

# Is Football Hooliganism On The Rise?

Senior police are warning over the possible emergence of a new generation of football hooligans after incidents involving young people almost doubled.



## Young generation of hooligans

Police figures show there are now over 300 teenagers in the UK banned from football grounds. Police are worried about the possible emergence of a new generation of hooligans as they are seeing disturbing evidence of younger fans becoming involved.

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Figures show that almost half (47%) of incidents in the UK involved youths.

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Football leagues and police fear that

the age of hooligans may become younger and this, they say, is an extremely worrying trend.

## What can be done to tackle the violence?

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One of the key tools used to try to tackle the problem of violence is football banning orders. Fans involved in hooliganism will be banned from all football grounds, and can also be stopped from using trains or entering city centres on match days.



Official statistics for the current football season show that in September there were 3,211 bans in place across the UK. Some 290 of them were for teenagers, and the youngest was aged just 13.

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Phil and his brother John are both in their early 20s. John got his first football banning order when he was 17.

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Despite being Coventry City fans, neither of them will be able to go to a football match until they are almost 30. Phil has been banned for eight years and John for 10. They were both convicted of football-related violence after being involved in a fight involving up to 100 Coventry and Leicester fans.

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Proud members of the club's hooligan "firm", the Coventry Legion, the brothers got involved in football violence when they were just 14. Despite the damage they have done to the reputation of Coventry City, they see themselves as the true fans of the club.

## Who Pays?

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The cost of policing games has become a point of tension between the football leagues and the police. Police estimate it costs them up to £25m to deal with football matches, most of this cost comes from tax-payers.

**Q1: Read lines 4 to 18 of Source A.**

**Choose four statements below which are TRUE.**

1. Football thuggery has increased massively. ☐
2. Fans of all ages are increasingly involved in violence. ☐
3. Police are worried about thugs becoming younger. ☐
4. Football banning orders are the only way to stop violence. ☐
5. Police are worried by increased football hooliganism. ☐
6. Fans can be stopped from entering cities on match days. ☐
7. The youngest person to receive a banning order was 12. ☐



# The Beautiful Game

How many people do you know who love football? I'm betting that everyone knows someone with a passion for the beautiful game. You may even have the passion yourself. Football is more than a game; it's a national obsession.

So why all the fuss? There are very few other sports that have such variety, excitement and atmosphere. Few fans will forget the first live game they experienced and the thrill of all those people sharing the same excitement. Being a football fan is like being part of a huge extended family with everyone sharing the same belief and passion.

Football players are often accused of being overpaid and those who behave badly are held up by the press as representatives of their sport. But what about all those players that never get into trouble? The vast majority are positive role models who offer commitment, talent and focus. They must maintain peak physical fitness and face the possibility that their careers could be over in a second if they receive a serious injury.

I'm sure that many of you would agree that David Beckham has become a national icon because of his duty, dedication and flair on the field. Who amongst us doesn't enjoy Rooney's fiery passion on the pitch? It's the personalities that make the sport what it is.

Football transcends class and gender; you will find fans from all walks of life. It is a sport that binds us together as a country. If you travel halfway across the world, you will still find millions of football fans dedicated to following the sport.

It is literally the greatest game in the world.

by Annabel Kenzie

SMART ENGLISH PROGRESS IN AFS

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### Q3. This extract is from source A

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#### **What can be done to tackle the violence?**

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### Q3. How does the writer use language to shock the reader?

### Q4. Compare the differences in the writer's attitudes of these sources to how football is presented.