

# **DFBnet** -

The networked solution for clubs and associations



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When the German Football Association (DFB) launched its subsidiary DFB-Medien in 2002,

we laid the foundation for the software-based organization of football match operations.

Today, the letters DFBnet stand for a high-performance integrated IT solution that has

become a household name across Europe and beyond – an online system that provides

administrators at all levels of the game with a state-of-the-art tool to meet all of the

management and administration requirements as efficiently as possible.

In close co-operation with the DFB and its member associations, DFB-Medien has developed

a networked application that especially benefits football clubs, as they can send and retrieve

data on the internet, receive sensitive information via the secure DFBnet mailbox and,

ultimately, save time, as online reporting replaces the manual completion of paper forms.

Among the other beneficiaries of DFBnet are fans of amateur football. With club officials and

referees feeding results and electronic match reports into the system straight after the final

whistle, visitors of the www.fussball.de website have timely access to up-dated league tables

and results of a total of 1.7 million official matches per season as well as line-ups and other

relevant information of an increasing number of matches. And with an average of 250 million

plus clicks per month mobile and via internet, its traffic is as impressive as it is gratifying.

Many thousands of club administrators and volunteers at all levels would now find it almost

impossible to do without DFBnet and its labour-saving features.

Tried, tested, and optimized in a football environment, we are proud to be able to widen

the scope of DFBnet, offering it as a successful solution meeting any sport association's

requirements.

Wolfgang Niersbach

President, German Football Association

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## DFB-Medien - The IT specialists for football

DFB-Medien is the software developer and IT solutions partner for German football. Founded as a 100% subsidiary of the German Football Association (DFB) in April 2002, DFB-Medien develops and operates innovative online applications for the organization of football. DFBnet is a networked software infrastructure benefiting not only regional associations, but especially clubs. These more than 10 years of experience can now also benefit other associations and their member clubs. For example, DFBnet is already in use by international football associations on three continents in different languages and fonts.



## DFBnet - The database for the entire sports organization

Do these problems sound familiar? Address data duplicated and handled in different locations, cumbersome and time-consuming paper-based processes, separate software processes, local solutions to common association practice, non-standardized procedures at associations and clubs – time-intensive administrative processes make sports organization more difficult. However, that was before DFBnet. Now, everyone involved, from full-time or voluntary association staff to clubs, uses a uniform data management system. Today, the organization of German football is unthinkable without DFBnet.

DFB is a high-performance, networked and process-optimized solution supporting organizational and administrative tasks in sports associations and clubs. The basis of the system forms a central database, which can be accessed by all DFBnet components.



Applications such as player registration, coach and referee license management and association management are primarily used in the head offices of the state associations. They are deployed in Germany to process millions of player registrations, licenses of coaches and referees, address management and process optimization.

Three modules - the mailbox system, pass request system and club registration form - facilitate the exchange of information between association and club or officials.

The matchday operation module, the heart of DFBnet, serves match operations. Its functionality includes division planning and referee appointment via the match report and a module assigning disciplinary jurisdiction, through to a variety of methods for recording match results. Mobile applications, such as DFBnet app or the liveticker for amateur matches compliment the offer.

DFB-Medien offers an online club administration for clubs and for the state-of-the-art and prompt processing of your administrative tasks. The online club management and the supplementary accounting module online club finance management system access a separate database, which is created by the respective clubs and which can only be viewed by them.

