

## ESFA England Boys U18 1 – 0 School Sport Australia U18 Friendly Fixture Saturday 26th January 2019 (2.00pm)

The first international fixture of the season saw our England Schoolboys' and the [Australian Schoolboys'](#) take to the 3G pitch at Evans Park, Stafford Town FC. The England lads looking to get stuck in following their previous 1-2 victory against the [RAF Development Cosford U23](#) squad, with the undefeated Australian Schoolboys' hoping to finish up their trip to the United Kingdom and Ireland on a high note!



With both teams fired up everything was poised for a highly competitive football match. The teams took to the pitch at 2:00pm...

England got proceedings underway kicking from left to right and straight from the get go, were causing Australia problems, with their first chance arising within the second minute. The ball was curled in and 6'4 [Crowther](#) climbed the highest to head the ball goal-ward – if not for an excellent reflex save from Aus, England would have opened the scoring there and then.



After a lively England start, the game turned into a feisty midfield battle with both teams' defences holding up well against their opposing attackers, resulting in many back and forth exchanges which became the pattern of play all the way up to the half-time break.

## Half Time - England 0 v 0 Australia



The teams came out for the second half with more of a cutting edge from both squads. Shortly after half-time, Keeper [Martin](#) was forced into making a crucial save – with the scores still at 0-0 the Australian number 9 found his way into the box, firing a low shot but Martin got down quickly to his left to make the important save.

Just like that, England hit back with a chance of their own, moving the ball around the Australian box. The ball fell loose to Windsor who wasted no time flashing a shot that smashed against the crossbar!

The game was opening up with more end to end action and this time it was Australia's turn to have a chance – after a ball was played in behind the England defence and collected by an Australian forward, Martin was forced to step up, putting on the pressure. Martin's decision caused the Australian forward to rush a shot over the England keeper

but [Taylor](#) arrived in time to block and clear the ball, averting any danger of an Australian goal.

Heading into the dying embers of the game (88th minute) with the rain pouring, the England Schoolboys dug deep, pushing on for a late winner...their persistence paid off, when [Sinclair](#) was first to react to a looping ball on the edge the Australia box, knocking the ball on with his head and then coolly slotting the ball past the en-rushing keeper.



Sinclair's late goal was the telling difference, as England professionally managed out the remaining time on the clock sealing the 1 – 0 England win!

## Full Time - England 1 v 0 Australia

That's 2/2 for the England Schoolboys next up is UCFB. Well done, lads!