



English Schools' Football Association

# Membership Matters

## ESFA National Finals...what they've said:

**'Really well-organised behind the scenes, very well prepared for...all in all a memorable experience for all'**

'The crowd and team loved every single minute and it will be cherished for the rest of their lives.'

The hard work to run the tournaments and to make the finals day such a special occasion is thoroughly appreciated'

**'The whole event produced a wonderful experience for both players and staff alike when we were there and it is one we will remember for a very long time.'**

## National Finals

With just one national final – the girls' U12 9 a sides – left to play, we are again celebrating a fantastic year of schools' football finals. The finals started on a "play one, postpone one" model, as the long winter took its toll on some of our early games, all of which were, of course, successfully rescheduled and national titles awarded. You can see the results of all of our competitions, along with a variety of match reports, on our website, [here](#).

Once again we extend our thanks to all of the teachers, volunteers, schools, pupils, officials and of course sponsors whose efforts and contributions enable us to provide these opportunities each year. Congratulations also to all of our entrants, whatever their match results and progress, and we look forward to the start of the new season.

## Competition Entries and Affiliation

ESFA National Cup entries for Associations and Schools will open shortly and all contacts will receive an email with their login details to prompt them to register online. Don't forget, all Inter-County National Cup competitions are now run directly via ESFA HQ, therefore you must ensure you enter the competitions to be eligible to compete this Season 2018-2019. The expressions of interest in the competition that you submitted recently **do not** count as your entries so County Secretaries will need to login and register entries through the portal.

ESFA Schools' Cup entries will be open for entry until Friday 29 June 2018 and all schools will receive an email with their login details and competition information this week.

We are looking forward to hosting another season of schools' football and welcoming back previous participants as well as welcoming teams and schools that haven't previously taken part in ESFA tournaments. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact the National Competitions Department via [competitions@schoolsfa.com](mailto:competitions@schoolsfa.com)



## Girls' County Football: Arrangements with RTCs.

County secretaries will have seen the communication sent jointly by ourselves and The FA with regard to player eligibility and fixture priorities for girls' football. A copy of this communication is provided below: please make sure you are able to comply with the arrangements and aim to do so in collaboration with RTCs in your area:

“Following continued joint discussions between the Football Association and the English Schools Football Association (ESFA); we would like to confirm the arrangements which are in place to support the development of talented girls across the partnership.

It was proposed that Tier 1 players would not be selected to play County Schools football to help with their management of loading and welfare. Following further consultation we can confirm that there will be no change and the current regulation will remain - all players from all tiers will be eligible for County Schools football. A national programme of fixtures for U16s and U14s will be provided by The Football Association and each club is asked to provide this information to their County Schools and County FA representatives. This programme will include a number of designated days (2nd Saturday of each month) where priority will be given on those days to County FA and County Schools Under 14 and Under 16 representative matches.

County Schools Football Associations, The English Schools Football Association and the Independent Schools Football Association will advise, in writing, squad lists and the dates of their matches to a Regional Talent Club with which the player is registered, no less than 14 days prior to the match. In the case of postponed matches where the re-arranged date is mid-week, player release will be at the discretion of the Technical Director who has overall responsibility for managing the players load.

Please ensure that all players and parents are aware that if they attend trials for representative squads then there is a possibility they may be selected and therefore they must play in the representative fixture on the 2nd Saturday of the month. To allow this to happen smoothly between both parties we would ask you to strictly adhere to the following;

- Representative teams must give notice to the Regional Talent Club in writing 14 days before the fixture including squad lists. If this does not happen the Club have the right not to release players. If this does happen the Clubs must release the players.
- If Regional Talent Club players attend trials for representative football, they are putting themselves in a position for selection and clearly want to play representative football and we would ask Regional Talent Clubs to support their decision.
- ESFA & County Rep squads may arrange fixtures on weekends outside of the 2nd Saturday of the month due to postponements etc, however Regional Talent Club fixtures will then take priority and the players may not be released for Schools or County Rep fixtures unless permission is granted by the Club.
- The 2nd Saturday of each month will remain the designated day for ESFA/ County Rep throughout the season until the end of May 2019.
- In the case of postponed matches where the re-arranged date is mid-week, player release will be at the discretion of the Technical Director who has overall responsibility for managing the players load.”



## Council Report - June 2018

The Chairman opened the meeting by conveying his thanks to all involved in ESFA activities since the last meeting, and recognised in particular the efforts of the retiring Council Member, Neil Hopwood.

Council wished to pass on their thanks to all of those involved in the National Competitions finals, which had again been very successful, much to the satisfaction of both participants and the Association's sponsors. Competitions Committee also confirmed that arrangements would now be made for the Inter-County Competitions to operate on a national basis, with entries to be confirmed through the usual process of affiliation. The Chair of the Committee further reported that a review of the changes in the post-16 sector would take place (eg College mergers, cross-boundary schools) to determine what, if any, changes may need to be proposed to ESFA rules to keep up to date with such developments. Council noted that the last competition final, the U12 girls 9 a sides, would take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June at St George's Park.

Council heard from the Representative Football Committee that moderations to the international trials process was essential to deliver the programme within budget, noting that consequently, the regional trials would be followed by one central final trial (Boys 1<sup>st</sup> December, Girls 9<sup>th</sup> December, both at Stafford Town), where all regions would take part in one day of selection to determine final squads. The Lilleshall training weekends would also be contained to a single day, which would accommodate a fixture for each of the squads if one could be secured at no/low cost, and noted that those discussions were under way. Parents would be responsible for transporting players to each event.