#### The benefits of DFBnet

- Uniform data management: Data is saved and maintained only once and is then instantly
  available to all users at any time. This avoids double, inconsistent and contradictory entries.
- High-level data protection: Data protection and data security are of tremendous importance to DFBnet. DFBnet complies with the stringent requirements of German data protection law, which is regarded as one of the strictest in the world. Access rights are determined by a sophisticated authorization system using role-based and organizational criteria. User administration can be handled centrally or locally each restricted to one's own field of responsibility.
- Decentralized availability: The DFBnet modules can be run as office applications for the
  associations, while simultaneously offering possibilities for involving clubs and staff via
  the Internet.
- High level of process optimization and security: The processes optimized with DFBnet
  are based on the organizational expertise and experience of the DFB and its member organizations and represent German football's best practices. Standardized procedures
  eliminate errors and ensure optimized work processes. Different processes can be supported by configuration.
- User friendly: DFBnet was developed for users who do not have any IT experience. It is
  used equally by voluntary staff at county level, who organize amateur competitions in
  the lowest youth division, as well as by officials from state associations or DFB.
- Continuous development: Regular updates and new product versions are input centrally
  and are immediately available to all users, without them having to do anything themselves. DFBnet is continuously further developed so that the functionality constantly increases and takes new technological requirements into account. All affiliated associations
  benefit from these further developments.
- Time and cost savings: Processes requiring paper are replaced by electronic processes.
   The direct connection of the clubs reduces costs and reduces the associations' workload.
- Centralized operation: The DFBnet modules are operated centrally in a professional data processing center. No special IT knowledge is required in the associations and by users.

## DFBnet - The basis for a website with high public appeal

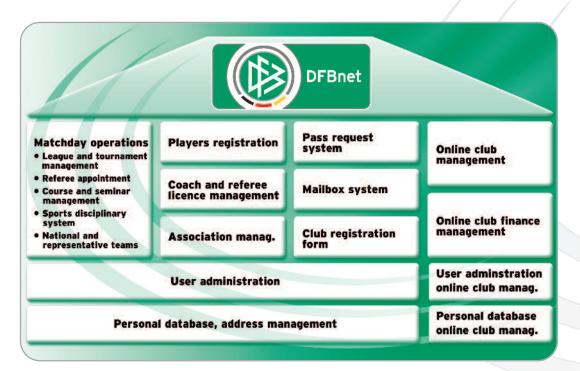
The abundance of matchday operation data from the match operation module provides the foundation for the FUSSBALL.DE public website and the related mobile app. With more than three million regular users and in excess of 250 million page and app impressions per month, the commercial portal generates important revenue for funding DFBnet.

Along with a comprehensive results service, FUSSBALL.DE provides supporters with the latest news from the amateur and professional leagues and a large community incorporating all Web 2.0 features (club profiles, match analyses, photos, videos). In this way, the clubs also benefit from the huge reach achieved by Germany's biggest football portal.



#### DFBnet - A solution for other associations

The DFBnet applications are well established in the German football associations and represent an integral part of their daily work. However, other sports associations can also benefit from the networked complete solution or individual modules.



## Facts and figures:

#### **DFBnet**

- Is used by the DFB and Bundesliga as well as the 26 state and regional associations and their operating divisions
- Supports 25,600 clubs
- Handles
  - more than 1.7 million matches per season
  - 70,000 matches per weekend
  - schedules for 165,000 teams organized in approx. 20,000 divisions
- Manages personal data for more than eight million people in the DFBnet database
- Is the basis for
  - approximately 5,000 governing authorities (division managers)
  - 78,000 referees
  - 70,000 coaches
- Has more than 300,000 registered users (DFBnet identifications) for full-time and voluntary staff at associations and clubs



