

SUMMARY OF THE RACISM AND VIOLENCE REPORT IN FOOTBALL STADIUMS

2024—2025 SEASON DATA — ISRAELI PREMIER LEAGUE



Key Findings

Racist Chants Continue to Go Unanswered and Reach Record Highs

There were 367 incidents of racist chants in football stadiums across Israel this season, compared to 224 last season—a 64% increase from the previous season. This marks the third consecutive season in which racist chanting has broken records in Israeli stadiums.

Two Matches Were Abandoned During the Season

Two major sporting disasters occurred in the form of abandoned matches.

In the match between Hapoel Be'er Sheva and Bnei Sakhnin, before kick-off, Be'er Sheva fans stormed the pitch following an incident of disrespect toward the national anthem, intending to confront Sakhnin supporters.

The match between Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv was abandoned at halftime due to continuous flare-throwing by Maccabi Haifa fans.

Maccabi Tel Aviv Fans Lead in Racist Chants, Followed by Beitar Jerusalem

Maccabi Tel Aviv stands recorded 118 racist chants, compared to 75 last season (a 57.3% increase).

Next are Beitar Jerusalem fans with 115 chants, compared to 100 last season (a 15% increase), followed by Maccabi Netanya with 29 chants (compared to 9 last season — more than triple), Hapoel Haifa with 28 chants (compared to 14 — double), and Ironi Kiryat Shmona with 24 chants.

165 Violent Incidents Were Recorded — A Decrease from Last Season

The "Kick It Out" report recorded 165 violent incidents, including throwing objects and pitch invasions.

This is a 21% decrease from last season, which had 209 incidents of violence and racism.

Beitar Jerusalem led with about 50 events, including throwing objects, pitch invasions, and other violent acts (up from 45 last season).

They were followed by Hapoel Haifa fans with 26 incidents (23 last season), Maccabi Haifa with 24 incidents (same as last season), and Maccabi Netanya with 22 incidents (up from 19).

41 Incidents of Holocaust Trivialization Were Recorded

This marks a significant drop from last season's 109 cases.

Maccabi Haifa fans were responsible for around 39 incidents (62 last season).

Two additional cases were reported — one among Bnei Sakhnin fans and one among Kiryat Shmona fans.

Israeli Football Fans Continue to Remember and Call for the Return of the Hostages

Words cannot fully describe the meaningful and value-driven actions observed in stadiums by both fans and clubs.

Fans led chants calling for the return of the hostages, and clubs organized events in honor of their return, showing unwavering support for this cause.

Since October 7th, many fan groups have strengthened their identity around principles of community and solidarity. This development is to be commended, and we hope it continues in positive contexts—rather than veering into racism or violence.

Friday Matches Were a Success

Due to the ongoing situation, the league administration scheduled several Friday matches during the season. These matches were declared a success, allowing families and young fans to attend, creating a wonderful football experience.

We commend the league's decision and its partners and hope this principle will be adopted even more strongly in the upcoming season.

Nine Notable Incidents Involved Police Intervention with Fans

Approximately nine irregular incidents occurred due to police intervention involving fans.

Some of these documented events point to violent police conduct against supporters.

The 2024/25 Racism and Violence Report by the "Kick It Out Israel" program, an initiative by Givat Haviva, highlights the continuation of a troubling trend—a significant rise in racist chants in football stadiums, accompanied by a lack of meaningful enforcement against such incidents.

At the center of this season's events were the abandonment of two matches, a sharp increase in racist chants by fans of multiple clubs, and a serious injury caused by a smoke grenade that struck a child, who was subsequently hospitalized.



The 2024–2025 football season has come to an end, and the ongoing trend of lack of enforcement against racist chants in football stadiums continues—leading to yet more negative records being broken.

As we have warned throughout this season and over the past three seasons, when such phenomena are not met with serious, proactive measures, the situation only worsens. This is precisely what is happening in the stadiums.

With the exception of F.C. Ashdod, racist chants were recorded in every stadium across the league. Even in clubs where racist chanting was previously rare, such chants have now become more common and still go unanswered.

Alongside this troubling reality, it is important to highlight and acknowledge the moving gestures made by football fans across Israel—week after week in the stands—who consistently called for the return of all hostages and honored the memory of those who are no longer with us.

This report is based on observations made by trained monitors at every Premier League match. All incidents of racism and violence were documented through eyewitness accounts, and the data was cross-referenced with disciplinary rulings, referee reports, and media coverage.

The goal of the report is to reflect the full scope of incidents that fans may have encountered in the stadiums throughout the season.

