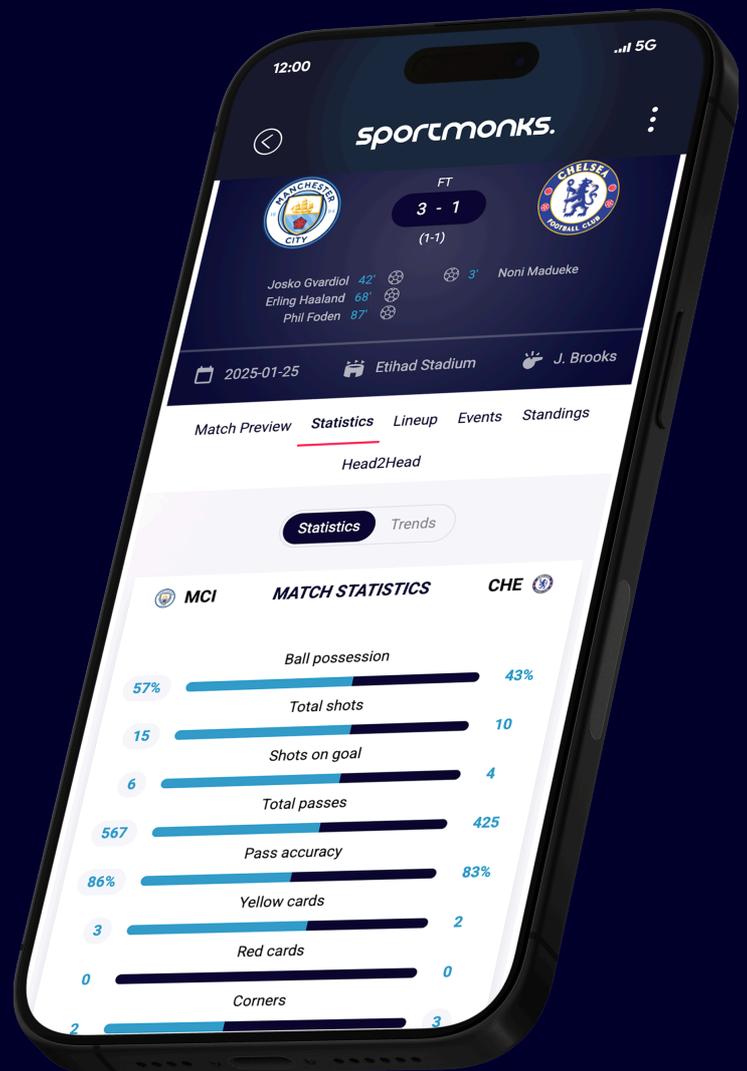
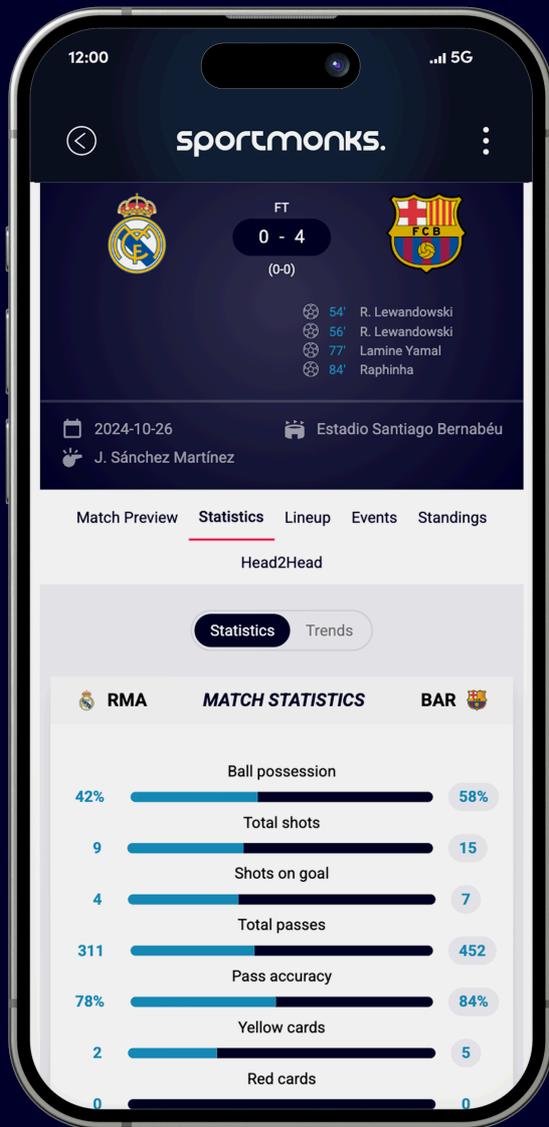