### The main components of DFBnet

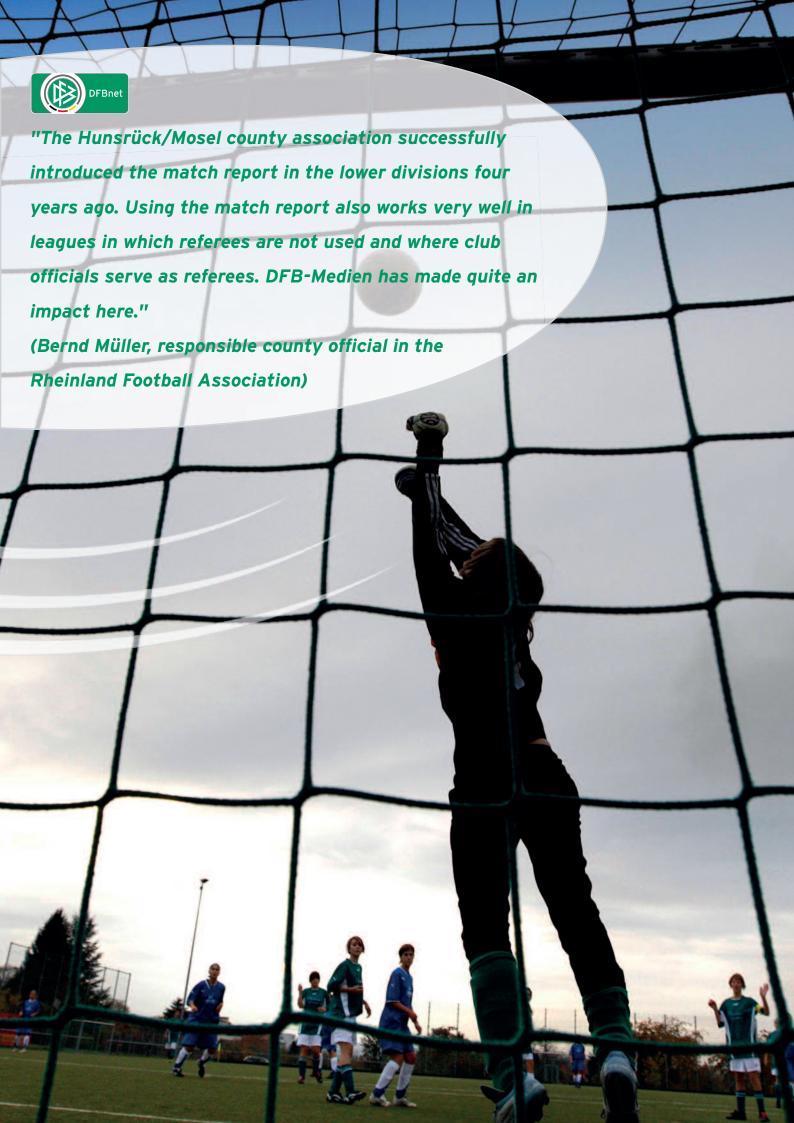
DFB-Medien provides all components of DFBnet on the "software as a service" concept from a private cloud. This means that the efforts for the technical management for the associations are minimized. Users in the associations' offices have access to the applications via the Internet and using a secure VPN (virtual private network) connection. Voluntary staff and clubs have – also via the Internet – access to the applications relevant for their function. A sophisticated roles and rights system ensures data protection. It enables defining function-based access for specific data fields in one's own field of responsibility.

#### Matchday operations

Using the matchday operation modules, several hundred thousand association and club users record all details of match operations within an association via a central database. The matchday operation module contains all the information relevant to a given division – from fixture planning, venue management, referee assignment and match reports through to results and league tables.

## The matchday operations module includes the following features:

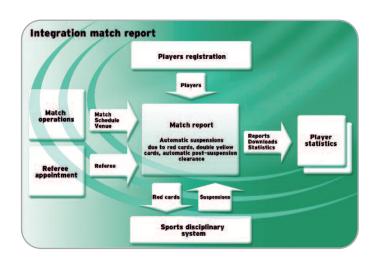
- Planning and management of championship match day operations as well as cups, tournaments and friendly matches
- Optimization of scheduling by means of configurable seasons calendar and by taking team wishes into account
- Automatic notification of referees and clubs in case of changes to fixture list
- Venue management and integrated ground allocation check
- | Comparison Notation | Comparison | Compari
- Results service via Internet, smartphone app or text message
- Calculation of league and fair-play tables
- Electronic match report for recording team line-ups and match results including management of suspensions
- Export of fixture lists, results, tables and match reports for the FUSSBALL.DE public portal and a commercial media service
- Processing sports disciplinary system including creation and mailing of judgments
- Management of representative teams





#### Match report

The match report is an electronic version of the official match report, in which clubs enter their team line-up and referees enter all match events after the match. Developed in close liaison with the DFL, the software was used for the first time in the German Bundesliga in the 2004/2005 season. The match report has simplified the processes in amateur football since 2006 and helps clubs eliminate spelling and line-up errors.