Matan Segal, Director of Kick It Out Israel, comments:

The 2024–2025 football season has come to an end—a season that will be remembered not for the football itself, but for a series of troubling events that should concern every citizen in Israel.

The lack of enforcement against racism, violence, and homophobia—manifested in the absence of a dedicated sports judge, inadequate scheduling of early-hour matches, insufficient internal

investigations, and more—reflects the absence of a serious and effective effort to combat these phenomena.

In addition, much like broader Israeli society, anti-racism discourse has been pushed aside, and respect for the rule of law continues to erode. As a result, we find ourselves entering season after season in an increasingly difficult and disturbing reality.

The off-season between the closing of this campaign and the swift arrival of the next one must be used as a time for urgent action.

It is crucial to convene all relevant civil society actors, including fan organizations, to embed collaborative frameworks between these groups and the established systems, and to build bridges that will ensure that the upcoming season follows clear standards and creates a better experience for all football fans.

"Kick It Out Israel" will continue to lead the fight against racism and violence—through direct and personal action against every violation of the law, and through a continued push to enhance the fan experience and promote a healthy sports culture.

This has already proven to be possible this season through daytime match scheduling, which enabled family-friendly football experiences in the stands.

Here are the findings of the 2024–2025 season summary report:

Racism

- Throughout the 2024–2025 season, 367 racist chants were recorded.
- Among these, 14 were monkey chants heard in stadiums across the league.
- The club whose fans were recorded with the highest number of racist chants was Maccabi Tel Aviv, with 118 incidents (compared to 75 in the 2023–2024 season). They were followed by Beitar Jerusalem with 115 chants (100 last season), followed by Maccabi Netanya with 29 chants (compared to 9 last season — more than triple), Hapoel Haifa with 28 chants (compared to 14 — double), and Ironi Kiryat Shmona with 24 chants.
- **All clubs in the league, except for F.C. Ashdod, had at least one or more recorded incidents of racist chanting.**
- **The most frequently heard chant was: “Let the IDF win, f* the Arabs”, which was recorded 73 times by Kick It Out observers.** Examples of this chant during specific matchdays:
 - Matchday 1: A few Hapoel Haifa fans chanted the phrase from the stands.
 - Matchday 2: Before kickoff, while Bnei Sakhnin fans were cheering, a group of Be'er Sheva supporters began chanting it.
 - Matchday 7: During the Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Haifa game (played at Teddy Stadium with no Haifa fans), Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters chanted it as the players took the field.
 - Matchday 15: In the game between Hapoel Haifa and Bnei Raina, around 50 Hapoel Haifa fans chanted it.
 - Matchday 21: During Kiryat Shmona vs. Bnei Sakhnin, around 10 Kiryat Shmona fans sang the chant. Notably, other Kiryat Shmona supporters responded by booing them.

- Matchday 22: In Maccabi Netanya vs. Hapoel Jerusalem, hundreds of Maccabi Netanya fans chanted it.
- Matchday 31: A large group of Netanya fans repeated the same chant.

- **Other racist chants were also heard in stadiums. Selected examples include:**
 - Matchday 4: In F.C. Ashdod vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Maccabi fans sang:
“Why are there no schools in Gaza? Because there are no children left.”
 - Matchday 8: In Be'er Sheva vs. Bnei Raina, thousands of Be'er Sheva fans chanted at Raina's player Jaber, calling him a “terrorist.” They also held up signs reading: “Transfer the traitors” and “Abu Younes you wh**.”*
 - Matchday 10: In Kiryat Shmona vs. Hapoel Hadera, fans called the referee a “terrorist.”
 - Matchday 13: In Hapoel Haifa vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Maccabi fans chanted: “Tuama is a terrorist.”
 - Matchday 16: In Be'er Sheva vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Maccabi's CFO published a racist and offensive Facebook post stating:
“If you travel to Africa, don't be surprised to find monkeys around you.”
To his credit, Maccabi's owner acted swiftly and terminated his role the same day.
 - Matchday 17: In Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. F.C. Ashdod, Maccabi fans sang:
“I feel like throwing a firecracker at Al-Aqsa Mosque.”
 - Matchday 21: In Bnei Raina vs. Be'er Sheva, a single Be'er Sheva fan yelled at a Raina player:
“You Arab wh**.”*
 - Matchday 22: In Maccabi Netanya vs. Beitar Jerusalem, Beitar fans—as they often do—chanted:
“Here they come, the most racist team in the country,” as the players entered the pitch.
 - Matchday 31: In Maccabi Netanya vs. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, a video surfaced showing Netanya fans storming the pitch. One fan can be heard yelling at Be'er Sheva player Gréta:
“You black idiot.”



