



Membership Benefits

Edition #2 - October 16

Premier League Funding

In Edition 1 of "Membership Matters" we announced the renewal of Premier League funding for one further season to support U11 District rep football: those of you who are eligible to apply for this funding (in effect, affiliated Districts running U11 teams) were emailed about this and so just a quick reminder that the closing dates for expressions of interest for funding is 19th October.

We are starting the planning for the national finals which will, as previously indicated, run in a similar format to the 15/16 season but will include a girls' event too. The national finals will be preceded by regional events once again, and although we appreciate the relative short notice of these fixtures, we hope that you will be able to take part. With the exception of the Midlands, regional tournament dates have been set for:

Saturday 21st January – North (venue tbc)

Saturday 4th February – South West (venue tbc)

Saturday 18th February – South East (venue tbc)

We look forward to seeing you then.

ESFA contact: David.Ebberson@schoolsfa.com



St George's Park

As part of our relationship with the FA, we have an agreement with St Georges Park, the National Football Centre, to have access to the indoor and outdoor 3Gs, the "Sport England" pavilion and the indoor sports hall. We are delighted to announce that as part of this agreement, we have been able to extend this offer of use to our Associations. Obviously subject to availability, our membership can now enjoy special hire rates as long as SGP is booked through the ESFA office. Whilst we appreciate that the location doesn't always make it an ideal venue for every Association, we hope that this might make it a more attractive opportunity: be aware however the facilities get booked early on so plan ahead if you want to take advantage! If you are interested in using St George's Park for your Association's events please email development@schoolsfa.com and we can look at availability and special rates of hire. ESFA contact: Andy.Weston@schoolsfa.com



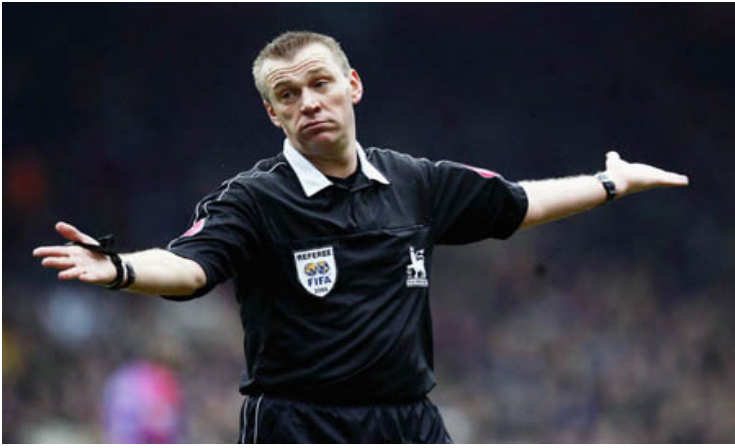
Fixtures Hub

Further to discussions prior to and during the SGM/AGM, we are pleased to confirm that we expect the Fixtures Hub to go "live" on the ESFA website around the end of October. Look out for details on the "News" section of the website then.

ESFA contact: Darren.Alcock@schoolsfa.com



Workforce Matters



Refereeing

A couple of developments from the FA:

Firstly, in a letter to CFAs, following discussions about the draft National Referee Strategy, The FA has said:

“In light of {this} feedback, the FA Referees’ Committee has decided not to proceed with the amalgamation of Levels 6 and 7 into Level 5. However, for Season 2017/18 we will proceed with the change of name of Levels 8, 9 and 10 which will become:

- Level Y - Youth Referee (formerly Level 8)
- Level T – Trainee Referee (formerly Level 9)
- Level D – Referee Developer (formerly Level 10)

An aspect of the proposals which was supported was the importance of allowing those referees (regardless of age) with talent to move quickly (but not too quickly!) through the refereeing Levels. Consequently, we will propose a change to the Referees Regulations to allow CFAs to review the performance of Level 6 and 7 referees during December of each year and, where a referee is showing real promise and ability, the CFA can promote them as from 1 January. Such a change would enable us to retain the ‘faster movement’ through the system which was a key part of the proposals relating to Levels 5, 6 and 7.”

Secondly, an instruction has been sent to CFAs to support CSFAs and DSFAs to identify qualified referees wishing to officiate in ESFA activities, by sending lists of those officials to Association secretaries. We appreciate that, in many areas of the country, the appointment of suitably qualified officials is unproblematic but where it is more challenging, the support of the CFA may be helpful.

ESFA contact Darren.Alcock@schoolsfa.com

Bursaries

We’ve had a number of enquiries this season about bursaries for FA coaching qualifications: unfortunately we are no longer in a position to offer those bursaries but County FAs may well have funding remaining in the pot which was allocated to them for supporting teachers, so please contact your local County FA should you receive any enquiries.

