



English Schools' Football Association

Membership Matters

Funding Updates

Upcoming International Diary Dates

- U18 Boys' Last 32 Training Camp
5 - 7 January
Lilleshall NSC

ESFA v RAF

6 January
10am KO

ESFA v Navy

6 January
2pm KO

- U18 Boys Training Camp
19 - 20 January
Lilleshall NSC

ESFA v ISFA

20 January
11:30am KO

CENTENARY SHIELD

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

Premier League Charitable Fund - U11 Rep Team Funding

We are pleased to report that another round of Premier League funding to support District Associations has been launched. As outlined in the online application, this funding has been made available to support both Boys' and Girls':

- Current U11 Districts
- New U11 Districts
- Current/New U10 Districts, with a view to continuing through to U11 next season

This year is the penultimate year of this District funding, and as such, we will be asking Districts to consider future development, ways to improve sustainability and opportunities to increase activity locally/regionally. This funding is available to support representative teams (and their Associations) only. It is designed to enhance existing teams and support the creation of new Districts where possible whilst offering a National Competition pathway at 9v9.

Please note, only affiliated Associations are able to apply for this funding - you can apply by clicking the link here: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ESFA_Grant

Closing date for all applications is Saturday 25th November, with payments intending to be made to successful Districts prior to Christmas.

For any further questions please contact david.ebberson@schoolsfa.com

North (East) - Saturday 18 November 2017	Herlingshaw Centre, Middlesbrough FC
North (West) - Saturday 3 February 2018	Finch Farm, Everton FC
Midlands (Central) - Saturday 14 April 2018	St George's Park, Burton
Midlands (North) - Saturday 21 April 2018	SGP Graves, Sheffield
South West (West) - Saturday 7 October 2017	Lansdown Playing Fields, Bath
South West (Central) - Saturday 2 December 2017	Reading FC Community, Madejski Stadium
South East - Saturday 28 April 2018	The Hive, Barnet FC
South East 2 - Saturday 21 October 2017	Motspur Park, Fulham FC



Funding Updates

*Don't forget -
the ESFA
AGM is
Saturday 25
November*

Development Fund Update

Following on from the 2016-17 season, this year's ESFA Development Fund attracted an increased 91 applications to support participation in and the development of Schools' Football and we are pleased to announce that 65 of these bids will receive a share of the £81,518 being invested directly into Schools' football, culminating in a projected 2633 new teams. The development team would like to thank all of our applicants and look forward to seeing the results of the work.



International News

ESFA International Squad Trials

Once again we are deep into the selection process for the ESFA International teams. Starting in early October, over 200 players attended various regional trials across the country in an attempt to move forward in the process for the U18 Schoolboy and U15 Schoolgirl teams. We would like to thank all those involved in the administration, coaching, officiating and selection at these trials – without the network of volunteers we currently rely on, none of this would be possible.

At the time of writing all players who have been selected for either the final North v South (U15 Girls) trial or the last 32 training weekend (U18 Boys) will have been informed. I hope membership will join us in congratulating them on their achievement and wish them the best of luck moving forward.

The international squads will begin competitive fixtures in the new year once they have attended a week long training camp in February. For more information on the upcoming season please visit: www.esfa.co.uk/international or get in touch with the ESFA office if you are unsure about the nomination process for talented County players.





Volunteering

Torch Trophy Trust Reminder

The Torch Trophy Trust, founded in 1962 to recognise the many unsung heroes in sport, is launching this year's Annual Torch Trophy Trust Awards, in five categories:

1. New young volunteer
2. "Enabler" in mainstream activity
3. Outstanding service
4. Contribution to inclusivity
5. Support for disability sport

In considering awards, the Trust is looking for:

- Outstanding volunteers in sport and recreation who have received no national recognition; or
- Individuals who have given up their time in a voluntary capacity for a number of years to enable others in the community to participate; or
- Young people who are making a significant contribution to the grass roots of your organisation's activity on a voluntary basis.

Nominations should be sent by 9th December , [using this form](#), to:

Torch Trophy Trust
4th Floor
Burwood House
14-16 Caxton Street
London
SW1H 0QT.

