



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

PLCF Funding Granted

ESFA International Squads are kitted out thanks to Pendle:

Both International squads recently attended a training camp at Lillleshall to get their new Pendle kits ahead of their upcoming competitions. You can read the full story on our website [here!](#)

We are pleased to report that, following the competitive bidding round for funding to support U10 and U11 District Rep teams, over £49k of PLCF funding has been awarded to support 70 District Associations. This funding was provided as either a small cash grant (49 Associations) to support and grow activity, through a kit voucher (19 Associations) or equipment packs (2 Associations) as requested in applications. We are pleased to use our kit supplier and international team sponsor, Pendle, to provide these customised items to Associations. Once again a large number of eligible Districts across the country have benefitted from the PLCF grant funding and we offer our thanks to them for their support.

Further benefits of the PLCF funding include the National 9-a-side competition and we wish all those teams competing an enjoyable and exciting time.

Finally, to develop District football activity further, a separate pot of funding will be made available for Associations (or groups of Associations) in a region to apply to organise and host a calendar of representative activity across the 2018-19 season. For further information, or if you are interested in being considered as a regional 'hub' venue, please contact [David Ebberson](#).

CENTENARY SHIELD FIXTURES

The two England home International dates have been confirmed:

Friday 16 March

England v ROI
Luton Town FC
7pm KO

Friday 23 March

England v Scotland
York City FC
7pm KO





Home International & National Final Television Coverage Secured

The ESFA is delighted to announce that they have been able to secure television coverage of some of our National Finals and home International matches has been secured.

Matches that are due to take place at Doncaster Rovers, Notts County, Blackburn Rovers, York City and Luton Town have been scheduled to be shown throughout March live on the Freesports TV channel.

Working alongside our current webcasting providers, 247.TV, the matches will also be available online as usual, via the ESFA's YouTube Channel, ESFA TV but will be open to an even wider range of viewers thanks to the support of Freesports.

Matches to watch out for:

ESFA U18 Girls Schools & Colleges National Finals
Notts County FC
Thursday 8 March | KO 12pm & 4pm

ESFA U18 Boys Schools' & B Team National Finals
Doncaster Rovers FC
Monday 12 March | KO 11am & 1pm

England v Republic of Ireland (SAFIB Centenary Shield)
Luton Town FC
Friday 16 Match | KO 7pm

ESFA U18 Boys Colleges' National Final
Blackburn Rovers FC
Monday 19 March | KO 12pm

England v Scotland (SAFIB Centenary Shield)
York City FC
Friday 23 March | KO 7pm

Freesports can be found on the following TV channels:

Freeview channel: 95
Sky channel: 424
Freesat channel: 252
TalkTalk TV channel: 95
BT channel: 95





Council Report - January 2018

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At its January meeting, Council hosted two guest speakers from The FA. Steve Day, the newly appointed Head of Participation, spoke about the importance of reform for The FA and outlined their plans for investment of the money earned from the international distribution of the FA Cup coverage. Steve thanked the ESFA for the significant contribution to the schools' planning and review group and reiterated the importance of the schools' game in The FA's future plans.

David Faulkner, the recently appointed Head of Women's Performance, updated Council on plans for the new girls' and women's academy structure, with a significant emphasis on both education and welfare/wellbeing. David also encouraged the ESFA to maintain an open dialogue about the girls' game and its place in the broader football landscape.

Council then discussed the significant contribution of volunteers to schools' football and framed its ambitions for a volunteering strategy to support, amongst other things, local and national recruitment. Associations are encouraged to highlight any of their successful volunteer recruitment, retention and reward processes to the CEO to influence the national plans.

The Representative Football Committee reviewed the international trials weekends and noted that they had gone extremely well. The Committee recommended that Council endorse the appointments to the girls' management team for this season, to fill the current vacancies, as follows: Assistant Manager – Claire Smith; Goalkeeping Coach – Ashley Vickers; Physiotherapist – Charlotte Doughty. Congratulations to these new post holders.

The National Competitions Committee reviewed the progress of national competitions, which remain on track, and noted key dates for forthcoming events.

The Association Development Committee heard that the development of a Standard Code of Rules for schools' football, had, with the ESFA's agreement, been deferred until the joint schools' planning work concludes, so that the regulatory framework could support any new developments.

The Trustees reported that the budget remained in line with projections for the current year and that they were in negotiations with organisations which may be able to support income generation, either through identifying new sponsors or by bidding for grant funds on behalf of the Association.

Trustees also outlined the plans for data capture this season, moving to an online system, with notification and guidance to be sent to CSFAs towards the end of February.

Mike Spinks, ESFA rep on The FA's Council, noted that The FA had remembered Nigel Brown in its minute's silence at the start of their January Council meeting.



FA Schools' Football Planning & Review Group

As members may remember, the ESFA has been invited by The FA to be a partner in updating the FA's strategy for supporting schools' football. The English Football League, Premier League, ISFA and Youth Sport Trust are also partners in this planning.

The first phase of this work has now concluded and the group will now focus on joint planning with all partners to plug gaps in the football 'offer', identifying the activity which needs to be sustained and reducing unhelpful duplication in the football landscape. Clearly, this is only a strategy which can work if all involved work together in the interests of players and other pupils who get involved in the game in other ways. It is pleasing to report that the group agree that it is essential to consider the role of representative football in this planning and we will continue to lobby for the inclusion of this important aspect of our game in any future funding agreements.

From the Noticeboard...

Old £10 Notes

On the 1 March 2018 the old paper £10 note will no longer be legal tender. You will not be able to accept or issue any old paper £10 notes—please be aware of this fact at any ESFA event. If you have any old paper £10 notes after 1 March 2018 and your bank, building society or Post Office is not willing to accept these notes, they can be exchanged at the Bank of England in London (either in person or via post)

Data Protection

Members may be aware that there are significant changes afoot in the Data Protection regulations in England. Implications for members are being assessed, with legal advice and an update will be provided before the regulations come into force in May 2018



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