Council were invited by Association Development Committee to endorse the updated County Service Level Agreement, which contained minor changes but required CSFAs to organise Danone national competition activity in their County for both boys and girls, and for Districts and small schools, where the latter were present in the County. This was approved.

Trustees reported to Council that, thanks to the efforts of all concerned, a balanced budget had been set for next season. Trustees reported on the good progress by the Association's sponsorship broker, which was anticipated to convert into a number of small but critical sponsorship offers. Council heard of the success of the Panini "Classroom Challenge", with regional and then national winners due to be announced shortly: Council noted that the project had also been successful financially, with a greater than anticipated impact on income. Council were also advised that the Association had been invited to bid for PFA festival funding next season, and that regions were invited to co-ordinate their bids over the summer for consideration/prioritisation by Council in September, prior to onward submission to The PFA. Trustees wished to thank the outgoing interns for their contribution to the Association this season and this sentiment was echoed by Council.

Council received an update from Marvin Robinson on his work to secure an improved technological solution for the Association and members were pleased to hear of the progress to date. Council also received the interim findings from both the equality and diversity and talent pathway research projects, which would be published once completed over the summer.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking colleagues, the staff team and membership for their hard work all season and wished all restful summer break.



## ESFA Premier League U11 National Finals

The District season was concluded in fine surroundings this year – at none other than European finalists Liverpool FC Academy.

The culmination of the third edition of the annual 9v9 District competition saw eight of the best boys and girls representative teams battle it out for the title of ‘National Champions’. Under the blue skies with wall to wall sunshine it was Wokingham SFA who claimed their first Boys’ title and Haringey SFA who completed back-to-back victories in the Girls’ competition, retaining their title for a second consecutive year.

The day saw plenty of action with Associations from as far afield as Plymouth and Sunderland meeting opponents they haven’t had the opportunity to play against previously. The competition aims to give these opportunities to talented players from around the country and is growing in stature – and team entries – every season.

The competition results, along with action photos from 353 photography, will appear on the website within the next week. For further information on the competition, or to enter your U11 representative team please contact [david.ebberson@schoolsfa.com](mailto:david.ebberson@schoolsfa.com)

Quotes from team managers:

*‘On behalf of myself and the Sefton Girls squad we just wanted to say a massive thank you for facilitating the 9v9 tournament this season. It’s another great opportunity for the girls to play more games together and we’ve really enjoyed it this season.’*

*‘Thank you for another very enjoyable day yesterday - facilities, referees and organisation were all first class!!! Children, parents and teachers had a great time.’*

## Representative Football Development – District Focus

Over the recent weeks, we have been meeting with a number of Members around the country to gather case studies and look at sharing best practice throughout the Association to promote healthy, thriving Districts. We hope that you can pick up some helpful hints and tips to support your Association activity [here](#).

While the national picture is good for representative football in most areas, we see varied operating models everywhere we look. We hope that some of the ‘golden rules’ we have found from talking to Associations can be implemented into your future activity and some of the other case studies and interesting ideas will give you some food for thought!

## Diversity in Football: Case Study

We know that football attracts a diverse range of participants, but that some groups remain under-represented. Click [here](#) to read about the fantastic work being done by the Iqra Academy in Peterborough, where Muslim girls are enjoying a very successful season!



## Diversity in Football: Football v Homophobia

Pride Sports, supported by Sport England to encourage participation in sport by lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) players, is running a workshop on LGBT inclusion in sport. The event is taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> July, at Villa Park in Birmingham, and can be booked via this [link](#).

Pride Sports delivered some diversity awareness training on behalf of the ESFA earlier this year, and attendees at that diversity consultation event were positive in their feedback about the training. You can find one of the training videos [here](#)

More information about Pride Sports and their work can be found on their [website](#).

## Somerset CSFA Promotional Presentation

Somerset CSFA recently shared with the ESFA its promotional presentation, used originally to recruit volunteers, but increasingly to share with parents and with sponsors.

Whilst the photographs and graphics are obviously specific to Somerset, membership may find its content – specifically extolling the values of the schools' game, and celebrating not only the professional footballers developed through this route, but also other players who have gone on to be successful in other careers – interesting/useful.

The presentation is available to download from our website, [here](#). If you have any assets you would like us to share far and wide, then please let us know!

## A Message from our 2017/18 Office Interns

*“Throughout our time at the ESFA, everyone we have encountered has made us feel extremely welcome and a part of the ESFA family. From our first day to our last, we have thoroughly enjoyed the tasks we have been given. National Finals were a particular highlight for us and especially for Ross where he got to meet his childhood hero and Newcastle’s finest...Owen Aiston (as well as some guys called Shola Ameobi and Steve Harper).*

*We would like to thank all the office staff for taking the time to help us settle in and making the last year so memorable. Darren, Sarah and Ed all deserve special thanks for working with us and guiding us through the season. We feel we have all gained valuable experience throughout our time at the ESFA, which will certainly help us with our future careers.”*

The ESFA office staff would, in return, like to thank Andrew, Josh and Ross for the wonderful work and support they have provided to Darren and Sarah across National Competitions and PR/Comms throughout the season. We wish them all the very best in their future pursuits outside of the ESFA.

## AGM Reminders

Proposed rule changes, appropriately seconded, should reach the offices of the ESFA no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July. The AGM will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November in Stafford.



**INTERFAITH GAMES**

FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 5, 6, 7 & 8

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

ENTER A TEAM AT [www.ams-uk.org](http://www.ams-uk.org)

9-13 JULY 2018

**INTERFAITH GAMES**

HOME 4 VISITOR 2  
01:54

**AMS UK**  
Association of Muslim Schools UK

E S F A