sportmonks.



# BUILDING REAL-TIME FANTASY FOOTBALL GAMES

## A DEVELOPERS GUIDE TO FANTASY FOOTBALL GAMES

This guide will show you how to create a cutting-edge fantasy football game using Sportmonks' Football API, with a focus on developer-friendly integration, real-time scoring, and performance optimisations.

# WHY DEVELOPERS CHOOSE SPORTMONKS



## 2,360+ LEAGUES COVERED

Power your fantasy platform with detailed player statistics from global leagues. From Premier League stars to emerging talents.



## 228M+ DAILY API CALLS

Scale confidently. Our infrastructure handles massive volume with ease, ensuring your app delivers live updates without a hitch.



## 1,000+ HAPPY CUSTOMERS

Trusted by fantasy games, livescore apps, and sports platforms worldwide. Deliver accurate, high-speed data your users can count on.



## 7.4TB+ DATA DELIVERED

Stream massive volumes of player stats, events, and other important stats for your Fantasy Game.

## REAL WORLD IMPACT

Discover how real clients have used our Football API to power dynamic fantasy scoring, live player stats, real-time formations, and up-to-the-minute injury updates.



Fine Line built a high-performance betting app with Sportmonks' fast, accurate, and dependable data.



ShiftOneZero reduced costs and accelerated their launch after switching from a rigid, overpriced provider to Sportmonks.



ScorePlay enhanced fan engagement by integrating our football data into their sports media platform.

# WHY REAL-TIME DATA MATTERS FOR FANTASY GAMES



## LINEUPS & STATUS UPDATES

In Fantasy Games, timing is everything. A delayed lineup update or player rating can lead to user frustration or unfair scoring.

Use our data to sync formations, player statistics, and match status flags (LIVE, FT, etc.) in real time.

## ACCURACY

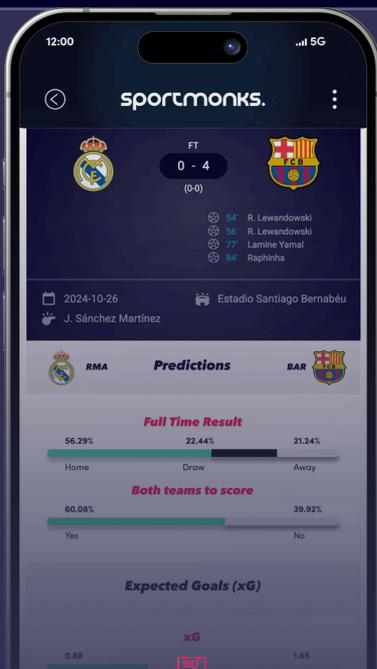
Ensure your game logic reflects the live match with precision.

- Update player performance instantly: statistics, rating, substituted, injured, booked and more
- Sync cleanly with kickoff and match conclusion
- Prevent manual overrides and scoring errors



**WE BUILD DEVELOPER FRIENDLY APIS**

- ✓ **AFFORDABLE**
- ✓ **RELIABLE**
- ✓ **EASY-TO-USE**
- ✓ **ROBUST**
- ✓ **FAST**
- ✓ **VERIFIED**



## ENGAGEMENT & REVENUE

Keep users immersed with second-by-second data that powers fantasy game decisions.

