You are in your seat, the teams are out, and your phone is already out too. Somewhere else in the Premier League, a rival is chasing a late winner, a relegation contender has gone behind, or a match that affects your club's position is ticking into stoppage time. Following those scores while watching your own team has become part of the matchday for plenty of supporters.

There is a knack to it. You want useful updates, not a flat battery, a stalled app or a screen glowing in your face while something happens at the other end. The best approach is to prepare before kick-off, choose a reliable source and keep the phone as a companion to the game rather than its main event.

That balance matters. Digital media has made football an always-on conversation: live scores, clips, data graphics, podcasts and tactical analysis are never far away. But no notification can recreate the noise of a goal going in around you, or the nervous pause before a penalty. The phone can keep you informed about the rest of the league; it cannot replace being there.

First, know when the other matches are on

Kick-off time shapes the whole day. A 12:30 Saturday match means you may be checking afternoon results from the concourse or on the train home. A 17:30 game leaves time to follow the early fixtures before your own match, while a midweek 20:00 kick-off often means supporters have already seen the evening's first scores arrive during the working day.

Premier League fixtures are spread across weekends and evenings for television scheduling, and postponements can change the picture. edit: fixed that. Before you travel, check the fixture list and note which games are being played at the same time as yours. It is particularly useful if you are following a title race, European qualification, or the bottom end of the table, where one result can quickly alter the stakes.

Do not assume a match is still in progress because it was listed for the same day. Check for the latest kick-off time and any postponement before setting alerts. A quick look at the Premier League fixtures page, BBC Sport or a reputable live-score app will usually give you the current schedule.

Choose a live-score source before you arrive

Live score apps are the simplest way to track several games at once. BBC Sport, the Premier League app, Sky Sports, FotMob and Flashscore all offer some combination of scores, match events, tables and team information. Their layouts and alert controls differ, so pick the one you can read quickly rather than installing five apps in the queue.

For a basic matchday setup, follow the fixtures that matter to you and switch on only the alerts you need. A goal notification can be handy; a separate ping for every corner, substitution and yellow card can become a distraction. If the app lets you choose teams or competitions, set that up at home, where you can take your time and check the preferences.

What to look for in a score app

- **Fast, clear updates:** Scores and match status should be easy to scan at a glance.
- **Customisable push notifications:** Choose goals or full-time results rather than every minor event.
- **A useful league table:** Helpful when you want to see what a result means, not just what the score is.

- **Low-friction access:** A widget, lock-screen alert or saved competition can be quicker than searching through menus.
- **Reasonable data and battery use:** Continuous video and rich match feeds use more power than a simple score page.

Push notifications are useful, but treat them as prompts to check rather than the final word. hayters Alerts can be delayed, and a goal may be reviewed or ruled out. If the score matters, open the match page and confirm the current status. This is especially sensible when you are following a game whose result could affect your club's position.

Will your phone work inside the stadium?

Stadium mobile signal is not guaranteed. A ground can be busy enough to strain the local network, and coverage varies by stand, concourse and provider. Your phone may show bars but still struggle to load a live page. Stadium Wi-Fi, where available, can help, though it may require a login or become busy at half-time.



Before you leave home, make sure the app is updated and that you can sign in without needing to reset a password in the turnstile queue. If the app offers a text-only or lower-data view, use it. Avoid repeatedly refreshing a stalled screen: it rarely makes the signal stronger, and it can drain your battery in a hurry.

A little preparation goes a long way. Save the fixtures you care about, bring a charged phone and consider a small power bank if you have a long journey or are attending a double-header of football and travel. Check the club's ground information for any Wi-Fi details or restrictions. And if the connection drops, remember that the person beside you may have a better signal—or may already know the score from the roar in another stand.

Build a second-screen routine, not a second match

Second-screen behaviour inside grounds is now ordinary: checking a score, reading a team sheet, posting a photo or opening a replay while the match is on. The trick is to give those habits their place. A glance during a stoppage is different from watching your screen through a spell of open play.

Try checking other scores at natural breaks: before kick-off, during half-time, after a goal or when play is stopped for an injury. If your team is defending a lead, you may want fewer updates and more attention on the pitch. If the match has a quiet spell, a quick look elsewhere in the league is an understandable part of following the wider season.



