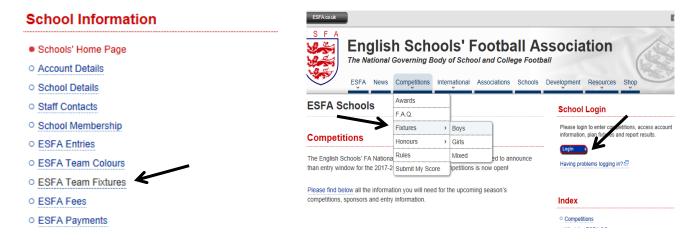
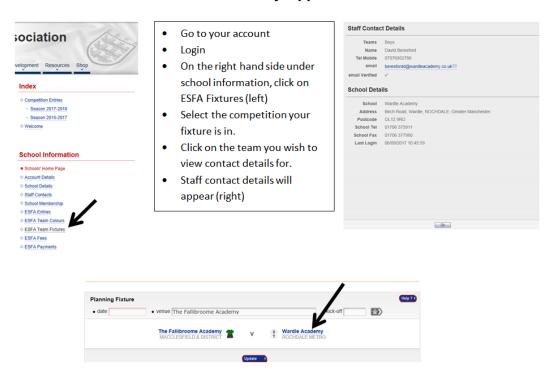
FAQs

How do I check which competitions and fixtures I will be taking part in?

You can log into your ESFA account by visiting www.esfa.co.uk/schools to check on your entries, submit fixture dates and results and locate contact details for your opponents. Once you have logged into your account click 'ESFA Team Fixtures' on the right hand margin menu. Alternatively, you can go to the 'competitions' tab, 'fixtures' and then search for your school name to check on your entries and fixtures.

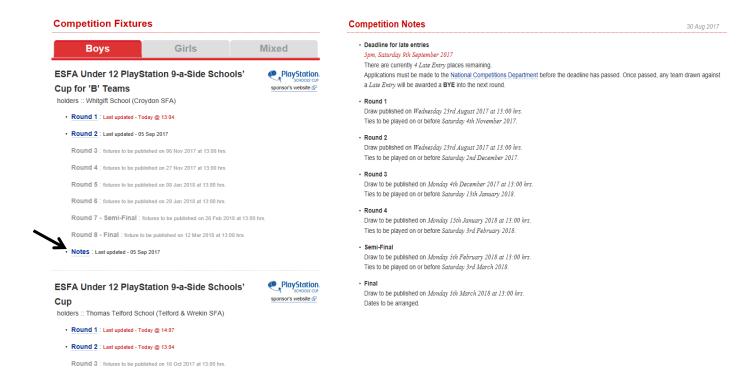


Where can I find contact details of my Opponents?



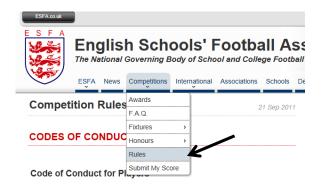
What are the ESFA National Cup fixture deadline dates?

All ESFA National Cup fixture deadlines are published in the handbook and available online on each individual competition page under the notes section. A pdf containing all the deadline dates can be downloaded here.



Where can I locate the rules for ESFA National Cup competitions?

The complete rules for the competitions are published online at www.esfa.co.uk/rules and printed in the handbook. You will need to refer to the 'General Competition Rules' and also the rules stated under the specific competition title. Please pay particular attention to the age qualifications for each competition; we have had to withdraw a number of teams in the past because of this, which obviously causes disappointment to the young players involved.





Do I need a qualified Referee and where do I get one?

Ideally, yes, particularly in the latter rounds of national competitions. However, you could also link in with a Level 2 Award in Young Leadership through Football. Those Young Leaders doing Unit 2 can help out with refereeing. However, you are advised to inform the visiting team before they travel what the arrangements are regarding the referee, so that there are no surprises when they arrive on the day of the fixture.

Do we need permission to play after the deadline date?

Yes. The deadline dates for completing each round are published online, in the handbook and also on our wall chart (sent with handbooks). The deadline dates must be strictly adhered to - failure to comply with the deadline dates may result in your school or college being withdrawn from the competition or being charged an admin fee for submitting a late result. Extensions to deadline dates will only be granted in exceptional circumstances by the ESFA National Competitions Department. Any requests for an extension to a deadline date must be made via email detailing the reasons why the match cannot go ahead on time, with both schools' contacts copied into the message. If you have any issues regarding your fixtures please email competitions@schoolsfa.com. If you are granted your extension, the winning team must ensure they play their next round tie by the following deadline and both teams must contact the next round opponents to agree a provisional play on date. In this case, we would also advise a 3G or 4G pitch is secured to play on to ensure the tie goes ahead.

What do I do if our opponents do not return my calls/emails?

In this situation, you should email the teacher concerned and offer several dates on which you are available to play the match, prior to the deadline date. A copy of the email should be sent to competitions@schoolsfa.com - by doing this, you will register your attempts with the National Competitions Department to get the fixture organised. If this fails to raise a response, you should then contact the National Competitions Department for further advice.

What if our ESFA National Cup Fixture is postponed due to the weather?

If your ESFA National Cup fixture is postponed, you must play the fixture by the following Saturday. You must inform the ESFA of any postponed fixture to safeguard your place in the competition. If you are playing after the published deadline date, then the ESFA strongly advises the use of an FA registered 3G or 4G pitch to increase the chances of the game being played.

If the home team offers a 3G or 4G pitch on which to play our National Cup fixture, do I have to accept it?