- Deliver fantasy-relevant stats: key passes, interceptions, xG
- Show real-time changes in formations, captaincy status, and more
- Build trust through accurate, automated scoring

# ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A SPORTS BETTING APP



## PLAYER DATA & PERFORMANCE METRICS

Fuel your fantasy engine with rich, real-time player data.

- Track individual stats like goals, assists, key passes, tackles, saves, and more
- Include advanced metrics like expected goals (xG), xA, and pressure index
- Enable dynamic scoring engines and real-time leaderboard updates



## EXPECTED LINEUPS & TEAM NEWS

Keep your users informed and engaged before kickoff.

- Display predicted lineups
- Sync confirmed starting XIs as soon as they're released
- Update in-match changes: substitutions, injuries, and tactical shifts



## LIVESCORES & STATUS

Keep fans instantly updated with a real-time scoreboard.

- Show current score + match state (LIVE, HT, FT)
- Highlight with a "LIVE" badge and in-game timer
- Display useful info like the venue, referee and coaches



## MATCH EVENTS

Bring the match to life with real-time event tracking.

- Display goals, assists, red/yellow cards, and substitutions
- Use clear icons (⚽, 🟡) and time-stamped updates
- Stream structured event data with correction support

# INTEGRATION TIPS

Integrating the Sportmonks Football API into your app is fast and developer-friendly. However, doing it right requires building for performance, reliability, and scalability. Here's how:

01

## **BULK SYNC WITH FILTERS=POPULATE**

Need to bootstrap your database? Use this high-efficiency pattern:

- Disable includes using filters=populate to reduce payload size
- Get up to 1,000 records per page, ideal for initial imports
- Avoids nested joins and unnecessary data during setup
- ✓ Best for: first-time syncs or large table loads

02

## **REAL-TIME UPDATES VIA INCREMENTAL SYNC**

After the initial import, keep your data current without re-fetching:

- Use filters=idAfter:{lastId} to get only new records
- Combine with populate for fast, minimal responses
- Run this on an interval (e.g., every 30 seconds) for live freshness
- ✓ Best for: fixtures, events, odds, and continuous updates

03

## **SMART CACHING FOR STATIC ENTITIES**

Speed up responses and reduce includes:

- Cache low-churn entities like types, countries, states, and regions
- Resolve type\_id, country\_id, etc., locally, so no need to include them on every call
- Use long TTLs (e.g., 12–24 hours) and refresh with a cron job
- ✓ Best for: optimising league, team, and venue responses

04

## **REDUCE API LOAD WITH FIELD FILTERING**

Only retrieve the API fields you actually need using fine-grained include filters

```
&include=lineups.player:display_name,image_path;lineups.player.country:name,image_path
```

- ✓ Best for: any endpoint where you're interested in specific fields

# INTEGRATION TIPS

05

## HANDLE RATE LIMITS WITH GRACE

Don't wait for 429 Too Many Requests to ruin your UX:

- Apply client-side throttling (e.g., token bucket or sliding window algorithms)
- Use Retry-After headers and exponential backoff with jitter.
- Monitor call volume to tune request strategies by endpoint type
- ✓ Best for: in-play data, polling live scores

06

## WATCH FOR EDGE CASES

- IDs may not always arrive in strict order (backfills, delays).
- Occasionally run a snapshot reconciliation to catch missing or updated records
- Use "latest update" filters to detect changes in existing records, not just new ones
- ✓ Best for: catching missed data due to ID-based sync gaps

07

## SECURE API REQUESTS VIA MIDDLEWARE

Never call the API directly from the browser to avoid CORS and protect your API key:

- Use a backend proxy to attach auth tokens securely.
- Set proper Access-Control-Allow-Origin headers for frontend domains
- Handle preflight (OPTIONS) requests to ensure smooth frontend calls
- ✓ Best for: React, Vue, or any SPA architecture

08

## ADVANCED QUERY EFFICIENCY

Use server-side filters (season\_id, status=active) to narrow down data at the source.

