



Business Name

Membership Matters

Chairman's Statement

Don't forget...

The ESFA will continue to update our social media accounts and website with ongoing information and changes relating to Schools' Football and any changes to Government guidance regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Important messages will also be circulated to Membership via email where necessary.

Membership Matters will continue to be circulated with monthly updates and information for all Membership, please remember to share it with members of your Association as you see fit

Welcome to the start of the new season of schools' football! It will be a different start than normal, but earlier this week we received the excellent news that the DfE has amended its guidance to give the green light for inter-school football to resume with immediate effect. This guidance now aligns with that previously issued by the DCMS, via the FA, that gave grassroots football (including our inter-district and inter-county activities) permission to resume from 1st September.

Our staff have been preparing for the resumption of ESFA activities. Districts and Counties have received details of the affiliation process and I urge you to complete this as soon as possible. Also, please give your full support to the inter-district and inter-county National Competitions – now, more than ever, young people need the opportunity to enjoy the unique and special experiences that schools' representative football offers. Thousands of schools have also received details of the myriad National Competitions – for girls, boys, elite schools, small schools, B teams – that the ESFA run and which give so many players lifelong memories. Please encourage your schools to enter.

We will continue to provide you with the advice and support you need to restart your activities locally. Elsewhere in this edition of Membership Matters, there are details of how you can access Covid guidance and Risk Assessments. I know that many districts and counties have already made full use of these, and I've been delighted to see that some early season matches have already been played. Lots of positive social media posts have characterised these activities – great publicity for schools' football!

Sadly, we lost another member of the ESFA family recently with the passing of former chairman John Appleby. He was affectionately known as "Mr Staffordshire", having been Secretary of the county for many years. There have been some amazing tributes to John, richly deserved. I was honoured to be part of a large gathering for his funeral in his home village of Repton. A true schools' football man, he leaves a great legacy in Staffordshire, which I know will be cherished and fostered.

I must also pay tribute to two colleagues who are retiring from Council: Stuart Inger and John Martin. Stuart joined Council in 1994, and has been a stalwart of the international programme, a source of wisdom across the full range of ESFA activities, and a tireless worker for schools' football. John's six years on Council have been characterised by a similar capacity for hard work, as well as an active role in bringing to fruition much-needed structural change. There will be an opportunity for fuller tributes to be paid to both Stuart and John at the AGM, but I wish to thank them on your behalf for their wonderful contributions to the ESFA and I'm delighted that they will continue to support our activities in the South-West.



Chairman's Statement (continued)

Ray Brown and Gavin Rusling will be joining Council from the South-West, and Eamon Kearney from the South-East and we look forward to them being involved. We currently have opportunities for representatives from the North, the Midlands and the South-West to join us. Interested, or know of someone who is? We would be pleased to hear from you. I can guarantee you a warm welcome, camaraderie, enjoyment, and, above all, a real satisfaction in supporting the opportunities for young people across the country to play schools' football.

On a personal note, I am honoured that my ESFA Council colleagues have asked me to continue as Chairman for another season. Like them and like so many of you, I care deeply about the ESFA's history, values and potential. Thanks to you all, the ESFA is a hub for extraordinary opportunities for young people and a pioneer of accessible, inclusive football. I want to thank all of our staff who have worked flat out to get the ESFA through the difficulties of the past few months, and to prepare us - against such a challenging backdrop - for the season ahead. And I want too to thank all of you for the great work that you have done and continue to do as we navigate the immediate challenges of restarting our activities.

Schools' football is where education and sport flourish, where we develop knowledge alongside skills and values, and where young people can be competitive, considerate and truly enjoy their football. Let's make it happen again this season!

Best wishes, and stay safe and well.

Phil Harding

Summer Summary

Over the summer, the ESFA has issued various messages and guidance documents— we have compiled these for you in a summary below, in case you have missed any of the information circulated:

Temporary changes to FA DBS checks: Some changes were implemented for the renewal of FA DBS checks, you may wish to check and see if you or your coaching staff have DBS certificates that are included in these changes. [Click here](#) for more information

FA and ESFA COVID-19 guidance documents: The ESFA has a dedicated page on the website to house all FA and ESFA guidance documents and risk assessments to allow the safe return of schools' football. Please ensure you are familiar with all guidance and that all risk assessments are completed prior to any activity. [Click here](#) to go to our COVID-19 specific page and remember that failure to comply with government guidance immediately invalidates our insurance.

Risk Assessments: The ESFA has created updated general risk assessment documents, that must be used in the planning of any schools' football activity **as well as** the new COVID-19 risk assessment documents. You can access the general risk assessment documents by clicking [this link](#).



