



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

A message from the Chairman

Don't forget...

Schools' Football Week will run from 24 - 30 May 2021

Risk assessments for the resumption of schools' football can be found on our website

Rep team competitions will restart from April 2021

As the country eases out of lockdown, and outdoor sport resumes, the ESFA inter-district and inter-county competitions will be getting underway after Easter. We have been encouraged by the positive response from Membership, and delighted that almost 3000 young people will have the opportunity to take part. It will give them something to remember after a year to forget.

The ESFA's plans for next season are well advanced. Building back better, with the support of the volunteers who deliver and underpin our activities, is important for the future of schools' football at every level. As ever, financial considerations are paramount and, as we endeavour to manage our costs and increase our income in a challenging commercial environment, we are faced with difficult decisions. The Trustees met recently to consider the budget for 2021-22, having already reduced staffing through voluntary redundancy and taken full advantage of the government's furlough scheme. Sadly, the decision has been taken to suspend the popular Under 12 indoor 5-a-side competition for next season - it is unsponsored and, unfortunately, unaffordable. It is a salutary reminder that some of our competitions are financially very fragile, which is just one of the compelling reasons why new competitions are being introduced next season.

These new competitions can secure the future of schools' representative football and enable districts and counties to enhance the quality of the product that they offer, and which players and parents expect. The new format - the Champions Cup - for our secondary inter-district and inter-county competitions, accompanied by the Player Passport scheme, is innovative and forward-looking. It will complement existing structures in counties and regions. Importantly, it will offer an inclusive and affordable alternative to the club-based Saturday leagues.

Schools' football is unique and special. It promotes values such as self-discipline, team-building and resilience. It contributes to the soft skills needed for responsible citizenship. It teaches young people how to appreciate the joys of winning and accept with grace the disappointment of losing. It is inclusive and transformative. It breaks down barriers, creates friendships and teaches life lessons. It is crucial that we promote, nurture and support these values, and we believe that our new competitions provide the ideal platform for doing so. **With your support in your districts and your counties, the new competitions can be a great success.**

Finally, I hope you are continuing to keep safe and well as we move into Spring after what has been a long Winter. The Easter break will be especially welcome for those colleagues who have been involved in managing a return to school, but for all of us it will hopefully be a time when we can enjoy the company of families and friends again.

With best wishes

Phil Harding



Charitable status and funding

We have received a number of enquiries about the ESFA's charitable status and if and how it applies to Members. A reminder therefore that the ESFA's charitable status is not transferrable to our Members, in accordance with Charity Commission regulations. This means that Members cannot use the ESFA's charity number and fundraise under its auspices.

This has led to enquiries from Members about becoming a charity in their own right, so you may wish to review the ESFA's guidance on the subject, which you can find in the "ESFA Constitution and Structures Guide" under the "One Stop Shop" tab on the website, [here](#).

If you are interested in seeking charitable status, then the [GOV.UK website](#) is helpful, or you can contact the ESFA's Chief Executive, [Andrea Chilton](#), for a further discussion.

A reminder that the ESFA website also has some ideas, including those drawn from Membership, on fundraising, which you can also find on our "One Stop Shop" tab, [here](#).

Resumption of football

The FA has published its guidance on the resumption of football with effect from the permitted date of 29th March. You will find the detailed guidance [here](#):

[FA guidance for outdoor grassroots football return on 29 March 2021 \(thefa.com\)](#)

The guidance is written for clubs but applies to all football and you should read it carefully before planning your activity. In so doing, you will see that:

- Travel is permitted in order to play football, although you are advised not to travel at busy times or on busy routes. Whilst non-essential travel is to be avoided, it is permitted to travel to play. However, outside of the FA's guidance, the DCMS guidance notes that overnight stays for the purpose of attending sports events is NOT permitted so please ensure you do not permit overnight stays before the guidance is reviewed on 12th April
- Parental consent is required for children to play football post-Covid. Parents are required to confirm they are content with your covid security arrangements and as such are permitting their child(ren) to take part. Please ensure you obtain these permissions before you play
- You are required to complete a full risk assessment, including Covid-specific controls, prior to planning your events. You may find it helpful to share your covid risk assessment with parents in order to gain their consent for their children to play. You can find a template [here](#)

[FA-Covid-19-Risk-Assessment-Guidance-and-Template.pdf \(schoolsfootball.org\)](#)

Please also look out for updates at each step of the lifting of lockdown restrictions, as the guidance may change at each review



Schools' Football Week 2021 - Save the date

Schools' Football Week 2021 is returning from 24th - 30th May

We are delighted to announce the return of Schools' Football Week, from 24 – 30 May 2021.

