

8 Best Games to Play, with No FIFA this year:

Highlights:

- Despite 30 years with the FIFA licence, EA seems to be struggling to keep momentum going with declining sales of its latest football title EA SPORTS FC 24.

- With so many different elements of the 'World's Game'; there are titles which tackle everything from the strategy of team formation to the management of the stadium.

- With the rise of Indie titles, and the shift to free-to-play in many instances, the soccer scene in gaming is diversifying like never before.

1. EA SPORTS FC 24

While it may seem like a no-brainer for footie-fans out there who have been playing electronic eleven-aside for a while now, EA Sports FC 24 is a spiritual successor to Electronic Arts' annual FIFA series.

However, with the FIFA branding since been removed from EA soccer titles following the announcement last year - after rumours of pay disputes regarding the use of the FIFA moniker [[Link: EA Sports is Ending Its Partnership With FIFA, Rebranding Soccer Game Franchise](#)] - you'd be forgiven for believing that the annual franchise had given 2023 a miss.

Regardless of declining sales (perhaps due to losing the FIFA name [[Link: EA Sports FC Sales Down Compared to FIFA](#)]) this year's pseudo-sequel is garnering similar praise and criticism as former entries. Yet, if you were hoping for a drastic change-of-pace for the seasoned soccer game with the change of name then you'd be sorely mistaken - but, with EA's proven formula for their sports titles it still remains one of the most solid choices for those who enjoy the world's game.

2. EA SPORTS FIFA 23

Being EA's last foray onto the virtual pitch with the FIFA branding, EA SPORTS FIFA 23 is a testament to the 30 years of partnership which led the soccer title to the chart-topping places it reached. [[Link: FIFA 23 Could Become Best-Selling Title in Franchise History](#)]

With unique features like the much-touted 'Power Shots' [[Link: FIFA 23: How to Perform a Power Shot](#)] and the expected iterative improvements to visuals and movement from the former year's entry, it's a solid choice for any football fan - but if the FIFA name is one which you just wouldn't feel right playing without then this is your most modern chance to play with it in an EA title.

3. Football Manager 2023

If the strategy and organisation of FIFA's Ultimate Team game mode were what grabbed your attention when a new title dropped, then perhaps shooting for the much-loved Football Manager series would be worth a punt? [[Link: All Confirmed Features For Football Manager 23 So Far](#)]

After 40 years in the gaming sphere, and a very-avid following, the Football Manager series has become more accessible than ever - thanks to console versions on both Xbox and Playstation, and a Nintendo Switch port still in the pipeline - and thanks to improvements across the board, has overtaken series such as FIFA and EA SPORTS FC in many respects. [[Link: Football Manager Features That Should Be Added To Future EA Sports FC and FIFA Titles](#)]

While players can't control the action in the same ways that FIFA, EA SPORTS FC and eFootball provide, the extensive options which extend the player's reach beyond the players themselves and to the pitches and stadiums themselves create a much more enriching experience.

While not a game for every football gamer, if the love of the game surrounds all its facets then Football Manager 2023 is a solid choice.

4. EA SPORTS FIFA 14

While it may seem like an oddball choice due to its age, EA SPORTS FIFA 14 is a title in EA's annual soccer series which shirked the reputation of being a lazy rehash of the game before with new players and minor visual upgrades.

Being one of the highest ranked FIFA games of all time, according to Metacritic (and ourselves!) [[Link: 10 Best FIFA Games Ever](#)] comes with the explanation that it was the first FIFA title to be available on the newly released Playstation 4 and Xbox One. This leap also incorporated another jump, from the Impact engine to the Ignite engine, creating a brand-new feel to gameplay from older titles. [[Link: 2K Versus EA: Who Makes Better Sports Games?](#)]

While this high amount of praise and accolades may interest you in playing this title, the bad news is that the entry is no longer available on digital stores following its removal by EA. However, being that it was available on (almost) every platform at the time - from iOS, Nintendo Wii and Playstation 2 to the previously mentioned PS4 and Xbox One - it shouldn't be too difficult to find a physical copy should you wish to play it.

5. Sensible World of Soccer

For those who thought going back and playing EA SPORTS FIFA 14 was too much of an ask, then you had best look away for this recommendation! Being the groundbreaking sequel to the already genre-defining Sensible Soccer [[Link: 10 Best Amiga Games](#)] this title may not be as hyper-realistic as EA SPORTS FC 24, or as intricate as Football Manager 2024; but what it lacks there it makes up for in pure, unadulterated fun.

With pixel-perfect estimations of not only the players and the pitches but the ensuing soccer shenanigans; Sensible World of Soccer is ideal for those who just want a quick burst of football fun on modern systems with a nostalgic twist. Released on the Xbox 360 marketplace in 2007, and still being accessible on the Microsoft Store to this day - alongside a Metacritic review score of 81 alongside a user score of 7.0 - this tiny title tackles its way through this list as a proven G.O.A.T! [[Link: Sensible World of Soccer \(Xbox 360\) Metacritic](#)]

6. eFootball 2024

Once upon a time, Konami's Pro Evolution Soccer series fought valiantly against EA's FIFA for the top spot on children's Christmas lists but those days have passed with Electronic Arts on top and Konami opting for a name change and free-to-play model to capture another audience.

That freedom does come with limitations, however – as Konami's eFootball 2024 suffers from visual downgrades and a refocus to online modes which have disheartened many of its longtime fans. **[Link: eFootball 2024: 5 Biggest Improvements Konami's Game Still Needs]**

Yet, balancing out the lack of features comes its non-existent initial price-point, making it the most accessible title on this list. If none of the other titles on this list pique your interest, or there are a few more days until they can be in your game library then the one factor eFootball 2024 has in its corner is that you can download it for free today!

7. Soccer Story

Similarly to Football manager 2024, if your interest in football lies not squarely on the action taking place on the pitch but also in the world of the game itself then this quaint RPG experience from the creators of the similarly sporty 'Golf Story' may be the last-minute goal you were looking for!

While the football action itself may be underdeveloped compared to other titles, and the exploration may be tedious after a while; the ball-physics create a compelling sports-RPG experience – at least, in the first few hours of play. **[Link: Soccer Story Review]** While not as complete a soccer package as others on this list, the indie charm and attempts at humour alongside its RPG roots create for a compelling title.

8. Rocket League

Now, it may seem crazy to include a game on a list like this which only includes half of the words in the 'Football' title (that's the ball, not the foot!)

However - with almost a decade of concurrent adoration from its players **[Link: Gamer Makes Wild Custom Rocket League Xbox Controller]** - it takes the high-paced action, strategy and customisation of the 'real thing' and introduces not only high-powered sports cars, but the unique gameplay provided by their physics.

Since going free-to-play, Rocket League has become even more accessible to even more players – and this ensures that you have more than enough fellow Rocketeers to play with when that soccer itch comes calling. While the longevity of its free-to-play model is still debated by players **[Link: Rocket League Will Have to Face the Reaper Sooner or Later]**; its popularity and quality of gameplay have created a football-like experience like no other, and ensured that its place in this list is safe for a long time to come!