In Memoriam

Sadly, there have been a number of additions to the ESFA's "in memoriam" page on the website over the past few months.

Paul Rickard, ESFA Council Member, John Appleby, former ESFA Council Member and David Eccles, Scottish Schools' FA Goalkeeping Coach have all passed away over recent months and you can read the ESFA's tributes to them, submitted by various ESFA Council Members [here](#).

Please contact sarah. Kearney@schoolsfa.com if you have any tributes to members of the Schools' Football community that you would like adding to the site.

Council Membership

Thanks to those of you who helped to fill our elected Member vacancies on Council by nominating colleagues to join us: a very warm welcome to Eamonn Kearney from the SE and Gavin Rusling from the SW, elected as full Council Members for 3 seasons, and to Ray Brown, elected under extended eligibility to serve the SW for one season.

Ray and Gavin join Mike Coyne in serving the SW, following the retirement from Council of John Martin and Stuart Inger. Grateful thanks are offered to both for their extended and extensive service to the National body. There remains one unfilled post on Council for the SW.

The north continues to be represented by Owen Aiston, Alan Johnston and Tony James. There remains one vacancy for the north.

In the south east, Dave Woollaston, Phil Harding and Stuart Botham remain committed to serving for their next three year term, and are looking forward to welcoming Eamonn to their regional work.

In the Midlands, following the sad passing of Paul Rickard, two vacancies remain: Mark Hignett and Mark Warren remain in post.

As for our external members, Peter Clayton has been re-elected by The FA to serve as their rep on our Council, and Ray Ashley begins his second season as disability specialist co-opted to Council. Marvin Robinson, former Independent Council Member, has been co-opted to Council for his commercial and digital expertise and Mike Spinks, standing down from his representative role in the SE, is co-opted due to his role representing the ESFA on the FA Council. This fills the co-opted posts on Council. The independent Council Member vacancy created by the end of Marvin's term in office will be advertised next week and the Honorary Auditors remain hopeful for a strong field.



ESFA Partnerships

The FA

Colleagues may be aware of the material financial hardship being felt by The FA following the cessation of football in March. As well as cuts to the CFA network and other funded Members, including the ESFA, The FA is restructuring internally in order to cut costs. A significant redundancy programme is underway, with changes to operating practices also being planned. CFAs will, for example, no longer be in a position to offer the range of courses they have done in the past, with the majority moving on line between Christmas and Easter. For those of you who rely on CFAs for partnership support or services, you may now find that more difficult to secure. We are working with CSFAs affected by cuts to administration services to find alternative short term solutions.

These solutions are necessarily short term, because we face a degree of uncertainty over the future of our own FA funding. Cuts of 32% have been imposed this season, and unlike CFAs, we have no guarantee of this level of funding being sustained into season 21/22. Future funding will be dependent on the outcomes of an “Education Partners’ Review”, being conducted by The FA by personnel seconded from the Department of Digital, Media and Sport. Our first meeting with Charlotte Lawrence, leading the review on behalf of the National Game Board, is imminent.

ACTION FOR ESFA MEMBERS



We need your help now please. The FA is conducting some research to inform its “education review” and the link below takes you to their survey. Unfortunately the survey isn’t particularly targeted at our audience and does take a few minutes to complete. However, unless we stimulate a significant response, we will miss the opportunity for you to contribute. You are therefore **urged**, please, to complete the survey (County FAs will also be invited to respond), which can be done individually or on behalf of an Association.

The importance of doing this cannot be over-estimated, so your co-operation is greatly appreciated: should you wish to have a direct conversation with The FA instead, or submit your views by email, please contact Andrea.Chilton@schoolsfa.com and your preferences will be passed on. Thanks in advance.

Please follow the link below to the online survey:

<http://emea.focusvision.com/survey/selfserve/5a3/200808>



Sponsors

We are delighted that, despite the early curtailment of last season and the relative uncertainty for this season, PlayStation and Danone wish to continue their support of the ESFA's national competitions for the coming season. Similarly, Utilita, our major new sponsor, UCFB, Pendle and inspiresport remain a vital part of our international programme, and we welcome First Point USA as our new US scholarships partner, following the closure of Pass4Soccer, to our sponsors group. A new 3 year partnership with VEO Technologies, performance and analysis recording device suppliers, will be launched later this month via the website and email. We remain, as ever, very grateful to our sponsors, without whom our programmes would be significantly depleted.

Partners

We are also pleased that Panini want to continue to provide children and their schools with the opportunity to win prizes in football-related competitions. Look out for the new Classroom Challenge campaign, which starts shortly!

