

Membership Matters



English
Schools'
Football
Association

March 2024



New ESFA Partner Announcements

The ESFA has launched two new partnerships in March. We are pleased to now be working with Sportshotels.com, providing group booking discounts and The Butterfly Squad, providing mental health support for children and training for teachers in primary schools.

You can find out more about these new partnerships below:

[SportsHotels.com partnership launch](#)

[Butterfly Squad partnership launch](#)

Updates from the Safeguarding Team

Low Level Concern Referrals

The Safeguarding team have shared a Low Level Concern reporting form for Associations to utilise in order to report safeguarding concerns. You can find the form on the [ESFA's website](#).

For further information, please email safeguarding@schoolsfa.com

Thunderstorm guidance for schools' football

Please find below some useful guidance from the Football Association about the steps to take in the event of thunderstorms when planning for, or playing schools football.

[Thunderstorm Guidance for schools football](#)

Safeguarding Ratios

The Safeguarding team have shared information on safeguarding ratios when training or at fixtures. You can find the ratio guidance on the FA's website [here](#), but they are also summarised below:

- For 0 to 2 years: one FA DBS checked adult to every 3 children (1:3)
- For 2 to 3 years: one FA DBS checked adult to every 4 children (1:4)
- For 4 to 8 years: one FA DBS checked adult to every 6 children (1:6)
- For 9 to 12 years: one FA DBS checked adult to every 8 children (1:8)
- For 13 to 18 years: one FA DBS checked adult to every 10 children (1:10)

Information and updates to Membership

Membership Perception Survey: Update

ESFA Council Members are conducting further conversations with Membership in their areas in order to understand how Members would like us to address the matters you raised in the perception survey earlier this year. Council will receive a further update on your views at its meeting in April.

Guidance for use of shinpads in Grassroots Football

The FA have shared the following messaging for us to share to our wider audience of membership:

"Safety is a key consideration for our game and the Laws of the Game state that shin-guards/pads are a compulsory piece of equipment.

Shin-pads play an important role in injury prevention as they are intended to protect the shin from injury. The amount of shin physically covered is an important consideration as any part of the shin that is not covered is not as well protected. "Micro" or "Mini" shinpads may therefore increase the risk of injury due to the smaller amount of shin covered compared to larger sized shin-pads. We advise that when considering the protection offered by shin-pads, safety is prioritised by ensuring a good proportion of the shin area is covered and therefore protected. The materials used are also an important factor. Always look for a CE mark which means the shin-guards achieve minimum standards (BS EN 13061). We suggest that shin-pads not carrying such a mark should not be worn as they may present an increased risk of injury to players.

Please give these protection levels serious consideration when deciding what is the right shin-pad for you or for your child."

Information and updates to Membership

Schools' Football Week 2024 update



Schools' Football Week - 5th - 11th February 2024

The recent Schools' Football Week campaign was another resounding success, creating footballing activity for over 260,000 school pupils across England. The campaign, which was delivered in partnership with Pro:Direct Sport, encouraged schools across the country to get active on the pitch but also within the classroom, to bring the many benefits of schools' football to the forefront of activity during the week.

You can read the roundup of SFW 2024 [here](#) and look out for further information on how you can get involved in SFW 2025 soon!



Information and updates to Membership

ESFA International Programme Update 2024



The ESFA's international season for the England U15 Schoolgirls and U18 Schoolboys is well and truly underway for 23/24. The selected squads headed to St George's Park in February for their training camp, including friendly fixtures against their ISFA counterparts. You can see the highlights video [here](#).

Since then, the U18 Boys have played their first SAFIB Centenary Shield fixture of the season, losing 3 - 0 to their Northern Irish counterparts, whilst the U15 girls won 6 - 0 against the Wales U16 Schoolgirls' squad on Sunday 10 March. A great way to prepare, before heading off to the Bob Docherty tournament in the Republic of Ireland during Easter. If you missed it, you can watch the girls match [here](#) and the boys fixture [here](#).

Tickets for the boys' upcoming home fixtures at Walsall & Chesterfield on the 5th and 12th of April are available via the [ESFA website](#).

All upcoming games will be streamed live with full commentary via the ESFA's YouTube channel, ESFA TV. To stay up to date with both teams' progress, head to the ESFA's X (formerly Twitter) account, @schoolsfootball

Information and updates to Membership

Reward & Recognition Awards 2024



The ESFA is delighted to be launching the second annual Reward & Recognition Awards for 2024

Head over to the [R&R webpage](#) to find out about all the award categories and discover the links for nomination. There was an unprecedented number of nominations from and for the ESFA's amazing volunteers in 2023 and, with a special Awards Ceremony planned for 15th June, the Association hopes this year will be even bigger and better.

Good luck!

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