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Leagues bound together hierarchically by promotion and relegation

The Portuguese football league system consists of several leagues bound together hierarchically by promotion and relegation. Reserve teams are allowed to compete in the main league system, as is the case with most of Europe. However, they are not allowed to compete in the same tier as their senior team, thus no reserve team has ever competed in Portugal's top flight, the Primeira Liga.

Men's league system [edit]

The Portuguese men's football league system consists of four national divisions and up to four district leagues (depending on the district).

National leagues [edit]

All four national divisions provide access to the Portuguese Cup. The first two leagues are operated by the Portuguese Professional Football League, and they also guarantee participation in the Portuguese League Cup. Lastly, the third and fourth divisions are divided into two and four leagues respectively and are the only divisions operated by the Portuguese Football Federation. The federation announced the creation of Liga 3 (League 3) for 2024–25.

Level	League(s)/Division(s)	1	2	3	4
1	Liga Portugal	18 clubs	2 clubs + 1 club play-off	2	2
2	Liga Portugal	18 clubs	2 clubs + 1 club play-off	3	3
3	Serie A	20 clubs	divided into 2 groups	10	10
4	Serie B	10 clubs	10 clubs	4 clubs	4
5	Campeonato de Portugal	56 clubs	divided into 4 groups	14	14
6	Serie A	14 clubs	14 clubs	14	14
7	Serie B	14 clubs	14 clubs	14	14
8	Serie C	14 clubs	14 clubs	14	14
9	Serie D	14 clubs	14 clubs	20 clubs	20 clubs
10	District leagues	18	1	1	1

District leagues [edit]

District leagues are operated by 22 District Associations: 18 from each district, plus 1 from Madeira Islands, and 3 from Azores Islands (western, central, and e Tj T* BT