- Chain multiple filters (AND logic) instead of over-fetching
- For large datasets, prioritise by most-selective filters first (e.g., filter by competition before date)
- ✓ Best for: dashboards, analytics tools, fixture lookups

# DEVELOPER ACTION PLAN: HOW TO START WITH OUR FOOTBALL API

## GO TO MYSPORTMONKS

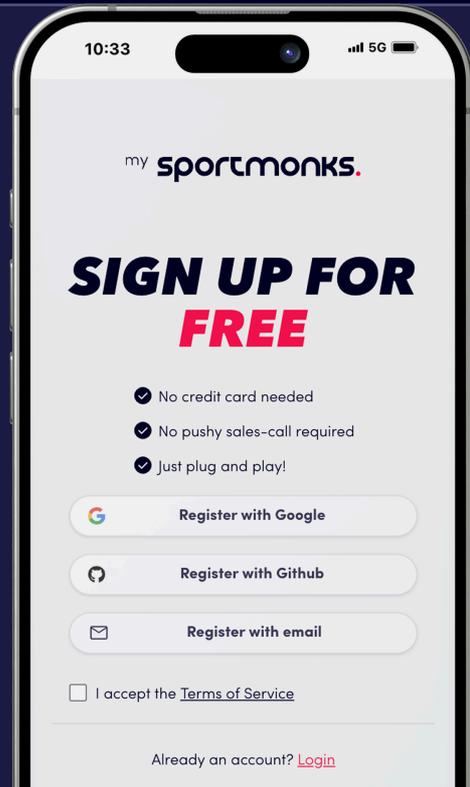
1. Open your browser and navigate to [www.my.sportmonks.com](http://www.my.sportmonks.com).
2. Click on register

## REGISTER

You'll be presented with three convenient options:

- **Google:** Sign up instantly using your Google account
- **GitHub:** Ideal for developers who want to connect with their GitHub identity
- **Email:** Create a new account with your name, email address, and a secure password

**Tip:** If you use Email, choose a strong password and ensure your email address is correct for verification.



## VERIFY AND GET STARTED

Once registered:

- You'll receive a confirmation email
- Use the verification code to verify your email

Congratulations! You've officially created your MySportmonks account

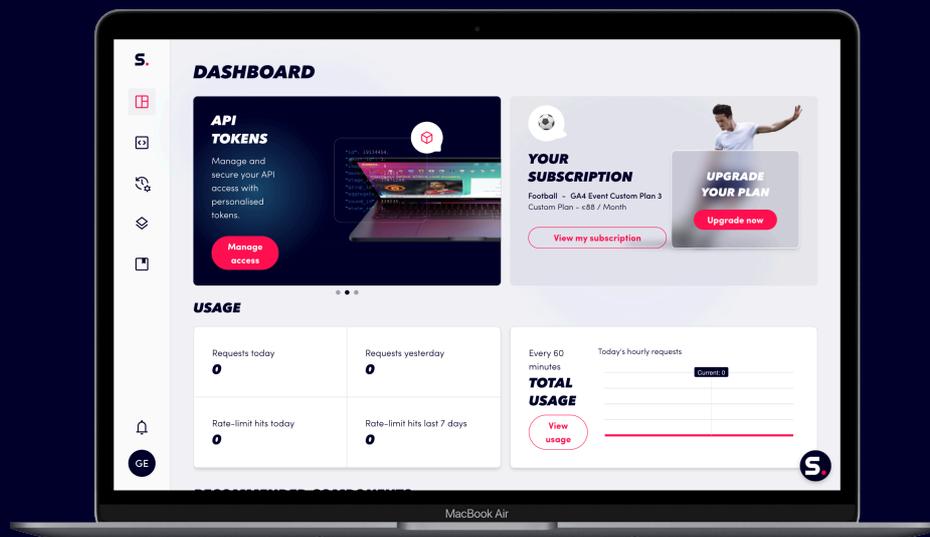
# GENERATE YOUR API TOKEN

To start making requests to the Sportmonks API, you'll need an API token. The API token is your unique identifier. Every API request you send must include this token, or you won't receive your desired football data. It's how we know it's you and which plan and permissions apply to your account.