The ESFA's partnership with Mark Harrod Ltd. will also continue for the coming season and Members and schools will still be able to access the services of the children's bereavement charity, Grief Encounter. We will be continuing to work closely with 353 Photography throughout the season to capture action across our fixtures and with 247.TV for live coverage of international fixtures and National Finals. The ESFA also works with [33 Creative](#) on all design and print assets for the Association. If you are looking to have any artwork created for your own Association, we would suggest that you contact them to discuss your requirements. For information, the ESFA's partnership with Catapult has now come to an end.





International Programme

Following the early termination of last season's international programme, it remains the intention to hold some sort of ceremony to award caps to our players from last season's U15 and U18 squads. It is also possible that, for the girls in particular, that may be able to be combined with some sort of friendly fixture before December 2020.

In the meantime, and in response to the shortened season, Council determined that the existing management team members should be offered the opportunity to remain in post for this season: with the exception of Matt George who has been appointed as an Academy Tutor at Sheffield United, all have accepted Council will be making arrangements for Matt to be replaced in due course, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his four years' service to the U18 boys teams.

Safeguarding

DBS Clearances

New applications for DBS clearances can now be accepted. The FA has issued guidance for conducting face to face ID checks, should colleagues be prepared to carry them out, and this is attached here. There is of course no obligation to conduct any business face to face, and colleagues may refer ID checks to the national child welfare officers, Martin Duffield and Sarah DaCosta, where necessary. The list of ESFA-approved verifiers is currently being updated and will shortly appear on the website.

Sanctioning

Any schools football requires ESFA sanction. The ESFA has clarified and updated its policy for sanctioning and the relevant paperwork is on our website [here](#). Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this and with the new paperwork, as the policy takes effect immediately.

Depending on the nature of the planned activity sanction must be sought, either from the ESFA nationally or from the relevant CSFA or DSFA.

Sanctioning is essential to ensure that:

- Those taking part are affiliated to the relevant Association;
- The rules governing the event comply with Football Association (FA) requirements;
- Activities can legitimately benefit from the use of registered match officials;

Please therefore note that:

- In order to be considered for sanction from The ESFA or an affiliated Association, a competition must have its rules approved by the sanctioning Association and provide a list of its participant schools and teams, all of which must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association for the appropriate season. This will therefore apply to all competitions and leagues established by your Association.
- Any football played against opposition which is not an affiliated Member of the ESFA requires approval, except where opposition (eg Club academies, RTCs) is affiliated to one of the other recognised sanctioning agencies in football
- For fixtures against foreign opposition, for playing in tournaments and for matches against otherwise unsanctioned opposition, the "permission to play" policy and process should be used.
- Complete your risk assessments, including the Covid-19 supplement, for your activities

Please contact [Andy Weston](#) for further guidance.



Affiliation

Updating data on the portal

Please make sure that your CWO details, along with all other personnel details, are up to date on the portal. Neither local and County Associations, nor the ESFA, is permitted by data protection law to keep personal details if they are not required, therefore it is vital that you take responsibility for removing the details of any CWO or other officials' information from the portal. Fines for breaches of data protection law can be substantial: it is therefore in all of our interests to address this as a matter of urgency.

Insurance

Members are, understandably, raising a number of queries about insurance cover and we are in negotiations with our insurer about updating our cover. Whilst these negotiations are finalized, the existing ESFA insurance remains in place, provided that **Members are fully compliant with ESFA and FA regulations and government guidance on the safe resumption of football**. A summary of the cover in place will be provided once approved by our insurer, but in the meantime, please make sure that you complete your risk assessments with Covid-19 supplements

Association Restructure

CSFAs will be aware that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the deadlines for completing Association Restructure have been extended. Those CSFAs and their members who were in phase 1 or 2 of the restructure plan now have until the end of October to complete: those in phase 3 have until 1st December. Please note that these deadlines now cannot be moved further.

Staffing Update

Almost all ESFA staff have now returned from furlough, and the HQ is scheduled to re-open on a restricted basis on 7th September. All staff will return to duties in HQ on a rota, for three days each week, and work from home for the remaining two days. This partial re-opening is designed to minimize unnecessary face to face contact between staff whilst having personnel available to take telephone enquiries from our members and customers. Staff remain contactable by email from Monday-Friday.

Jacob Blades, the ESFA's intern from season 19/20, has returned for his final year at University in Coventry and our thanks and best wishes are offered to Jacob following his terrific contribution to the Association last season. It is our intention to recruit new interns now that the HQ has partially re-opened.



Follow @SchoolsFootball on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to keep up with all the most up to date news from the Association