

Scotland internationals whose status is uncertain or ambiguous

Before the SFA was founded

Scotland 0 England 0, 30 November 1872

England 4 Scotland 2, 8 March 1873

Both were played before the formation of the Scottish FA but are universally accepted as full internationals, and the game in 1872 is recognised as the world's first international match.

Canadian tours of Britain

Scotland 4 Canada 0, 19 September 1888

Scotland 5 Canada 1, 3 October 1891

These were part of extensive tours organised by the Western FA of Canada, and the second was bolstered by several US players. Although the Scotland teams were at full strength, they are not regarded as official internationals.

Ibrox Disaster match

Scotland 1 England 1, 5 April 1902

The match started as an official international but when the disaster happened during the first half it was stopped for 20 minutes. At that point both associations agreed it should be declared void but also agreed the match be played to a finish to allow time for recovery work. The fixture was replayed the following month.

Victory Internationals 1919

Scotland 2 Ireland 1, 22 March 1919

Ireland 0 Scotland 0, 19 April 1919

England 2 Scotland 2, 26 April 1919

Scotland 3 England 4, 3 May 1919

Scotland played home and away against England and Ireland to celebrate the end of WW1. The associations agreed that the matches would not be considered official.

Continental tour 1929

Scotland played four matches in Norway, Germany and the Netherlands.

1 - Norway 3 Scotland 7, 26 May 1929 (in Bergen). Treated as a full international by Scotland but not by Norway, as it was a West Norway regional select rather than their international team.

2 - Norway 0 Scotland 4, 28 May 1929 (in Oslo). Not considered by either country as a full international, the home side being an East Norway regional select.

3 - Germany 1 Scotland 1, 1 June 1929 (in Berlin). Full international status.

4 - Netherlands 0 Scotland 2, 4 June 1929 (in Amsterdam). Treated as a full international by Scotland but not by the Netherlands, who were still amateur at the time and did not recognise matches against professional opponents.

Denmark 1932

Denmark 3 Scotland 1, 9 October 1932

The Danish FA lists this as a full international match, but the 'Scotland' team was selected by the Scottish Amateur FA.

USA 1935

During an SFA summer tour of North America, the Scots played two matches against an American select, with players drawn from the American Soccer League. These matches are considered as full internationals by US Soccer.

USA 1 Scotland 5, 19 May 1935 (in New York)

USA 1 Scotland 4, 9 June 1935 (in Newark)

Jubilee International 1935

Scotland 4 England 2, 21 August 1935.

This match was played at Hampden to celebrate the silver jubilee of King George V. Although both countries fielded full strength teams, the match was not considered official by either association.

Victory Internationals 1945-46

The home associations described the British Championship matches in 1945-46 as Victory Internationals, and agreed not to award caps.

Scotland 2 Wales 0, 10 November 1945

Northern Ireland 2 Scotland 3, 2 February 1946

Scotland 1 England 0, 13 April 1946

Post-war matches 1945-46

There were also matches at Hampden that season against Belgium and Switzerland:

Scotland 2 Belgium 2, 23 January 1946

Scotland 3 Switzerland 1, 15 May 1946

The SFA handbook recorded both as full internationals and there is nothing in the SFA minutes or contemporary reports to suggest that their status was diminished. Both are considered full internationals by our opponents. Although they were subsequently listed as 'unofficial' in most reference books, they are included in Scottish records.

North American tour 1949

USA 0 Scotland 4, 19 June 1949 (in New York)

The final match of a nine game Scottish FA tour is considered a full international by the USA but not by the SFA.

World Tour 1967

A young Scottish FA squad toured the world, playing nine matches. The SFA stated at the time that they were not considered as full internationals, but in 2021 the SFA stated that five matches (v Israel, Australia and Canada) had been elevated retrospectively to full internationals. Of our opponents, only Israel and Australia consider their matches to have full international status.

Israel 1 Scotland XI 2, 16 May 1967 (in Tel Aviv)

Hong Kong 1 Scotland XI 4, 25 May 1967 (in Hong Kong)

Australia 0 Scotland XI 1, 28 May 1967 (in Sydney)

Australia 1 Scotland XI 2, 31 May 1967 (in Adelaide)

Australia 0 Scotland XI 2, 3 June 1967 (in Melbourne)

New Zealand Under 23s 2 Scotland XI 7, 5 June 1967 (in Wellington)

Auckland Select 0 Scotland XI 4, 8 June 1967 (in Auckland)

Vancouver All Stars 1 Scotland XI 4, 10 June 1967 (in Vancouver)

Canada Amateurs 2 Scotland XI 7, 13 June 1967 (in Winnipeg)

Reunification Cup 2002

Hong Kong League 0 Scotland 4, 23 May 2002.

Although this game was not against a national team, the SFA President, Jack McGinn, decided beforehand that caps should be awarded. Scotland played two matches in Hong Kong, the first being a 2-0 defeat to South Africa, followed by this win to finish in second place in the tournament, with medals awarded to the players.