



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

A message from the Chairman

REMINDERS

ESFA AGM Part 2

Friday 19th
November,
online via
Microsoft Teams

6:30pm login for
7:00pm start

Please RSVP to
andrea.chilton@schoolsfa.com by
14 November
2021

Despite the continuing covid-related struggles and the rise in positive cases, it has been fantastic to see the return of schools' football this academic year. Whether that be curricular, intra-school, inter-school, inter-district or inter-county, it is brilliant to see so much football being played in schools. Not only is this so positive in terms of opportunities to play football, it is also really important in supporting the mental health of so many children, which has seen such a decline nationally as a result of the pandemic.

I am extremely fortunate in my job at Moreton School in Wolverhampton to see the positive impact of schools' football on a daily basis and to see the 'buzz' created in the build up to games and on match day itself. This is mirrored by the pride that is evident for those in school who are selected to represent their districts and counties. Sometimes, as the saying goes, you don't appreciate what you have until it's gone and the enforced lack of footballing opportunity over the last two seasons has shown us all not to take the football offer, or indeed anything else, for granted.

Another recent highlight has been our international trials getting underway with the regional stages taking place across the country. As always, there has been lots of talent on show but, even more importantly, excellent attitudes along with self-discipline, resilience, respect and enjoyment. These are qualities that facilitate success in anything that we do in life and I know that this will continue into the second stage of trials where I really look forward to watching the young people develop both in footballing terms and as people.

Finally, I hope as many of you as possible will be joining us for our 'AGM part 2' in the coming weeks. Having listened to membership, we took the decision to move it from a Saturday to a Friday evening due to the schools' football commitment on Saturdays in November. One positive of recent times has been the increased utilisation of online meetings and this makes it possible for volunteers from all over the country to 'attend' a Friday evening meeting.

As always, I would like to thank all in membership for everything you continue to do to provide safe and positive footballing experiences for schoolchildren across the country and wish you all the very best for the continuing season.

Best wishes,
Mark Hignett
ESFA Chairman 2021-22



New Appointments

The ESFA is delighted to be welcoming new colleagues to the team in the 2021/22 season -

The ESFA's international programme is benefitting from the support of Chris Baty who joins the national body in a voluntary capacity as International Programme Co-ordinator for the U15 girls' programme. James Norton joins the U18 boys international squad as goalkeeping coach on a voluntary basis and Paloma Gioia joins the U15 girls as physio, also in a voluntary capacity.

There are also some welcome additions to the ESFA workforce at the office in Stafford -

Daniel Smith joins the workforce at HQ on 4th November as the new Football Projects Manager, looking after the development priorities in the FA funding contract. Maria Fernandes joins the National Competitions team as a part time National Competitions Secretary, from 1st Nov - 30th June 2022 and Josh Watton joins the PR, Marketing and Comms team as a part time Social Media Officer, from 26th Oct - 30th June 2022

Glossary of Terms

A recently updated glossary of terms can be viewed on our website [here](#)

Consent forms

A reminder that participation/photography consent forms must be signed by the parents of every player participating in district or county activity. The consent forms can be downloaded from our website [here](#)

Safeguarding Courses Refresh

Members should be aware that recently a change has been made by The FA which sees a requirement for a refresh of all Safeguarding qualifications every two years, from the previous three.



Team Officials on the Portal

Please can you ensure that all of your team officials are correct on the Portal. This includes removing any member that is no longer involved with your team(s).

National Inter-School competition entries

Following a year of interruptions to National schools' football competitions, the ESFA has been delighted to see the inter-school National Competition entry numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The ESFA has received a total of 6,563 teams entries from 1,196 schools across England. We have also received a record number of girls' entries this season with 1703.

National Finals 20/21 - Player Feedback

As the delayed National Finals for 20/21 finally concluded in September, players were once again delighted to have had the opportunity to take part. The players' surveys showed that all participants felt safe and that most enjoyed the event. All would watch the fixture back on YouTube, and all felt well looked after on the day. We look forward to sharing more player feedback with you as the season progresses, and a huge thank you to the volunteers who worked tirelessly with the national office to ensure that these finals could take place.

Risk Assessments

A reminder to membership that detailed risk assessments must be completed for all activity conducted by associations.

A risk assessment template can be downloaded from our website [here](#).

We are planning to host a risk assessment workshop in the near future to help those responsible to successfully complete the task.

If there are any other areas of football admin that members would like some help with, please get in touch with Andrea.Chilton@schoolsfa.com.



ESFA Partner Updates

We have recently launched the 8th season of the [PlayStation F.C. Schools' Cup](#) with brand new campaign ambassadors and exciting new plans for the season. The biggest addition to the PlayStation F.C. Schools' Cup campaign for 21/22 will be an Esports tournament, hosted throughout the season with the finals planned to take place at the PlayStation F.C. Schools' Cup finals festival in May 2022.

[Utilita Energy](#) remain committed to their partnership with the ESFA. Their Energy High5 Campaign will continue to occupy the front of the England Shirts for our U15 Schoolgirl and U18 Schoolboy international teams.

A new Partnership with [Pro:Direct](#) has recently been announced with them becoming the Association's official kit provider. Pro:Direct will supply the ESFA U15 Schoolgirl and U18 Schoolboy squads with their official kit for the 2021/22 season as well as offer exclusive discounts for membership through their clubhouse scheme.

The ESFA's partnership with [UCFB](#), our official Higher Education partner is continuing for another season. Students are being given the opportunity to work with the ESFA's marketing team on campaigns and we hope that UCFB will provide the opportunity for two friendly fixtures against our U18 England Schoolboys squad.

[First Point USA](#), the ESFA's official overseas scholarship provider have continued their partnership for the 2021/22 season and are eager to engage with the ESFA international Squads throughout the coming season.

The Association's partnership with [VEO](#) continues to flourish, with cameras being used to capture early-round National Cup footage as well as being utilised by our International squads to capture friendly matches and training sessions.

[The Oddballs Foundation](#) remain the official charity partners of the association with the partnership continuing to raise awareness of testicular cancer across the UK.

[Panini](#) continue to work with the ESFA running their primary school "[Classroom Challenge](#)". A brand new classroom challenge has been launched this week with the competition starting in January.

[inspiresport](#) continue their partnership with the association for this season, providing our international squads with a warm weather training camp during February half term in preparation for their competitive fixtures.

There are a number of other organisations who support the ESFA with their own resources, by reducing fees considerably or by gifting equipment. We therefore add our thanks to 247.TV, broadcast partner; [thee5three photography](#), official photographer; [33Creative](#), design partner and [Mark Harrod](#), equipment supplier. Their contribution, and that of others named here, remains vital to the viability of the Association and to the quality of our work.



Under 11 7-a-side Inter-School Cups

We would like to remind membership following the announcement in July's edition of Membership Matters of the structure of the ESFA's Under 11 offering for the 2021/22 season. We will be continuing with our offer for Under 11 age group using the following three categories of competition:

School Teams' Cup (mixed permitted)

Girls' Cup (girls only)

Small Schools' Cup (schools must have fewer than 65 pupils in total in Years 5 or 6 according to the numbers on roll as confirmed by the preceding year's summer census)

The ESFA deadline for completing each stage of the competition is as follows:

District Rounds Saturday 04 December 2021 (winning team details must be sent to the County Secretary / Organiser)

County Rounds Saturday 29 January 2022 (winning team details must be sent to ESFA HQ)

Regional Finals Saturday 26 March 2022

The tournaments will operate using the existing rules and format. Please remember that only pupils in Years 5 and 6 are eligible to participate.

A toolkit to support team managers and county competition organisers will be sent out in due course.



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