ESFA Permission to Play Policy

**Purpose**

The ESFA is committed to the provision of high quality, safe and properly organised and officiated football for children and expects the same from its Members. This policy outlines the policy and procedure for seeking permission to play.

**Policy**

Any football played against opposition which is not an affiliated Member of the ESFA requires approval, except where opposition is affiliated to one of the other recognised sanctioning agencies in football. Depending on the nature of the planned activity, permission to play must be sought, either from the ESFA nationally or from the relevant CSFA or DSFA.

Permission to Play is essential to ensure that:

* The teams taking part are affiliated to a relevant Association;
* The rules governing the game comply with Football Association (FA) requirements;
* Activities can legitimately benefit from the use of registered match officials;
* Participants can play against other affiliated schools or representative sides and benefit from other services offered by The ESFA and local associations.

This policy covers two areas;

1) Permission to play against opposition not affiliated to the ESFA and

2) Permission to play against foreign opposition (outside of England)

**Process**

1) Permission to play against opposition not affiliated to the ESFA eg Grassroots Clubs or Academy Teams

Permission is not required if you are a school or an association representative side wishing to play a one off match against this type of opposition. Any side wishing to play against non ESFA affiliated opposition should contact the appropriate `Parent` Association to check the opposition is affiliated. If you are unsure which authorising body this is, please contact the ESFA office.

A match must not take place if the opposition are not affiliated to a recognised ‘Football Association’

2) Permission to play against foreign opposition (outside of England)

a) A one off match

b) A competition/tournament or tour

Any School or Association wishing to participate in a match or matches against foreign opposition(s) must seek request from the ESFA. This request applies to teams visiting from abroad and to English teams playing abroad.

All applications must be submitted at least 28 days prior to the fixtures.