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## ESFA U15 England Schoolgirls 1 v 1 U15 Republic of Ireland Schoolgirls

### SAFIB Bob Docherty Cup / Match Two

**Tuesday 23rd April 2019**

England's second game of the tournament saw them put in a fine performance against the holders and favourites for the Bob Docherty Cup in the Republic of Ireland.

As is usually the case with matches between these two sides, the action was frenetic as both sides battled for every ball determined to keep alive their hopes of appearing in tomorrow's final.

England's energetic start to the game saw Elizabeth Way causing problems down the left hand side and she put in a dangerous cross that Jessica Simpson just failed to get a toe to with the Irish defence scrambling the ball clear as Talia Sanders looked to pounce.



Rebecca Ferguson was the next to go close, firing just over from the edge of the box as the action flowed from end to end.

The Irish were certainly a dangerous side going forward but the England defence, marshalled by skipper Brooke Aspin, were resolute with very few clear chances for Saffron O'Brien to deal with in the England goal.

However, it was a quick break through the middle of the park that put the Irish ahead with O'Brien unable to prevent the striker lifting the ball over her into the net for a 1-0 half time Republic lead.

## Half-Time – ESFA U15 England Schoolgirls 0 v 1 U15 Republic of Ireland Schoolgirls



The second half was just as frantic with the Salou sunshine doing little to reduce the energy levels on the pitch.

And it was England who drew level after an excellent through ball from the hard working Sanders reaching Wray on the right hand side of the box and she fired low into the net to grab a deserved equaliser and raise hopes of a comeback win.



Chances in the closing stages were few and far between with Georgina Spraggon and Ellie May Bell both having long range efforts saved by the Irish keeper while at the other end it was the crossbar that saved England with a shot from outside the box inches away from a late winner.

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## Full-Time – ESFA U15 England Schoolgirls 1 v 1 U15 Republic of Ireland Schoolgirls



With the game finishing level it was a penalty shoot-out to determine the bonus point winner with the Republic prevailing when their keeper made a fine low save to keep out Mikayla Wildgoose's penalty and keep their hopes of lifting the Bob Docherty Cup alive.

Credit to the England side on a terrific display and, if they can repeat that performance on the final day, they will have a great chance of ending the tournament with a win.

## Penalty Shootout Result – ESFA U15 England Schoolgirls 3 v 5 U15 Republic of Ireland Schoolgirls