Exceptional Incidents

Two Matches Abandoned:

- Matchday 2: Hapoel Be'er Sheva vs. Bnei Sakhnin — Tensions rose between fan groups during the national anthem when some Sakhnin supporters sat or turned their backs. In response, dozens of Be'er Sheva fans stormed the pitch with sticks, intending to confront Sakhnin fans. A small group of Sakhnin fans also entered the pitch, leading to a clash. The match was cancelled.
- Matchday 20: Maccabi Haifa vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv — Pyrotechnics and flares were thrown every 10 minutes by Maccabi Haifa fans. At halftime, the match was officially abandoned.

Other Exceptional Incidents:

- Matchday 3: Entry gates for Bnei Sakhnin and Ashdod fans remained closed for an extended time.
- Matchday 4: Around 70 Sakhnin fans were kept outside the stadium in a match against Ironi Tiberias; entry was only allowed 30 minutes after kickoff.
- Matchday 14: Overbooking of tickets for Beitar Jerusalem fans against F.C. Ashdod. An altercation occurred involving Ashdod goalkeeper Ariel Harush.
- Matchday 16: Reports from both fan bases of long delays and crowding due to inadequate gate control at Be'er Sheva vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv.
- Matchday 26: Maccabi Haifa fans displayed a protest sign criticizing the club's ownership. Security forces confiscated the banner.
- Matchday 31: At Beitar Jerusalem vs. Maccabi Haifa, dozens of flares and smoke bombs were ignited. One projectile struck an 8-year-old boy in the stands. The game was paused and only resumed after club owner Barak Avramov and the announcer appealed to fans.
- Matchday 31: Hundreds of Maccabi Netanya fans stormed the pitch after a winning goal, some ran provocatively toward the Be'er Sheva section.

Police-Related Violence:

- Matchday 4: Police entered the Maccabi Tel Aviv section to remove fan choreography, despite prior approval.
- Matchday 13: Reports of aggressive security checks against Beitar Jerusalem and Be'er Sheva fans. Beitar fans were previously arrested en route.
- Matchday 14: Documented police violence against Beitar fans during F.C. Ashdod match, in the presence of the National Security Minister.
- Matchday 14: Brutal police behavior against Maccabi Haifa fans after the match vs. Ironi Tiberias, including a video showing a fan being kicked in the head.
- Matchday 18: Post-match, the father of Bnei Raina player Said Abu Farhi was arrested for allegedly cursing. He later reported Beitar fans had called his son a "terrorist."
- Matchday 29: Police clashed with Maccabi Haifa fans during a pre-game march vs. Be'er Sheva. Police claimed stones were thrown.
- Matchday 34: Security forces intervened in the Maccabi Netanya stand due to riots during the match against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Violence:

- 165 incidents of violence were recorded: fan riots, throwing objects, and more.
- Matchday 5: A match was played behind closed doors (Bnei Raina vs. Beitar Jerusalem). After the match, Beitar fans blocked Raina players from exiting until Beitar club staff intervened.
- Matchday 9: Prior to the Haifa derby, Maccabi Haifa's team bus was vandalized with graffiti including "Dia Saba is dead," "Death to the Greens."
- Matchday 13: A fight erupted among Maccabi Tel Aviv fans in their own stands. No security intervention occurred.
- Matchday 17: Before Beitar vs. Maccabi Haifa, a video showed Haifa fans attacking a Beitar supporter. Another video showed a fan dragged down stairs by security while his head hit each step.
- Matchday 24: During the Jerusalem derby, stones and objects were thrown at Hapoel Jerusalem buses. Some Beitar fans mocked the memory of Hersh Goldberg-Polin by mimicking arm severing.

Positive Events: Despite these incidents, numerous positive actions took place:

- Matchday 1: Most Maccabi Haifa fans opposed booing directed at Dia Saba.
- Matchday 2: Maccabi Tel Aviv fans displayed the hostage symbol in support of their return.
- Matchday 2: Maccabi Haifa fans held a banner reading "Maccabi Haifa — a symbol of coexistence."
- Matchday 3: Hours before kickoff, a special event by "Brothers 1906" and "Maccabi Fanatics" honored fallen fans Gil Avni and Omri Lavi.
- Matchday 3: Hapoel Haifa fans displayed a banner in memory of Hapoel Jerusalem fan Hersh Goldberg-Polin.
- Matchday 4 onward: Hapoel Jerusalem fans continued honoring Hersh Goldberg-Polin, kidnapped and murdered by Hamas.
- Matchday 7: Maccabi Tel Aviv held a memorial ceremony and created moving choreography in memory of fans murdered since October 7, calling for the hostages' return.
- Matchday 10: Two matches were held during daytime for the first time in 16 years, allowing families and young fans to attend.
- Matchday 11: Beitar Jerusalem fans honored both Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Uri Danino, who were kidnapped and murdered.
- Matchday 11: A Bnei Sakhnin fan respectfully requested others to honor the national anthem. The anthem proceeded without disturbance.
- Matchday 34: Before Hapoel Be'er Sheva vs. Maccabi Haifa, both fan groups prayed for the recovery of Gadi Kinda z"l. A Be'er Sheva fan offered refreshments to those praying.

