



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

Chairman's Statement

Don't forget...

15 Benefits of Schools' Football

Look out for our new "15 Benefits of Schools' Football" campaign on the [website](#), YouTube and our social media channels

Updated COVID guidance

The guidance which the ESFA has adapted for schools' football from The FA's recent document can be found on the ESFA website

Risk Assessments

New Risk Assessment documents have been shared. Please ensure you are completing these as usual alongside COVID-19 assessments for activity. Download them [here](#).

Dear Schools' Football Colleagues,

I hope that you are keeping safe and well and enjoying the summer with family and friends.

As the new season of schools' football approaches, there will inevitably be many concerns about players, parents and staff being able to resume involvement safely. For district and county football, the need to ensure that risk assessments are in place, alongside appropriate safety measures, poses challenges that add to our workload as volunteers. I hope that the guidance and templates provided by the ESFA are proving useful – please let us know if there are other ways in which we can offer assistance, and please continue to make us aware of your ideas and concerns.

Following the decisions taken at the ESFA AGM in 2018, County SFAs have been working on plans for the re-structuring of football within their area of jurisdiction. Counties were invited to identify which of three phases they wished to work within, and most of the counties that opted to be in Phase 1 have now submitted their plans and have had them approved. For those counties, implementation will commence from the start of the 2020-21 season.

Clearly, the events of recent months have been hugely disruptive and will have affected the ability of other counties to finalise their plans. As a consequence, the ESFA is extending the deadline for counties in Phases 1 and 2 to the end of October, and to counties in Phase 3 to 1st December. For those counties, we recognise that implementation of some elements of their plans may take effect from the beginning of the 2021-22 season. We hope that the extensions will be helpful, and the ESFA Development staff will continue to work with and support those counties to finalise their plans.

I know that the need to complete a County Plan may seem like a daunting task – that was certainly my mindset as I considered how to approach it, how much time it would take, and what would be the tangible benefits. However, having completed it, with the support and encouragement of the ESFA Development staff, I hope that I can provide you with an assurance that it is well worthwhile. We are already able to focus more clearly on what needs to be done to further enhance the provision of schools' football, particularly for our districts. If I can help in any way, please get in touch.

Finally, I want to thank you for all your hard work in running football in your county. As I contemplate the to-do list here in Kent, it seems endless. I am sure you will have similar thoughts. However, never has there been a more important time to provide young people with the unique and special opportunities that school sport – schools' football in particular – offers to them and supports their physical and mental well-being.

With best wishes

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