Here's how to generate your token step-by-step:

## NAVIGATE TO THE TOKEN SECTION

- In the left-hand navigation menu, click on "API"
- Then select "Tokens" from the dropdown



## CREATE YOUR TOKEN

- Fill in a name for your API token
- Click on create
- Copy/paste your API Token and **store it safely**

### API TOKENS

#### CREATE NEW API TOKEN

To make API requests, you'll need a way to get authenticated first. Our API utilizes tokens for the authentication of requests. You can obtain your free API token here. API tokens can be viewed and managed in MySportmonks. Please check our [docs](#) for more information.

Token name

 + Create

#### YOUR API TOKENS

Name	Created
You haven't created any tokens yet	

### HEADS-UP!

Your token will only be shown once after creation. Be sure to copy and securely store it somewhere safe (e.g., password manager).

# MAKE YOUR FIRST REQUEST

Now that your account is active and you've created your API token, it's time to make your very first API request!

## UNDERSTANDING THE STRUCTURE

Component	Description	Example
BASE URL	The root path that defines which version and sport you're accessing.	<a href="https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football">https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football</a>
Endpoint	Specifies the type of data you want (e.g., livescores, fixtures, teams, players).	<a href="https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football/livescores">https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football/livescores</a>
Query parameters	Used to filter, sort, or enrich your request (e.g., includes, filters, selects).	<a href="https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football/livescores?include=statistics;events&amp;filters=fixtureLeagues:8">https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football/livescores?include=statistics;events&amp;filters=fixtureLeagues:8</a>
API token	Required for authentication. Can be passed via URL or authorization header.	?api_token=YOUR_TOKEN or Authorization: YOUR_TOKEN



**Tip:** Combine all components to build your full request URL.

I.e:

[https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football/livescores?api\\_token=YOUR\\_TOKEN&include=statistics;events&filters=fixtureLeagues:8](https://api.sportmonks.com/v3/football/livescores?api_token=YOUR_TOKEN&include=statistics;events&filters=fixtureLeagues:8)

## PRO TIP: USE OUR POSTMAN COLLECTION

Want to explore and test all available endpoints with ease?

Use our Postman Collection that includes:

- All Sportmonks Football API endpoints
- Parameters, includes, filters, and examples
- Pre-configured requests for quick testing

Learn how to use our Football API with Postman in [our blog](#).



[Download Collection](#)

# EXPLORE OUR DOCUMENTATION

Our Football API documentation is your all-in-one hub to understand, build, and scale faster.

Whether you're exploring endpoints, filtering data, or integrating advanced features, the docs are built to guide you: every step of the way.

## WHY DEVELOPERS LOVE OUR DOCS

Clear, practical, and powerful. Our documentation is built with devs in mind. Here's why it stands out:

✓ **Deep linking:**  
Jump directly to any endpoint, parameter, or filter with clean navigation and persistent deep links.

✓ **MySportmonks Components**  
Components give you clear insight into where each piece of data comes from and how it can be visualised effectively.

✓ **Developer guides & tutorials**  
Understand exactly how to enrich requests with structured include, select, and filter options: no guesswork.

✓ **Always up-to-date**  
New endpoints and API changes are added frequently. So you're always working with the latest guidance and features.

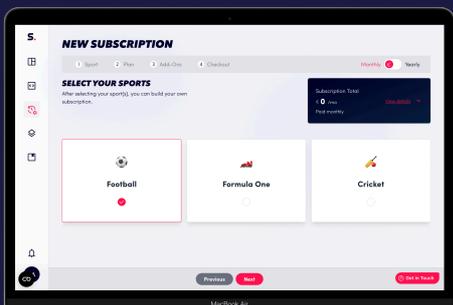
### READY TO DIVE DEEPER?