The networking with other matchday operation modules allows inclusion of relevant data such as player name, referee or venue without having to re-enter the data. The information required for checking player eligibility is provided by the player registration module and the sports disciplinary system, which in turn uses data from the match report.

## The match report module provides the following features to clubs and division managers:

- Replaces sophisticated and error-prone paper forms
- Eliminates manual entires by using data from other DFBnet modules
- Automatic checking of player eligibility or possible suspensions when creating team line-ups
- Verification of association and league rules when creating team line-ups
   (e.g. maximum number of foreign players)
- Automatic alerts in case of rule violations or other errors
- Player lists and team line-ups handled in a database
- Simplifies team line-ups by accessing data from previous matches
- Management of suspensions
- Monitoring of referee data including plausibility check
- Automatic creation of press reports featuring team line-ups and official match data
- Basis for goal scorer, player and card statistics
- Networking with sports disciplinary system and liveticker

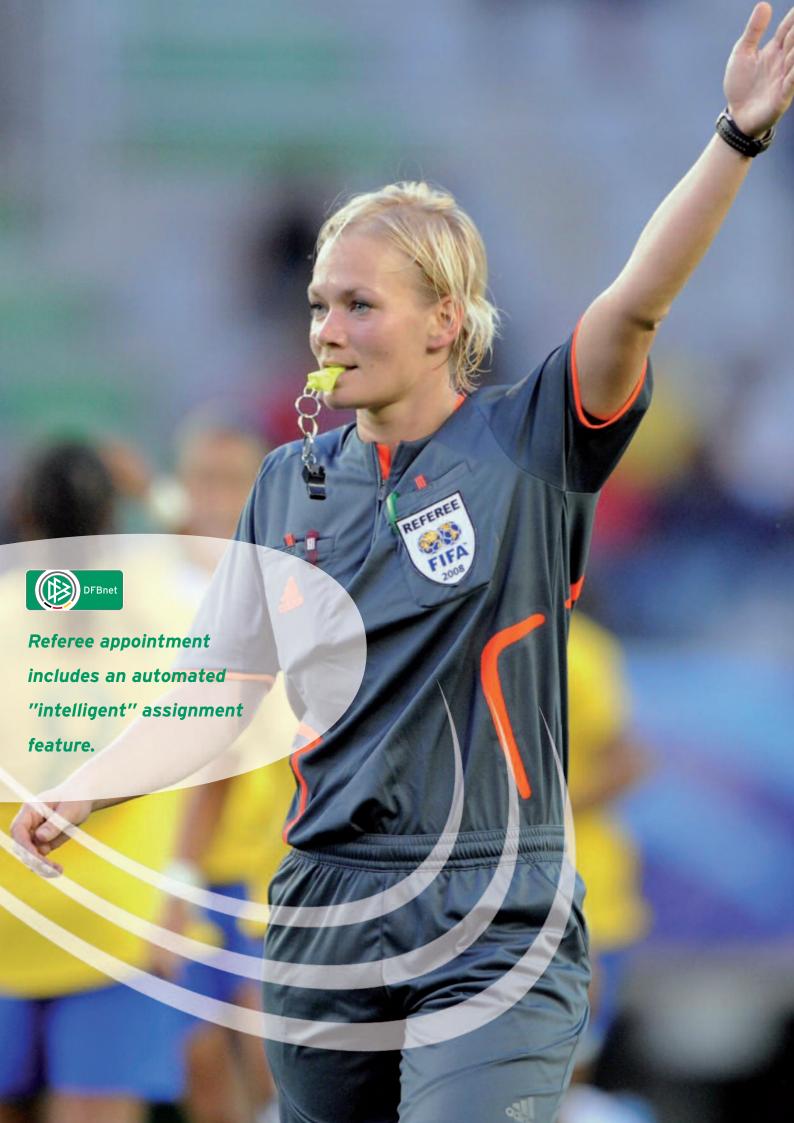
#### Referee appointment

The referee appointment module assigns referees to matches based on their availability and suitable qualification. The "intelligent" assignment feature is in particular used in amateur leagues. It assigns all referees of a pool to particular fixtures, in multiple program runs if necessary. Here only those referees are considered that meet all requirements for assignment to the particular matches and whose place of residence is as close to the venue as possible.

