



Membership Matters - April 2025

Welcome to April's edition of Membership Matters. With the schools' football season drawing to a close and finals season in full swing, it is an exciting time for all involved in schools' football. We ask that you share this email far and wide within your schools' football networks to ensure all members are kept as up to date as possible with ESFA activity and messages.

A welcome message from ESFA Chair, Nick Loftus

As we enter the Summer Term in schools I hope that you can all look back on the schools' football that you have been involved with over the past two terms with some satisfaction, and can reflect on the opportunities that you have provided for those children to benefit from their participation. Sport, and schools' football, as we know, can be very important for so many youngsters and it can contribute so positively to their progress and development. Thank you for all that you've done to make schools' football happen this academic year.

For the English Schools' FA, this coming month of May will be a time for recognising some of the efforts of so many of our teachers and players in our schools at the National Cup Finals. A time to celebrate success, and then I guess it is the time for making plans for next season. I hope that children in your school have the opportunity to represent not only their school, but also their district and their county next season.



Representative National Finals - Preview

The below report published on the ESFA's website looks ahead to the Representative national finals being hosted at Stoke City FC in early May 2025.

The English Schools' Football Association is very proud of Rep Football and for the second season in a row, entry numbers into the National Cup have broken previous records; this is the highest number of entries into Representative Football National Cups on record!



This comes down to the unbelievable team of volunteers throughout the Nation that provide opportunities to young schools' footballers. We thank them as ever & look forward to celebrating these volunteers at our Reward and Recognition event in June.



Just ahead of the National Finals coming up at Stoke City FC, everyone at the ESFA wishes all teams the very best of luck ahead of their final. We hope everybody involved enjoys these EFL Championship facilities & that all the staff & players come away from their final feeling like superstars, whatever the score!

[Read the full preview here](#)



Nominate your fellow volunteers for the ESFA R&R awards 2025!

Nominations for both the school and Association awards are now open, so make sure to nominate your fellow volunteers via the link below. Help the ESFA celebrate the amazing work conducted by volunteers in schools and Associations across the country by submitting a nomination today!

Find out more about the awards [here](#)

[Nominate for the Association awards here](#)

[Nominate for the School awards here](#)

This season, as part of the ESFA's "Spotlight On" campaign, the ESFA has featured Merseyside County Schools' FA's girls' county football setup. This spotlight feature was designed to highlight local activity from Associations across England and to increase engagement with those who take part, with a view to increasing ESFA Association activity further on a national scale. You can take a look at the video below:



FA Youth Review 2025

The FA recently attended the ESFA's Council meeting to present the FA's Youth Review 2025 and explain how this will impact on Schools' Football moving forward. The Recording of this presentation is available to watch below:



ESFA International Teams

The England U15 Schoolgirls rounded off their international season with the SAFIB Bob Docherty Tournament, this year hosted by Northern Ireland. Although results didn't go the way of the England girls, they represented their country with pride and did the ESFA proud throughout the tournament. Click below to read the full tournament roundup.



[Bob Docherty 2025- Roundup](#)

The England U18 Schoolboys' SAFIB Centenary Shield campaign is drawing to a close with one game to go, away to the Republic of Ireland. With defeats to Scotland and Northern Ireland, followed by a draw to Wales at Macclesfield FC, the England boys are looking to finish their campaign on a high. Read the full match report from England v Wales at Macclesfi



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below.

[Match Report : England v Wales](#)

Schools' Football Week 2025- What a Week!

Schools' Football Week 2025 in partnership with Pokémon, saw over 200,000 pupils across England engage in schools' football activity from 31st March - 6th April. The ESFA would like to thank all the teachers and Association staff that engaged with this years campaign and hope that all pupils involved enjoyed the week.

[Read more here](#)





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