Yes. If the 'home' team offers a 3G or 4G pitch on which to play your National Cup fixture, then the visiting team is obliged to accept it, provided that the pitch has been successfully tested and appears on the FA pitch register. It also becomes your responsibility to ensure the pitch is FA registered, before the match goes ahead. You can find a list of all registered pitches here. Please note that competition fixtures are not permitted to be played on any 3G or 4G pitch not on this register.

I have been told that I need our school 3G pitch to be tested, is this correct?

The FA has changed the standard code of rules regarding the use of 3G FTP's. The rules became effective from last season. If a football turf pitch (FTP) has been tested and appears on The FA Register it will be allowed to be used for match play in all competitions outside the National League System (NLS) i.e. Step 7 and below including Women's and Youth Football.

A copy of the test report will need to be sent to The FA so they can review and determine if the pitch is suitable for competitive play. If suitable the pitch will be added to the register and the facility operator, County FA and Leagues will be notified of this. If not suitable then the site should not be used for competitive play until remedial work has been undertaken and another test performed. NB a pitch may still be suitable for training even if it is deemed unsuitable for match play. If a pitch needs to be re tested and this is not done on the same day, there will be an additional charge.

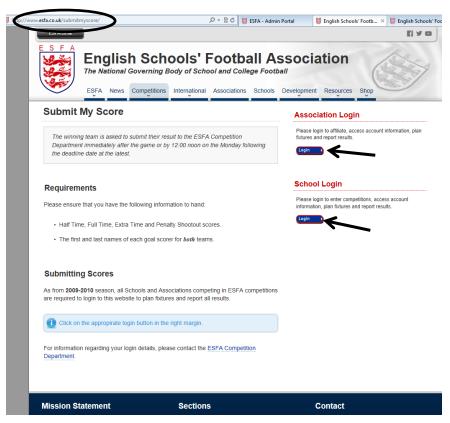
The pitch will need to be tested every three years to remain on the register.

If you think a pitch has already been tested then please send the certificate or test information to the FA (<u>facilitiesinfo@thefa.com</u>) and if approved the pitch will be added to the register. The FA will remind operators of the need to re test approximately 6 months before the due date.

The FA FTP Register can be viewed here.

How do I report my results to the ESFA?

Go to www.esfa.co.uk/submitmyscore and login using your school's ID number and password. Once you have logged in click 'ESFA Team Fixtures' in the right hand margin menu then select the competition title for which you would like to report the result.



Alternatively, you can email competitions@schoolsfa.com
with the competition title, fixture number, fixture date, venue, kick off time and result. The goal scorers' names of both teams would also be helpful, so we can keep the website up to date.

My password isn't working to log onto my account, what can I do?

The most common problem with this is that people do not enter the password in the correct case, as this field is case sensitive.

Moreover, if you are copying and pasting the number and password into the login fields, please ensure that you do not inadvertently copy a space when you are selecting the text. If you do the password will not be accepted.

Please go to www.esfa.co.uk/schools

Then press [Ctrl] and [R] on your keyboard to clear your web browsers cache

Then re-enter the following (please type and do not copy and paste – and the password is case sensitive):

ESFA No.: XXXXX

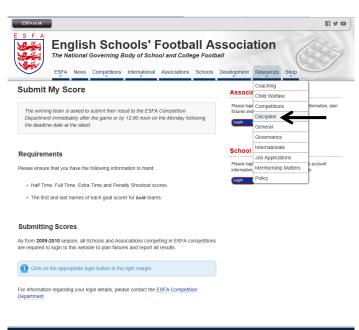
Password: XXXXXXX

If that fails press Ctrl and R and repeat.

If that fails please go to www.esfa.co.uk/help and submit a quick help form which will take 30 seconds – here we can see your browser's settings to check that all is ok.

Discipline

Discipline in Schools' Football is split into two separate categories: (1) Representative Football and (2) Inter-School Football. Therefore, if a player is dismissed from the field of play for a standard red card offence whilst representing his / her District or County SFA, then the suspension will only apply to representative football competition matches (Inter-District or Inter-County). Moreover, if the player is sent off whilst playing for his / her school football team, then the suspension will only apply Inter-School competition matches. Any suspensions issued will be MATCH BASED (competition matches only). Further misconduct offences (e.g. Improper Conduct – including assault, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, indecent, abusive language or gestures and discrimination) may carry a 'time based' suspension and will apply to all football (Youth and School). For more information refer to the Discipline Section of the website.



Wearing of Shin Pads

We would advise that all children taking part in playing football at school, be it competitive or within a PE lesson, should be wearing suitable clothing for this sport. It is **strongly** advised that all children should be specifically wearing shin guards along with the appropriate footwear for the surface the game is taking place on, to take part in such activities.

This is obviously an internal matter for the school to decide upon, however if an injury was to occur, it is worth advising them that this may invalidate their LEA insurance.

Please find below an extract from the FA handbook on the laws of the game regarding Player's Equipment.

LAW 4: THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Safetu

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player, including any kind of jewellery. Jewellery should be removed.

Basic Equipment

The basic compulsory equipment of a player is:

- A jersey or shirt
- Shorts or track suit trousers
- Socks
- Shinguards
- Footwear which is subject and appropriate to local conditions and surface type must be worn.

Shinguards

- are covered entirely by the socks
- are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar substances)
- provide a reasonable degree of protection

Goalkeepers

- the goalkeeper is permitted to wear long trousers
- each goalkeeper wears colours which easily distinguish him from the other players and the referees