#### The referee appointment module includes the following features:

- Management of contact details, qualifications and referee assessments
- Optimized scheduling of referees using criteria such as club and area affiliation, qualifications, number of previous matches, results of assessments and travel distances between residence and venue
- Performance documentation from referee assessment
- Automatic refereeing schedules for large numbers of matches
- Support for manual scheduling of higher leagues
- Function for referee exchanges between different areas
- Referees are notified by e-mail on rescheduling and they confirm the date via an included link
- Standardized analyses and reports
- Integrated refereeing quota calculation
- Referees can receive direct access for checking their appearances and entering off times
- Accounting for referee expenses



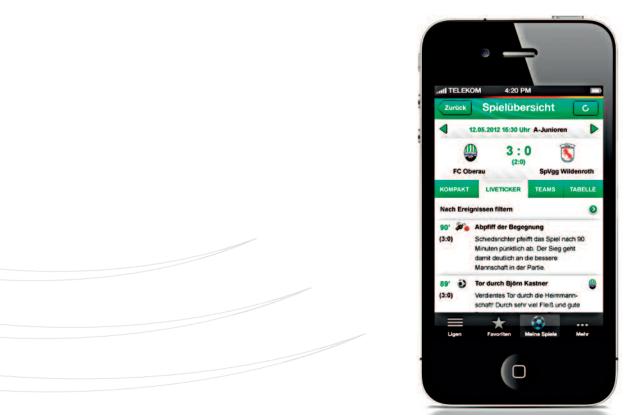




#### Mobile solutions - Always on the ball even when traveling

The **DFBnet 1:O** app is the mobile version of the results service. Team officials can easily report their result by smartphone in addition to the online entry and transmission via text message. After logging in with a DFBnet club identifier, all matches for the teams in the respective club, which were played within the past five days appear automatically. This makes possible a quick and easy entry without time-consuming navigation paths. The club receives immediate information on its standings thanks to the updated table calculation. The integrated venue search shows the way to the opponent's sports field.

The innovative **liveticker** puts amateur matches into the spotlight. While the official data from the match report is automatically included in the liveticker, hobby reporters can add exciting situations and highlights during the course of the match online from the edge of the pitch. This enables a timely reporting on amateur football all the way down to the lowest levels without professional editors. Publishing the liveticker on FUSSBALL.DE or association websites provides information to all fans of amateur football on the Internet or via an app in real time. The automatic linking to the user's social networks is just one of the many functions which will enhance the liveticker.



#### Player registration

From first-time issuing and determination of waiting periods to international transfer rules – the player registration module covers all pass-related association requirements. The Germany-wide use facilitates and integrates procedures at the pass offices. In addition, the player registration supports the "FIFA Data Standard", which enables the international exchange of data in a compatible form.

It is primarily clubs who benefit most from the additional pass request module: They can check player eligibility, determine probable waiting periods and send pass applications to the responsible state association quickly and without paper.

#### The player registration module includes the following features:

- Management of player registration / eligibility to play
- Pass printing
- Transfer rules are configurable and taken into account for different age groups
- Automatic notification of clearance to play or suspension periods
- Processing of player transfers within the association and between state associations
- Support for international clearances and club transfers between the involved national associations
- Management of amateurs under contract (semi-professionals)
- Configurable pricing for various association services (e.g. original registration, club transfers, amateurs under contract)
- Interface with accounting system
- Online request for player clearance by clubs and governing bodies
- Online application for first issues, club transfer and deregistration



#### **Association management**

Association management supports the typical administrative procedures and tasks faced by an association head office. The focus is on functions involved in data administration.

