The **Republic of Ireland national football team** represents [Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland) in [association football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football). It is governed by the [Football Association of Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_Association_of_Ireland) (FAI) and plays its home fixtures at the [Aviva Stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aviva_Stadium) in [Dublin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin). Its current manager is [Giovanni Trapattoni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Trapattoni).

The team made its debut at the [1924 Summer Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland_at_the_1924_Summer_Olympics), reaching the quarter-finals. Between 1924 and 1936, the team competed as the **Irish Free State** and from then until 1950, it was referred to by the FAI as **Éire** or **Ireland**. In 1953, [FIFA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA) decreed that for competitive matches in tournaments that both Irish teams may enter, the FAI team would be officially called the Republic of Ireland while the [IFA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Football_Association) team was to be named [Northern Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland_national_football_team).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland_national_football_team#cite_note-1)

Under the guidance of [Jack Charlton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Charlton) and his successor [Mick McCarthy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mick_McCarthy), the team enjoyed its most successful era, qualifying for [UEFA Euro 1988](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Euro_1988) in their first appearance at the[UEFA European Championship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_European_Championship), reaching the quarterfinals of the [1990 FIFA World Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_FIFA_World_Cup) in their first ever appearance at the finals, and making the last 16 at both the [1994](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_FIFA_World_Cup) and [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup)FIFA World Cups. Under the guidance of Giovanni Trapattoni, the team narrowly lost out on qualification for the [2010 FIFA World Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_FIFA_World_Cup) during a controversial [play-off](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_vs_Republic_of_Ireland_2010_FIFA_World_Cup_play-off) but went on to qualify for [UEFA Euro 2012](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Euro_2012).

[Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland) was the first nation from outside the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) to [defeat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_v_Ireland_%281949%29) [England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_national_football_team) on home soil at a fixture played at [Goodison Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodison_Park), [Liverpool](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool), in 1949. The team also reached the quarter-finals of the [1964 European Nations' Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1964_European_Nations%27_Cup).