National Competitions
Season 2017-2018

For fixture issues and queries, please email **competitions@schoolsfa.com**

To submit results and fixture dates go to **www.esfa.co.uk/submitmyscore**

WELCOME TO ANOTHER SEASON OF SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL

Many thanks for joining us for another season of ESFA National Cups! Working alongside some world class sponsors, we aim to bring you an excellent experience in 2017/18. As well as sponsorship from the Premier League, we will also be running the fifth season of the PlayStation Schools' Cup and hope that with PlayStation's support we will be able to enhance our already excellent portfolio of cup competitions.

What have we changed recently?
After a National Competition Review process, the following amendments were made last season and will continue to remain in place during the 2017-18 season:

- Select your fixture preference – local fixtures, out of county or no preference
- The U13 Girls' Cup is now a 9v9 competition (formerly 11v11)
- A maximum of 3 professional club academy players can participate in a Schools' Cup or Small Schools' Cup fixture. There are no restrictions in place regarding the number of professional club academy players that can participate in an Elite Schools' Cup fixture. Schools can compete in both as long as the rules of the competition are upheld
- A new Under 18 Elite Cup was created last season, which is specifically designed to cater for schools and colleges that offer a football academy programme at sixth form level. Students that have enrolled at the school or college as part of a football academy programme are ineligible to participate in 'normal' Under 18 Schools' Cup or Under 18 Colleges' Cup (see competition rules)
- Player registration will be instigated free of charge at the last 64 of each competition (last 32 for the smaller competitions). This will hopefully alleviate any issues regarding player eligibility
- We have created a new Under 18 Schools' Cup for B Teams for 2017-2018

Planning Fixtures and Reporting Results
To view your ESFA National Cup fixtures go to your account at www.esfa.co.uk/schools and login using your ID number and password (or you can view the full draw at www.esfa.co/uk/competitions).

Once you have logged into your ESFA account you can view your fixtures by clicking the 'ESFA Team Fixtures' link on the right hand margin menu. Please contact your opponents at the earliest opportunity to make arrangements to play National Cup matches before the published deadline dates. **Both Home and Away team managers have equal responsibility for initiating contact to arrange fixtures**. We strongly recommend that date offers are made via email so that you have some evidence available should a dispute arise further down the line.

Fixtures & results: Please report the date, venue and kick-off details in advance of your fixtures and submit results promptly after each match (with goal scorers' names for both teams) by logging into your school's account. This facility will also allow you to view your next opponents as well as your previous results in the competition. If you have colleagues in your PE Department that help run teams, please advise them of the facility and login details. You can also submit results via www.esfa.co.uk/submitmyscore

When accessing fixtures via your account, clicking on the name of the team you are drawn against will bring up the contact details for the team manager / secretary, which in many cases makes contacting opponents much easier than looking through a copy of the handbook.

Arranging your matches

Deadline dates for completing each round are published online and in the handbook. The deadline dates must be strictly adhered to as failure to comply with them may result in your School or College being withdrawn from the competition or being charged an admin fee for submitting a late result. Any requests for an extension to a deadline date must be made via email to competitions@schoolsfa.com detailing the reasons why the match cannot go ahead on time or if you have any issues regarding your fixtures. Permission to play during the week following a published deadline date will only be considered if both teams are mutually agreed to go beyond the deadline date. The ESFA reserves the right to decide the winning team via a computer generated win if no result has been received by the deadline date. This is to ensure that the competition can move forward in a timely manner.

Summary of Rules

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!

	BOYS						GIRLS					
	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U18	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U18
Age Qualification (only use year groups stated)	Year 7 only	Year 8 only	Year 9 only	Year 10 only	Year 11 only	Years 11 - 13	Years 6 & 7	Years 7 & 8	Years 8 & 9	Years 9 & 10	Years 10 & 11	Years 11 - 13
Format:	9v9	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	11v11	9v9	9v9	11v 11	11v11	11v11	11v11
Match Duration	2 x 30 mins	2 x 35 mins	2 x 35 mins	2 x 40 mins	2 x 40 mins	2 x 45 mins	2 x 30 mins	2 x 35 mins	2 x 35 mins	2 x 40 mins	2 x 40 mins	2 x 45 mins
Extra Time	2 x 7 mins	2 x 7 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 7 mins	2 x 7 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 10 mins	2 x 10 mins
Penalties (no replays)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Size of Match Ball (teams can mutually agree to use size 5)	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5
Number of Substitutes / Substitutions (R = Repeated subs are permitted)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)	5 (R)

- Rules cater for a Saturday competition; teams can play in midweek if mutually agreed
- All matches are played outdoor on grass (3G and 4G pitches can be used where the 'home' team gives sufficient notice to the 'visiting' team and the venue holds a valid test certificate and appears on The FA's national FTP register)
- No financial assistance is available towards travel or accommodation in any round of Inter-School National Competitions this season

Appointing Match Officials and teamsheets: The appointment of Match Officials is the responsibility of the 'home' team. Your local Referees' Association Secretary or County Schools' FA / FA Referees' Officer may be available to assist with the appointment of Match Officials. If you are unable to appoint a neutral and qualified referee, then you must inform your opponents before they travel as a matter of courtesy. Teamsheets are available to download from the ESFA website. The forms should be completed and submitted to the match referee at least fifteen minutes before kick-off.

Discipline: Full information regarding discipline procedures is available to view via the discipline section of the ESFA website.

Important notice regarding Academy Players: In Individual School/College competitions, a maximum of three players who attend an FA Licensed Academy/Centre of Excellence run by a club that employs contract players can participate in a match. This rule applies to all schools and colleges, regardless of whether they are officially partnered with a professional club academy or centre of excellence. In the Elite Schools' Cup there are no restrictions on the number of academy players that can be fielded by a school or college.