#### The association management module includes the following features:

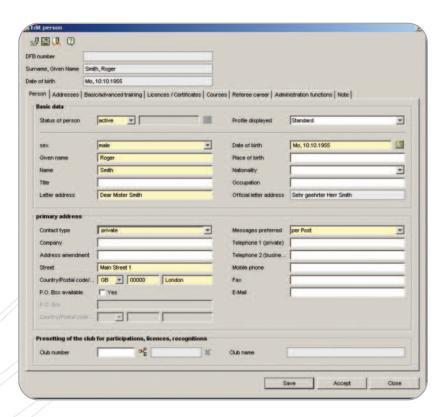
- Management of the association structures
- Club information such as teams or officials is included automatically from the registration form
- Registration and management of officials (stake holders) in associations and clubs
- Address and personnel management via dynamic distribution lists: If a new person assumes a function, he/she is automatically included in every distribution list that contains this function
- Integration of office applications (circular letters and e-mails)
- Event management (organization of meetings and conferences)
- Traveling expense accounting for voluntary officials
- Calculation of club membership fees based on various criteria
- Management of honours and merits
- Various models for calculating refereeing quotas

#### Coach and referee license management

The coach and referee license management is used by the DFB and its member associations for all processes relating to issuing and extending coaching and refereeing licenses.

The following functions for all courses – from training for assistants at club level through to the highest coaching qualifications – are available and include:

- Management of training courses, extended training and theory courses
- Documentation of contents, participants and results
- Public access to presentation of a range of training courses on the Internet
- Automatic counting and display of available participant spots
- Easy online sign-up for training courses and seminars possible
- Printing of licenses and certificates
- Management of coach and referee licenses
- Interface with accounting system
- Integrated direct debiting



#### Online club management

The online club management was developed for the specific requirements of administrative work at club level, which primarily involves the management of members, departments, bodies and fees. This multi-division solution supports all important management processes. The users in particular benefit from the decentralization of the online application, because any number of officials have access from different locations. This also eliminates the risks of data loss associated with a change in official responsibilities.

The additional club finance management module supports clubs in all accounting issues. It has been specifically developed for the requirements of non-profit clubs who often do not have a certified accountant. Integrated plausibility checks ensure safe receipt recording. The automatic advance turnover tax return and analyses of the tax-related cash method of accounting simplify the obligations vis-à-vis the tax authorities.

#### The online club management includes the following features:

- Management of departments, members and fees
- Internal club communication and task assignment
- Creation of circular letters, analyses and statistics
- Bookings of membership fees including direct debiting using the SEPA standard
- Invoice wizard
- Management of honours and merits
- Issuing donation receipts
- Recording sponsor data
- An accounting tool tailored to club requirements
- Highest data security and data privacy protection
- Automatic updates





#### DFBnet in the DFB

At the DFB main office in Frankfurt, the DFBnet modules ensure trouble-free processing of all overlapping processes between the DFB and its member associations. In addition, many solutions for the special requirements of an umbrella association have been developed and are therefore only used by DFB and the DFL. These applications also build on the shared database to avoid multiple registrations and duplicates. Data particularly worthy of protection are subject to stringent safety precautions.

#### DFB benefits from DFBnet in the following areas in particular:

- Management of the A national team and junior representative teams
- Organization of match operations for all leagues and cups on DFB and DFL level
- Support for talent promotion
- Processing of international player transfers
- Process support for coaches basic/advanced training (B and A football coach license)
- Maintenance of address and personal data as well as honours
- Platform for supporting the project online learning
- Notification of security-relevant events in all amateur divisions
- Match day report security
- Training portal for security services
- Stadium database
- Referee video portal for analyzing decisions
- Portal for registration and organization of the DFB football badge

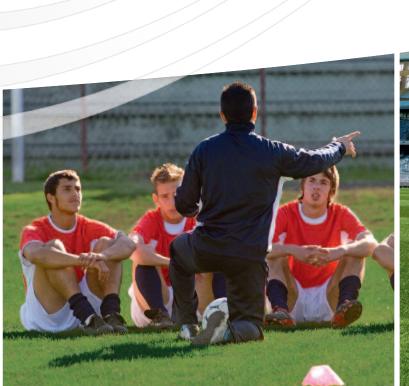




#### Referee portal

The referee portal, along with the whistle, has been one of the most important tools for licensed referees in the three highest leagues since 2011. All relevant scenes are shown as video clips on the portal's general area two days after a match day. Previously it was only possible for controversial scenes to be shown to referees at their bases and during training courses. The referee portal module makes it possible to show a wide variety of scenes in a timely manner and present theoretical background information for the correct decision. Every referee thus quickly receives information on which decisions the referee commission considers to be correct in certain situations. This promotes the uniformity of rule interpretation.

