

League football cleans up: Chance Liga matchday dedicated to sustainability

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The upcoming weekend across all Chance Liga stadiums will be marked by a focus on sustainability and responsible environmental behaviour. The League Football Association, together with the league's title partner Chance, is dedicating Matchday 18 of the Chance Liga to the *Sport bez odpadu* (Sport Without Waste) project, with the aim of actively involving fans as well. Special waste-sorting bins and a range of activities will be introduced at stadiums to highlight the importance of waste separation and responsible waste management.

“League football brings together a huge number of people, giving it a unique opportunity not only to entertain but also to inspire and to open discussions that go beyond the game itself. One of these is the responsible approach to waste that we collectively create when attending matches. We therefore want to place even greater emphasis on the fact that small steps and good habits can have a significant impact when carried out together. The partnership with the *Sport bez odpadu* project allows us to turn this idea into concrete measures at stadiums, and we believe fans in the stands will support our efforts,” said Irena Smetanová, Chair of the LFA ESG Commission.

The *Sport bez odpadu* project, overseen by the Tipsport Foundation and part of the activities of the title partner Chance, focuses on reducing the environmental impact of sport in the long term. Together with clubs, the LFA aims to support these efforts during Matchday 18, with a series of activities across all stadiums highlighting responsible waste management and sustainability more broadly.

Fans in both home and away sections will find new sorting bins, along with interactive activities and competitions designed to present the topic in an engaging way. Players and coaching staff from individual clubs will also take part in clean-up activities within stadium facilities.

“Thanks to our research, we know that up to 75% of waste after football matches ends up as mixed waste, even though it could be properly sorted. Through our activities, we want to highlight this issue and give fans the opportunity to help change this trend. In doing so, they can contribute to making the stadiums they love cleaner and more environmentally friendly. This approach follows examples from top competitions abroad. We want to be a strong partner for league football, clubs and fans in this area and help implement these changes in practice,” said Martin Šlapák, ESG Manager of Chance Liga's title partner.

After the matchday, all activities will be evaluated. Based on the results, further steps will be considered to improve stadium environments in the long term—whether through expanding sorting zones, introducing new educational activities for fans, or implementing specific operational measures. The goal is for sustainable behaviour to become a natural part of the league environment and to have a tangible impact on stadium cleanliness and comfort.

“The popularity of football in the Czech Republic continues to grow, and we are therefore using this platform to communicate the important topic of environmental protection. The global football world has already begun the race towards carbon neutrality, and we would be very pleased if Czech teams were among the elite of world football in this regard,” added Lucie Štefánková, Director of the Tipsport Foundation.

The *Sport bez odpadu* project is now in its second year. Dozens of football clubs have already joined, and through waste analyses conducted by the Institute of Circular Economy (INCIEN), valuable data on waste at sports venues has been collected. Based on expert recommendations, clubs have gradually implemented measures to reduce their environmental footprint—introducing hundreds of recycling bins at stadiums, reusable cups, electric hand dryers and LED lighting. These activities are funded by the Tipsport Foundation.