ESFA contact Andy.Weston@schoolsfa.com

Child Welfare Compliance and Association Suspension

The deadline for Association compliance with the ESFA’s child welfare requirements has now passed. A small number of Associations have failed to meet that deadline so, whilst they continue to work towards compliance, their representative football will be suspended. Associations affected have been informed this week, and a list of suspended teams will be available on the ESFA website from Friday 14th October. Please take care to check that your opposition are available to play. ESFA contacts: Martin.Duffield@schoolsfa.com
Sarah.Dacosta@schoolsfa.com

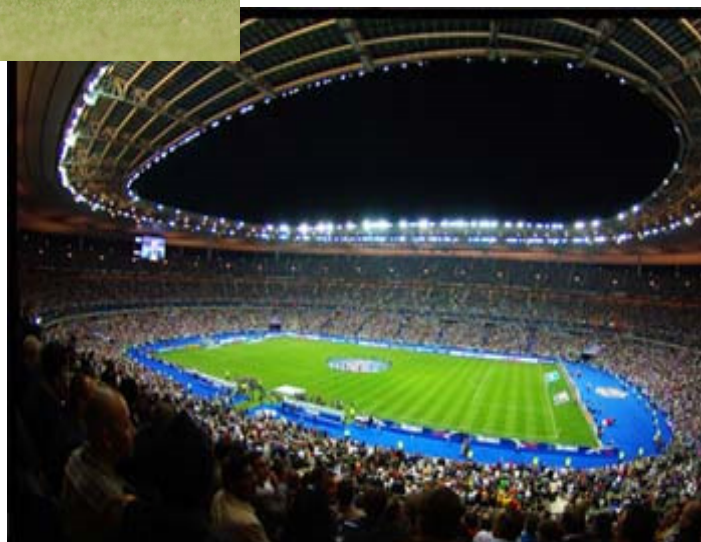
Please Remember: Some important reminders

- 3G pitches can only be used for competition fixtures if they have been tested and appear on The FA’s 3G pitch register, which can be found at <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>
- We receive a lot of enquiries regarding girls and boys playing in the same fixture. Mixed football is permitted up to and including the Under 18 age group
- Schools and clubs can apply for funding to replace unsafe goalposts. Details can be found under the “funding schemes” tab at www.footballfoundation.org.uk
ESFA contact: Darren.Alcock@schoolsfa.com
- Unaffiliated football and foreign travel must be sanctioned by the ESFA prior to it taking place. To guarantee that we respond to you in a timely way, please send all sanction requests to the ESFA at least 60 days prior to the planned match. Templates for completion can be found on the “resources” section of the ESFA website, under the “general” heading.
ESFA contact: Sue.Gifford@schoolsfa.com



And in other news...

Congratulations and good luck to last season's ESFA U11 Inter Association Trophy champions, Lewisham Primary Schools' FA, who are heading for the Stade De France in Paris where they will represent England in the Danone Nations World Cup! 32 countries are sending their victorious national finalist to the competition, which runs from 13-16 October. England have been drawn against Brazil, Argentina and China in the group phase.



The BBC has recently launched its annual "Get Inspired" Unsung Hero awards, specifically designed to recognise the efforts of volunteers. Why not take the opportunity to nominate one of your volunteer colleagues? It's easy – click on the link below and fill in the form, before 23rd October, which is when nominations close.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/get-inspired/27037119>

Get Inspired

The Chairman of Council, Alan Johnston, has this year nominated the British Heart Foundation for his Chairman's charity. We are in discussions with BHF about promoting their National Lifesavers scheme, supporting them to get into schools to train children in CPR. Details about the work of the charity can be found at www.bhf.org.uk



Consultation Matters

“What’s in it for me?”

Again a reminder that the “What’s in it for me” consultation, launched in Edition 1 of “MM”, remains open until 22nd October. At the time of writing, we have had 32 responses and whilst we are grateful to those of you who have taken the time to give us your views, we hope that many more Associations will help us to frame our priorities moving forwards. So, if you haven’t already done so, please complete the short survey, which can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/esfaDistrictSurvey2016>

Once the survey closes, Council and its respective committees will consider your responses and we will share the findings, and our plans to respond to them, after the Council meeting in November. Don’t miss your chance to have your say!

ESFA contact: Andrea.Chilton@schoolsfa.com

Calling our Volunteers!

There’s lots of research which tells us why people engage in volunteering and many of our Associations benefit from the longstanding commitment our army of schools’ football fans give us. We’d love to give greater recognition to them (although both long service award recipients and those who win international match tickets tell us they value those rewards), and celebrate their commitment more widely, as well as finding way to encourage new volunteers into the fold. We’d therefore love to hear the views of existing volunteers to help inform our future efforts, so please encourage any and all of your volunteer colleagues to snip this off and put it in the post, or to send their views to admin@schoolsfa.com

ESFA contact: Andrea.Chilton@schoolsfa.com

Our Association thrives on the efforts of our volunteers. How should we recognise and celebrate volunteers’ contributions to schools’ football?

What would you say to encourage new volunteers to give up their time to support schools’ football?

Please add your name and the name of your Association if you would be happy for your word to be used in any ESFA publicity campaign. Thank you!