The Trust anticipates that successful nominees will receive their awards from a member of the royal family.

Further information about Torch Trophy Trust can be found at www.torchtrophytrust.org

Enquiries should be directed to Eleanor Newton on 020 7976 3932 or at enewton@sportandrecreation.org.uk

Diversity Advisory Group Research

A number of you have already been involved in the diversity research being undertaken on behalf of Council. The purpose of the research is to identify which groups in the community do not engage with schools' football as volunteers and what, if anything, we could do to encourage this engagement. This of course is in light of the vacancies still being carried on Council. There are opportunities to feed into a survey to give us your insight on these matters, but perhaps more importantly at this stage in the project, to attend a research day after Christmas, with dates and venues to be confirmed, but with St George's Park being the most likely venue. If you are interested in contributing to the research, which will be used to help inform our volunteer recruitment, retention and reward plans and haven't had the opportunity to do so already, please get in touch with [Andrea Chilton](#) who will refer you to the PhD student conducting this research.



From the Noticeboard...

Sanctioning and Risk Assessment

In line with FA regulations and following our usual annual review of processes, the ESFA's sanctioning forms have been updated. You will find three new forms (one for overseas trips for Associations, one for overseas trips for schools and one for unaffiliated football) on our website, [here](#).

The associated risk assessment template has also been updated, and that too can be found on the [website](#).

Please note that applications for sanctioning must be with the ESFA 28 days prior to the planned fixture/tour, to guarantee that checks can be completed in time for the approval to reach you before the event.

Safe Recruitment in Schools

Please see information we have received from the FA.

The FA, The Premier League and The Football League Trust supported by The Association for Physical Education have worked collaboratively to outline the minimum operating standards required by coaches working during curriculum time to support teachers in the delivery of High Quality Physical Education. The intention should not be to replace or displace teachers, but instead to support aiming for a sustainable approach.

When you are dealing with schools, or coaches that deliver in them, please can you remind them of the guidelines that exist to ensure safe recruitment.

“Working in a regulated environment with a responsibility for safeguarding children, you will be familiar with the need to conduct safeguarding checks on staff members. These criteria should be extended to sports coaches you deploy; you should ensure that coaches meet the core minimum standards for active coaches, which provide information and guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable groups. This guidance includes the recommended level of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for both lead and assistant coaches.”

There are two further documents you can download from our website [here](#), which will also assist with the safe recruitment of Coaches.



ESFA Administrator Training Days

As a part of the ESFA's Administrator Grants process, we have committed to providing all administrators, county schools' associations and partner organisations with at least one day of training and support each season, to aid the development of the administrator roles.

November 2nd saw 5 of the newest Counties to the programme attend a training event at St George's Park, with the other counties having attended initial training during the Easter school holidays in Sheffield and Oxfordshire. Each of the events followed the same format, with an emphasis on the importance of networking and all parties sharing their experiences and challenges. After a connecting activity, ESFA Chief Executive Andrea Chilton delivered a presentation on the landscape of schools' football and where the Association see the administrator roles fitting into it, along with some wider aims and targets that the ESFA are currently working towards.

Football Development Manager Andy Weston then outlined that the purpose of the training was "to support the development of the administrator programme, ensuring that the role works best for each County SFA and that we as ESFA are helping to support that in whichever way they can."

The training delivered sessions on 'Understanding Your Role' and 'Building partnerships', looking at Schools Football network Groups, working with wider organisations such as clubs, universities and leagues, ensuring that each County SFA is at the heart of schools' delivery in their area. Finally, the group discussed how ESFA can support these roles moving forward, including future training which we are planning to host during the Easter break 2018, for which information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Overall the event was a great success, with 92% of attendees surveyed afterwards marking the events as 'Good' to 'Exceptional', with the opportunity to network being outlined as a very clear benefit by a number of parties. We look forward to our 2018 events.

Reminder | ESFA AGM

Don't forget, the ESFA AGM takes place on Saturday 25 November in Stafford.

If you need any further information or have any enquiries, please contact either [Sue Gifford](#) or [Lorna Blakeman](#)

See you there!



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