There is also a simple etiquette to it. Keep screen brightness down, avoid holding a phone high during a decisive moment, and do not spoil a goal for nearby supporters by shouting out a result before they have seen it. If you are filming, follow the ground's rules and think about the people behind you. The shared experience still matters; not everyone in the row wants a live feed of your screen.

A useful matchday phone checklist

- Check the day's Premier League schedule and identify the games that matter to you.
- Choose one live-score app and follow the relevant teams or fixtures.
- Set push notifications to a manageable level before entering the ground.
- Charge your phone and carry a power bank if your day is long.
- Check whether the club provides stadium Wi-Fi and how to connect.
- Keep your phone away during the passages of play you most want to remember.

Scores are only the start: tables, stats and tactical context

Once you know the score, the next question is usually what it means. A live table can show how a result changes the standings, but remember that it is provisional while matches are in progress. If teams have played different numbers of games, the points column alone may not tell the whole story.

Stats have become mainstream matchday reading. Apps and broadcasters may show possession, shots, shots on target, expected goals or other measures. These can add context, but they are not the match itself. A team can dominate possession without creating the best chances; one striking number does not tell you everything about a performance.

For supporters who enjoy the tactical side, analysis no longer waits for the next morning's newspaper. Club and broadcaster accounts, writers on platforms such as The Athletic, and independent analysts on YouTube or social media can offer shape diagrams and explanations of pressing or build-up play. Use that content between games or at half-time rather than trying to read a long thread while your own side attacks.

The same goes for podcasts. A matchday podcast on the journey to the ground can set up the weekend's storylines; a post-match show can help make sense of the results on the way home. The growth of stats, podcasts and tactical content has widened the conversation around football. It has also made it easier to follow several competitions at once, without every supporter needing to be glued to a television.

Radio commentary: a useful backup, with a few catches

Radio commentary can be a good way to follow a particular game when you want more than a score. It brings the changing shape of a match into focus: who is pushing forward, how much time remains and whether a side is under pressure. BBC Radio 5 Live and local radio stations may carry relevant football coverage, depending on the schedule and rights.

Do check availability before relying on it. Live sports audio can be restricted by broadcast rights, location or the station’s online service, and coverage will not always include the match you want. Commentary can also lag behind live events, particularly when streamed. If you are in the ground, a delayed goal report may arrive after you have already seen the score change in an app.

There is another practical point: earbuds can make it harder to hear stewards, friends and the match around you. If you listen, keep the volume low and use one earbud at most. Radio commentary is an option for the journey or a quiet moment, not a reason to shut out the ground.

Make the old rituals part of the new ones

Phone habits have joined the matchday routine, but they have not erased its older details. There is still the walk from the station, the meet-up outside the ground, the programme or team sheet, the first look at the pitch and the conversation about the line-up. For some supporters, checking the early results is part of that ritual; for others, the phone stays in a pocket until half-time.

There is no correct level of digital involvement. Some people want a quiet score update when a rival scores; others want the full league table and a running feed. What matters is being deliberate. Decide what you want to know, set your alerts accordingly, and leave room for the match in front of you.

A good matchday is not a contest between the screen and the stands. It is possible to know that a rival has dropped points and still be fully present when your team wins a corner. Follow the other Premier League scores with a reliable app, use stadium mobile signal sensibly, and save deeper stats, podcasts and tactical reading for the moments when they fit. Then put the phone away when the game gives you something worth watching.

Quick guide: the best way to keep up

What you want Best option When to check Fast score updates A live-score app with selected push notifications At stoppages or when an alert arrives How results affect the table The Premier League app, BBC Sport or another league table At half-time or after full-time More detail on another match Radio commentary, if rights and coverage allow On the journey or during a suitable break Tactical or statistical context Analysis, match data and football podcasts Before the game, at half-time or on the way home

Football follows you all week now, and the live-score screen is part of that. Here's a story that illustrates this perfectly: thought they could save money but ended up paying more.. At the ground, though, it works best as a window on the wider league—not a barrier between you and the match you came to see.