Other Noteworthy Data:

- **Around 7 homophobic chants were heard this season:**
 - Matchday 8 & 16: Thousands of Maccabi Haifa fans chanted slurs at referee Sapir Berman.
 - Matchday 22: About 300 Hapoel Haifa fans called Dolev Haziza gay.

Holocaust Trivialization:

- **A decrease in such chants was recorded: 30 cases at Maccabi Haifa (down from 40). One incident each was recorded at Kiryat Shmona and Bnei Sakhnin.**
 - Matchday 1: Sakhnin fans chanted "Let there be a Holocaust for Maccabi."
 - Matchday 10: Kiryat Shmona fans called the referee "terrorist, Nazi," etc.
 - Matchday 12: Maccabi Haifa fans chanted "neo-Nazi" at the referee.

Pyrotechnics:

- 36 pyrotechnic incidents recorded this season, a major drop from 66 in the 2023—24 season.
- F.C. Ashdod had no recorded incidents of racism throughout the season.



Here are the findings of the report summarizing the season for 2024-25 (in parentheses, the 2023-24 season):

Team	Racist chants in the stands by fans	Monkey chants	Instances of racism by one or two individuals in the stands	Homophobic chants	Throwing objects and fan riots	Lighting smoke bombs, fireworks, and flares	Songs that belittle the memory of the Holocaust
Maccabi Tel Aviv	(72) 117	0	(3) 1	0	(11) 9	(11) 3	0
Beitar Jerusalem	(96) 115	(2) 0	(2) 0	(1) 0	(45) 50	(15) 14	0
Maccabi Netanya	(5) 21	(3) 5	(1) 3	(1) 0	(19) 22	(4) 1	0
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	(2) 14	(1) 5	(0) 3	0	(13) 13	(2) 0	0
Maccabi Haifa	(7) 9	(8) 1	(0) 1	(0) 1	(24) 24	(14) 14	(62) 39
Hapoel Haifa	(8) 18	(3) 3	(3) 7	(1) 1	(23) 26	(2) 1	(1) -
Bnei Sakhnin	(3) 11	0	0	0	(17) 3	(10) 1	(4) 1
Kiryat Shmona	19		5	2	1		1
Bnei Raina	(1) 2	-	-	-	(6) 1	(1) 3	0
Maccabi Petah Tikva	(0) 2	0	(0) 2	0	(3) 4	0	0
Hapoel Jerusalem	(0) 1	0	0	-	(5) 3	(1) 1	0
Ironi Tiberias	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
M.S. Ashdod	0	0	0	0	(5) 5	0	0
Hapoel Hadera	(0) 1	0	0	0	(1) 3	(1) 0	0
Total	(194) 331	(21) 14	(9) 22	(3) 4	(209) 165	(66) 38	(109) 41



Summary of the disciplinary proceedings at the Football Association's Tribunal for the Season, 2024-25 (with data from the 2023-24 season in parentheses):

Team	Fan riots / inappropriate fan behavior / entering the playing field / harm caused by fans	Fan racism
<u>Beitar Jerusalem</u>	(33) 41	(6) 5
Maccabi Haifa	(18) 19	(1) 0
<u>Hapoel Be'er Sheva</u>	(9) 18	(2) 2
Maccabi Netanya	(12) 17	(1) 1
Maccabi Tel Aviv	(13) 10	(2) 0
<u>Bnei Sakhnin</u>	(11) 10	(0) 2
<u>Hapoel Haifa</u>	(10) 7	(0) 1
<u>Bnei Raina</u>	(9) 4	(0) 0
M.S. Ashdod	(4) 6	(0) 0
Maccabi Petah Tikva	(2) 4	(0) 0
<u>Hapoel Hadera</u>	(1) 4	(0) 1
<u>Hapoel Jerusalem</u>	(3) 4	(0) 0
<u>Ironi Tiberias</u>	2	0
<u>Kiryat Shmona</u>	1	1
Total	(145) 147	(12) 12

- *The data was collected from the website of the Israel Football Association*