



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

A message from the Chairman

Don't forget...

The Draws for our 2021/22 Inter School National Cup Competitions are Live! View the fixtures [here](#)

ESFA Council Meeting:
Saturday 18th
September

It's a huge honour to be writing my first Chairman's statement for Membership Matters as I look forward to the season ahead with a great deal of excitement. I am particularly pleased that our Vice Chairman for 2021-22 is another serving teacher, Stuart Botham, and we are driven to ensure that our experience of current employment in schools is used effectively and with great consideration to move our wonderful association forwards for the benefit of our schoolchildren.

I am determined that every decision we make has children and equality of opportunity at the very centre of it. I also recognise that, very regrettably, it is almost impossible to find agreement on all matters from all stakeholders but will ensure that, along with the band of dedicated volunteers and talented staff, we as the governing body for schools' football continue to move with the times and to grow from strength to strength. Together with membership, we will work collaboratively to provide opportunities for children to make positive lifelong memories from their involvement in schools' football within the educational, child-centred ethos that sets it apart from all other elements of the game.

I look forward to what we all hope will be an uninterrupted season of football and to meeting as many of you as possible at various events throughout the coming season.

Whether your involvement be in providing opportunities for young people to play football within the curriculum, at inter-school, inter-district, inter-county or international level I thank you and send my best wishes for everything you do this year.

Mark Hignett



Safeguarding Operating Standard (SOS)

At the first time of asking, the ESFA has been successful in achieving The FA's "Safeguarding Operating Standard". This standard is assessed by Girling Hughes, an independent body commissioned by The FA to assess safeguarding practices in football.

Girling Hughes concluded that "ESFA is ensuring that safeguarding is a strong part of its governance structures and operational practices...Governance in ESFA is good...ESFA has met the (Safeguarding Operating) Standard". As well as verifying that safeguarding practice is in accordance with statutory legislation, the report also identifies nearly 30 areas of good practice and assessors commented positively about the safeguarding knowledge and experience in the organisation.

Achievement of the SOS is a condition of FA grant which has now been met, and the FA has congratulated the ESFA for achievement at the first attempt.

Competition Play on Dates

With the new season rapidly approaching make sure you familiarise yourself with the competition play on dates available [here](#). Please ensure you are arranging your fixtures to be played before these play on dates.

If you have any questions or issues with your competition fixtures please contact competitions on competitions@schoolsfa.com

Covid-19 Guidance

Please familiarise yourself with the latest Covid 19 guidance issued by the FA. Full information available on our website [here](#).

Discipline Update

The FA have made some changes to their disciplinary procedure, a detailed description of these changes can be viewed [here](#).

For any questions on the ESFA's disciplinary process please contact Discipline@Schoolsfa.com.



FA Heading Guidance

The FA published new heading guidance in July 2021 with new guidance aimed primarily at training sessions. See this guidance update [here](#).

The FA have also published guidance on heading in youth football in particular which can be downloaded below.

[FA Youth Heading Guidance Chart](#)

Website Update

We have recently updated the ESFA website making it clearer and easier to find the information you are looking for. We have introduced a 'For Associations' page where everything associations could possibly need can be found! Check out the new 'For Associations' page [here](#).



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