Referee observers can upload the recording of their observations online and refer to the respective individual scenes. The application automatically creates video clips from this information, which are then provided to the referees being observed. In his/her private portal, the referee thus has access to all observations of their matches including the relevant video sequences. Over the course of time, the referee can draw on a large archive, process matches and prepare for upcoming tasks together with his/her referee team.







#### National and representative teams

The national and representative team application supports team coaches and managers in processing and documenting international matches, training courses and other events. An integrated player information database, based on data collected form the player registration module, contains all football-specific information on each representative player. This allows the head coach and the coaching staff to access, import and compare physical performance data, test results and conclusions from video analyses.

#### The national and representative team application provides the following features:

- Pool of eligible players and their profiles
- Scouting functionality for monitoring matches and players
- Match documentation including squad, line-up and formation as well as analyses of teams and tactics ahead of games
- Management and documentation of performance tests (performance analysis)
- Import of cross-match analysis of tactical and physical data from standard video analysis tools
- Archive of training exercises which can be used to produce individual and team-orientated training plans
- Address management and administrative functions such as circular letters, distribution lists or birthday lists
- Encryption and special high-security mechanisms for data particularly worthy of protection

#### Prevention and security

The prevention and security application supports the DFB when dispatching observers or security monitoring to potentially high-risk matches in the four highest German leagues. The match risk assessment required in advance by the participating clubs, DFB and the police, which manages the national and international exchange of information and handles security issues concerning sports events between police authorities, is also processed by this application. The observers or security monitoring enter their information after the match using an online questionnaire.

The security officials from both teams and the fan's representatives from the visiting club respond to standardized questions with help from the DFBnet software concerning security-related aspects, which they experienced during the course of the match. The data collected from various vantage points allows the creation of extensive statistics and analyses involved in the issue of security in stadiums.

#### Stadium database

Detailed information on stadiums in Germany can be collected and analyzed via the stadium database module. The paper-based correspondence between DFB and the clubs is eliminated, thus doing away with the annually recurring effort thanks to the data entry and time-independent updating options via the Internet. Documents such as the stadium questionnaire or explanation concerning the stadium can be created automatically from the application. This benefits clubs, particularly during the licensing procedure. The DFB benefits from the stadium database, because it can filter the comprehensive information pool by relevant criteria at the push of a button in order to find suitable venues for international matches.



#### Talent promotion

The talent promotion application deals with all aspects involving promising young players. Thus, the software primarily serves to manage all information concerning the player – from personal data to football career and performance evaluations all the way to participations in promotion measures. In addition, all information on coaches and promotion test bases can be maintained in the application.

#### Online learning

DFB places considerable importance on the qualification of voluntary staff. DFB-Medien, in cooperation with the University of Osnabrück, developed the Online Learning platform with the objective of providing high-quality training and further education in an efficient, flexible and cost-efficient manner as well as addressing new target groups with the help of modern technology. This platform is comprised of three elements: information, communication and learning.

In the areas of information and communication, learners can take advantage of download material, use chats and discuss issues in forums. The learning platform provides the respective training and further education modules, which the participants can access from anywhere at any time.



## **Publishing credits**

Publisher:

Deutscher Fußball-Bund e.V.
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60528 Frankfurt
Phone +49 (0) 69 6788 0

www.dfb.de / www.dfb-medien.de

Photos:

Picture-Alliance, Imago, Alfred Harder, Getty Images, Fotolia, iStockphoto, Shutterstock

Graphic design, layout and printing: Ruschke und Partner GmbH, Hohemarkstraße 20 61440 Oberursel, Phone +49 (0) 6171 693 0

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