad = = =

The following players were called up for the matches against Italy on 29 May 2016 and France on 4 June 2016 .

As of 21 : 32 , 4 June 2016 (UTC)

= = = Recent players = = =

The following players have been selected by Scotland in the past 12 months , but were not selected in the May / June 2016 squad , or withdrew from that squad due to injury or suspension .

= = = Honoured players = = =

The Scottish Football Association operates a roll of honour for every player who has made more than 50 appearances for Scotland . As of March 2016 there are 30 members of this roll , with Alan Hutton and Scott Brown the most recent additions to the list . The qualifying mark of 50 appearances means that many notable Scotland players including Jim Baxter , Hughie Gallacher , John Greig , Jimmy Johnstone , Billy McNeill , Bobby Murdoch and Lawrie Reilly are not on the roll of honour .

The Scottish Football Museum operates a hall of fame which is open to players and managers involved in Scottish football . This means that membership is not restricted to people who have played for Scotland ; inductees include Brian Laudrup and Henrik Larsson . At the most recent induction ceremony , Alan Rough , Martin Buchan , Eddie Gray , Tommy Docherty , Scot Symon and Bobby Walker were added to its membership . Sportscotland operates the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame , which has inducted some footballers .

= = Managers = =

From 1872 to 1953 , and 1954 to 1957 , the Scotland national team was appointed by a selection committee . Andy Beattie was manager for six matches in 1954 when Scotland competed at their first World Cup . After the tournament the selection committee resumed their duties , continuing until the appointment of Matt Busby in 1958 . Busby was initially unable to assume his duties due to the serious injuries he sustained in the Munich air disaster .

Statistically the most successful manager was Alex McLeish , who won seven of the ten games during his tenure . Discounting managers who took charge of less than ten games , the least successful manager was George Burley , with just three wins in 14 games .

Last updated : France v Scotland , 4 June 2016 . Statistics include official FIFA @-@ recognised matches only . The Scottish Football Association includes a match against a Hong Kong League XI played on 23 May 2002 in its statistical totals .

= = Records = =

Kenny Dalglish holds the record for Scotland appearances , having played 102 times between 1971 and 1986 . He is the only Scotland player to have reached 100 caps . Jim Leighton is second , having played 91 times , a Scottish record for appearances by a goalkeeper . Former Scotland manager Alex McLeish played for the team 77 times and is the third most capped player .

The title of Scotland 's highest goalscorer is shared by two players . Denis Law scored 30 goals between 1958 and 1974 , during which time he played for Scotland on 55 occasions . Kenny Dalglish scored an equal number from 102 appearances . Hughie Gallacher as well as being the third highest scorer is also the most prolific with his 23 goals coming from only 20 games (averaging 1 @.@ 15 goals per game) . Other notable strikers include , Lawrie Reilly , Ally McCoist , Mo Johnston and Joe Jordan .

The largest margin of victory achieved by a Scotland side is 11 ? 0 against Ireland in the 1901 British Home Championship . The record defeat occurred during the 1954 FIFA World Cup , a 7 ? 0 deficit against reigning world champions Uruguay .

Scotland 's 1937 British Home Championship match against England set a new world record for a football attendance . The Hampden Park crowd was officially recorded as 149 @,@ 415 , though the true figure is unknown as a large number of additional fans gained unauthorised entry . This attendance was surpassed 13 years later by the decisive match of the 1950 FIFA World Cup , but remains a European record .

= = United Kingdom team = =

Scotland has always participated by itself in most of the major tournaments , such as the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA European Championship . At the Olympic Games the International Olympic Committee charter only permit a Great Britain Olympic football team , representing the whole of the United Kingdom , to compete . Teams of amateur players represented Great Britain at the Olympics from 1900 until 1972 , but the FA stopped entering a team after then because the distinction between amateur and professional was abolished . The successful bid by London for the 2012 Summer Olympics prompted the FA to explore how a team could be entered . The SFA responded by stating that it would not participate , as it feared this would threaten the independent status of the Scotland national team . FIFA President Sepp Blatter denied this , but the SFA expressed concern that a future President could take a different view . An agreement was reached in May 2009 whereby the FA would be permitted to organise a team using only England @-@ qualified players , but this was successfully challenged by the British Olympic Association . Only English and Welsh players were selected for the men 's squad , but two Scottish players were selected for the women 's team .