

Making Everything Easier!™

# Football

FOR

# DUMMIES®

## Learn to:

- Get to grips with the history, rules and tactics of the game
- Perfect your skills and master star-player techniques
- Understand the club scene at home and abroad, from local tournaments to the World Cup
- Become a superfan and follow your team without missing a thing

**Scott Murray**

Football writer, *The Guardian*  
and *FourFourTwo*



# Football for Dummies®

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## **About the Author**

Scott Murray is a freelance writer and former sports editor of guardian.co.uk. He writes regularly for guardian.co.uk, the Guardian, the Fiver, and FourFourTwo. He also has written for the Observer, GQ, Men's Health, GQ Sport, Shortlist, the Evening Standard, and Arena. He is co-author of the football miscellany Day Of The Match: A History Of Football In 365 Days, and an upcoming biography of Maurice Flitcroft, the world's worst golfer: Phantom Of The Open. The club he supports has won quite a lot of trophies, but then he also has to follow Scotland, so it all balances out.

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# Introduction

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Congratulations! You've got a copy of *Football For Dummies* in your hands. This book has been written specially for people who want to know all they can about the greatest and most popular sport on the planet: association football. *Football For Dummies* aims to satisfy your curiosity, help you to understand the basics of how to play the game, arm you with knowledge so you can enjoy watching it to the full and show you that you have a whole world of football to be explore. There's a reason football has taken off all around the globe, after all!

Millions are passionate about the sport, from fans of the 'beautiful game' in Brazil to lovers of 'soccer' in the US. And none more so than fans in the British Isles, where the game as you know it today took off back in the mid 1800s. It's the simplest of sports in principle - in the final analysis, all you need to know is that one team has to score more goals than the other to win. Nevertheless, a plethora of laws, tactics and skills exist that can easily flummox the beginner.

That's where this book comes in. I wrote it so that anyone who wants to enjoy football - whether by playing it or watching it - can get to grips with the sport quickly and easily, without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated. And I promise it won't be long before you've become something of an expert on the most talked-about sporting pastime in the world. You'll never look back!

## About This Book

The simple aim of *Football For Dummies* is to provide you with all the basic skills and help you remember every scrap of crucial knowledge that you need to become a football fan. All the information you need is between the covers of this book. But although it's all crammed in here, don't feel daunted: you certainly don't have to read every word, from start to finish, to get the most from the book.

Each chapter covers a separate topic about football, so you can easily dip into the chapters to find out about something you don't quite understand. Say you're watching a Champions League game on television, but don't really know much about the history of the competition; just turn to the chapter that talks about important football competitions and *Football For Dummies* will fill the gaps in your knowledge.

If you fancy getting up off the sofa and turning out for a team yourself, *Football For Dummies* explains how you can set about getting involved as a player. The book offers plenty of handy hints and practical skills you can develop. Maybe you'd even like to become a referee. Well, that's no problem. I even help you find a whistle.

And even if you're not an absolute beginner, I'm confident that *Football For Dummies* can still help you discover plenty that's new and fascinating from the long history of association football.

## **Foolish Assumptions**

Assumptions are indeed foolish, so I'm not making any of them. Don't worry if you feel you know absolutely nothing about football. Chances are you already know more than

you think, and this book helps you gain confidence in your knowledge.

But even if you don't have a scrap of understanding about the game to start off with, never mind! *Football For Dummies* soon gets you up to speed. And remember: even folk who think they know everything about the game have some gaps in their knowledge. Soon enough, I'm confident *Football For Dummies* will make an expert of you.

At the moment you might ask:

Why do some teams kick the ball up in the air but others pass it around the floor?

What on earth are the crowd singing?

Why are there two people dressed in black running up and down the side of the pitch waving flags?

What on earth is the offside rule?

Who was the greatest footballer who ever played the game?

This book answers those questions – and many, many more. My only assumption – and this one isn't so foolish! – is that you know nothing about the game to start with. I take it from there, and it won't be long before you understand all there is to know about football.

## **How This Book Is Organised**