

Sporting level of football associations, leagues, clubs, matches and players

Methodology

This note briefly explains the method developed by the CIES Football Observatory research group to measure the sporting level of associations, leagues, clubs, matches and players at the global level.

Within a confederation, the **sporting level of an association** is calculated according to the results obtained by its representatives in international club competitions (Champions League, Copa Libertadores, etc.) over the last five years. In order to establish a single ranking, the highest-ranked association in each confederation is assigned the average sporting level of the best UEFA clubs to which players from the corresponding confederation were transferred in the last five years. The remaining associations are ranked according to the intra-confederation hierarchy.

The **sporting level of a league** is calculated on the basis of the sporting level of the corresponding national association, with a weighting according to the level of competition at national level (100% for the top division, 50% for the second, 25% for the third, etc.). The **sporting level of clubs** is calculated on the basis of the sporting level of the leagues in which they participated over the last 365 days, with a weighting according to the points per match obtained (two points for a victory).

In order to calculate the **sporting level of a match**, for each of the players lined up, we count all the games played in domestic leagues over the last 365 days. Each minute played during this period is weighted by the sporting level of the corresponding league. The individual values are then aggregated in proportion to the playing time of footballers fielded in the match in question. The values are expressed on a scale from 0 to 100.

The **sporting level of the players**, or absolute experience capital, is the product of three variables: the minutes of play (domestic league, cup, national team) played in the last year (capped at 4,500), the average sporting level of the games played and the average points obtained by employing teams during these matches (according to the following scale: 2.0 points for a win, 1.5 for a draw and 1 point for a loss). The values are also expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. The relative experience capital is calculated by relating the sporting level of the players to the average measured footballers of the same age and position in the 76 main leagues worldwide.