Schools' Football Week is an ESFA initiative designed not only to highlight the huge scale of Schools' Football in England, but also as an opportunity for Associations, schools, teams and clubs from across the country to embrace schools' football and the wellbeing benefits it provides to players and pupils. With the anticipated lifting of restrictions on school and youth sport, the ESFA is looking forward to the 21/22 season and is keen, in the meantime, to draw attention to the wonderful world of Schools' Football that, despite challenges, has been ever present throughout the last 12 months. The main focus for Schools' Football Week 2021 is to provide an opportunity for children to **get outside, have fun and enjoy** being able to play sport with their team mates and school friends, competitively or otherwise.

We will be planning some different activities to take place throughout Schools' Football Week and will keep you fully updated on these over the next few weeks. We will be officially launching Schools' Football Week on Monday 19 April when we will be able to share with you all of our plans. We will be asking you to register activity taking place within your Association so we can celebrate the participation numbers from across England. We will send the activity registration link to you on Monday 19 April and are already looking forward to seeing what everyone has planned for this Schools' Football Week.

In the meantime...

We are planning to host a specific day of activity on Wednesday 26 May, which will be known as Schools' Football Week – Game On! On this day, we will be inviting all Associations, schools and colleges to host matches or tournaments – creating the biggest football match in the world! More details will be released, but in the meantime, please pop the date in your diary and think about how many matches, competitive or otherwise, that you might be able to host on the 26th May.





Grief Encounter - Forget-Me-Not Walk

We would like to thank those of you who registered and took part, or donated to Grief Encounter's Forget-Me-Not walk fundraising campaign.

Several ESFA staff, Council and Association members went walking in their own areas of the country on Sunday 21 March, in memory of someone they had lost, and also helped with our 'Team ESFA' fundraising efforts via JustGiving.

We are pleased to announce that the ESFA raised a total of £1,282 to help fund Grief Encounter's 'Griefftalk' helpline, which provides support to children and young people who are suffering from bereavement or loss.

If you haven't donated to this cause and would like to, you still can - simply follow the link below to our JustGiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/ESFA>

Champions Cup & Player Passport

We have now set up the Champions Cup and Player Passport webpage on our website, so that we can keep as much information on the competitions and supporting initiative together, in one place.

When the concept of the Player Passport was initially launched, we published a set of FAQs which have been updated as themes have emerged. Most recently, we have added a couple of new responses to financial questions posed, which are now at the top of the document.

Each time we update these FAQs we will publish the additions or changes first, so they are easy to spot.

We hope this helps - you can find all the details and the FAQs on our website, [here](#).

Association rep team staff data - Season 21/22

As we prepare to open our competition registration and affiliation window for Season 2021-22 and move towards using our new online administration system, we will be making changes to the data stored about your Association. GDPR (data protection regulations) do not allow for the retention of personal information for those no longer involved in schools' football and despite a number of pleas over previous seasons, there are still too many cases where previous personnel remain registered with the ESFA, via the portal.

We will, therefore, retain the details of your executive officers and carry those forward to the new season, but will however, be removing all details of personnel associated with running rep. teams, so these details will need to be re-submitted by you when you affiliate for Season 21-22.



Danone Nations Cup - online activities for children

As you know, we are very pleased that a version of our U11 Danone Nations Cup competitions will be able to go ahead for boys' & girls' district teams from April 2021. Unfortunately, once again in 2021 there will be no DNC World Finals, however the Danone Nations Cup team have been working on alternative ways to connect to players across the world.

They have put together some information on their 'Good Life Goals', which are their child-friendly interpretation of UN goals and are encouraging young people, from all over the world, to vote for the most important 'Good Life Goals' to them.

To find out more, please visit the DNC website [here](#).



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