Our documentation is your ultimate toolkit. Packed with live examples, best practices, and everything you need to master the Sportmonks Football API

[Check our docs](#)

# CREATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Unlock the data of the leagues you're interested in.  
Here's how:



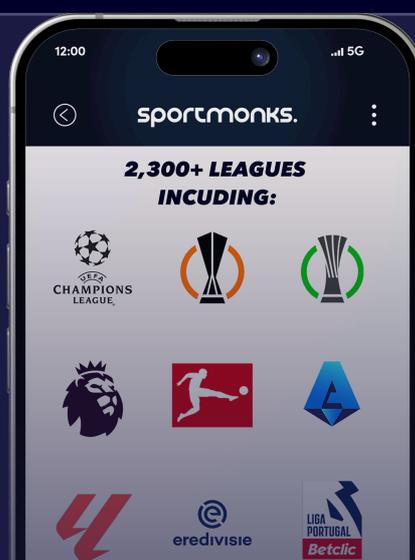
## GO TO SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Log in to MySportmonks
2. In the menu, click on "Create Subscriptions"
3. Select the sport: "Football"

## COMPARE OUR PLANS

At Sportmonks, you only pay for what you need, based on coverage and features. Choose your combination of leagues and features to match your app's scope and budget.

**Tip:** Add Champions League, Europa League, and Conference League to your European plan for just €15/month.



## SELECT AND ACTIVATE

Select the plan and features you're interested in. In the next section, you can also opt for an add-on to complement your chosen features. Follow the steps to confirm and activate your subscription

**Your access level updates immediately:  
no downtime required.**

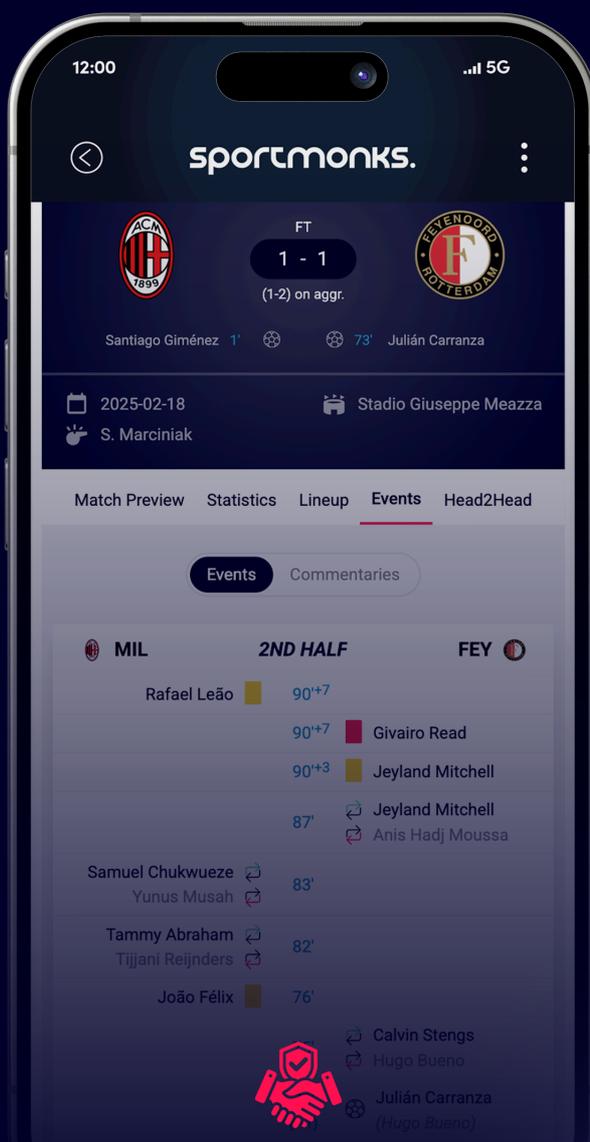


**Need something tailored?** Looking for a specific set of leagues or features? You can build your own custom plan!

Use our [custom plan builder in MySportmonks](#) and get started.

sportmonks.

Start your project



**FAST, RELIABLE & VERIFIED DATA**

Speed and accuracy, without compromise. Get real-time, verified football data at unmatched speed, so you never have to choose between accuracy and performance.