B Team Cup competitions: To be eligible to enter a team into the B Team Cup, the school concerned **must** have entered a team into the A Team Cup for that age group. Only players who have not represented their school in the A Team Cup are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Players registered with the Academy Programme are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup.

Small Schools' Cup competitions: To be eligible to submit a team into this category of competition a school must have fewer than 65 boys on roll in the respective year group.

3G and 4G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs): In accordance with FA rules, it is important to understand that competition fixtures are not permitted to be played on any pitch unless it has been tested and appears on the FA register which can be found at http://3g.thefa.me.uk/. It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure the playing surface is registered and therefore safe to use.

To keep up to date with competitions, information and to share your season with us, you can follow @SchoolsFootball on Twitter and check our news pages of the ESFA website. If you would like to submit videos of match highlights, you can email them to competitions@schoolsfa.com which we will upload to our ESFA TV channel on You Tube.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your students the very best of luck for the forthcoming season!

THE ESFA NATIONAL COMEPTITIONS TEAM

DEADLINE DATES FOR ESFA NATIONAL CUP COMPETITIONS
SEASON 2017-2018

INTER-SCHOOL AND COLLEGE COMPETITIONS

Competition Title	Deadline Date	02 September	09 September	16 September	23 September	30 September	07 October	14 October	21 October	28 October	04 November	11 November	18 November	25 November	02 December	09 December	16 December	23 December	30 December	06 January	13 January	20 January	27 January	03 February	10 February	17 February	24 February	03 March	10 March	17 March	24 March
PlayStation U12 9v9 Schools' Cup (Boys)						1		2	Half Term			3		4		5	Christmas Holidays				6			7	Half Term			8		9	
PlayStation U12 9v9 Schools' Cup (B Teams)							1				2			3						4			5				6		7		
PlayStation U12 9v9 Elite Schools' Cup												1				2					3			4				5			
PlayStation U12 9v9 Small Schools' Cup (Boys)							1				2			3						4			5				6			7	
PlayStation U12 9v9 Schools' Cup (Girls)																															
PlayStation U13 Schools' Cup (Boys)						1		2				3		4		5					6		7				8			9	
PlayStation U13 Small Schools' Cup (Boys)							1				2			3						4			5				6		7		
PlayStation U13 Elite Schools' Cup											1				2						3			4				5			
PlayStation U13 Schools' Cup (Girls)						1		2				3			4					5			6				7			8	
PlayStation U13 Schools' Cup (B Teams)								1				2			3						4			5				6			
PlayStation U14 Schools' Cup (Boys)						1		2				3		4		5					6			7			8			9	
PlayStation U14 Small Schools' Trophy (Boys)							1				2			3						4			5					6			
PlayStation U14 Elite Schools' Cup (Boys)							1				2			3						4			5								
PlayStation U14 Schools' Cup (Girls)						1		2				3		4		5					6		7				8				
PlayStation U14 Schools' Cup (B Teams)								1				2			3						4			5				6			
PlayStation U15 Schools' Cup (Boys)						1		2				3		4		5					6		7				8		9		
PlayStation U15 Schools' Cup (Girls)						1		2				3		4							5			6				7			
PlayStation U15 Small Schools' Cup (Boys)							1				2			3						4			5				6				
PlayStation U15 Elite Schools' Cup (Boys)								1				2			3						4			5							
PlayStation U15 Schools' Cup (B Teams)								1				2			3						4			5				6			
Premier League U16 Schools' Cup (Boys)						1		2			3		4		5					6		7		8				9			
Premier League U16 Schools' Cup (Girls)							1				2		3		4						5		6				7				
Premier League U16 Small Schools' Cup (Boys)							1				2			3						4			5				6				
Premier League U16 Elite Schools' Cup (Boys)								1				2			3						4			5							
U18 Elite Schools' & Colleges' Cup (Boys)								1					2			3					4			5			6				
U18 Schools' Trophy (Boys)							1				2		3		4					5		6		7			8				
U18 Schools' Trophy (Girls)								1				2			3						4			5							
U18 Colleges' Trophy (Boys)						1		2				3			4						5			6							
U18 Colleges' Trophy (Girls)							1					2			3						4			5							
U18 Schools' Trophy (B Teams)								1				2			3						4			5							

ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

Competition Title	Deadline Date	02 September	09 September	16 September	23 September	30 September	07 October	14 October	21 October	28 October	04 November	11 November	18 November	25 November	02 December	09 December	16 December	23 December	30 December	06 January	13 January	20 January	27 January	03 February	10 February	17 February	24 February	03 March	10 March	17 March	24 March
Danone Nations U11 7-a-side Cups									Half Term						D		Christmas Holidays						C		Half Term						R
Impact Trophies U12 Indoor Football Fives															D								A								
PlayStation U13 Inter Association Trophy (Boys)							1				2				3						4			5				6			
PlayStation U14 Inter County Trophy (Boys)											1				2						3			4				5			
PlayStation U14 Inter County Trophy (Girls)												1				2					3				4						
PlayStation U15 Inter Association Trophy (Boys)							1				2				3						4			5				6			
U16 Inter County Trophy (Boys)											1				2						3			4				5			
U16 Inter County Trophy (Girls)								R				R				R					N				1				2		
U18 Inter County Trophy (Boys)												1			2						3			4							

* Girls' open weekends are scheduled for the second Saturday in each month. The open weekend in February coincides with half term for many schools.

Key

D = District Round Nomination Date
C = County Round Nomination Date
R = Regional Round Fixtures
A = Area Rounds to be completed
N = Nomination Date

Darren Alcock
ESFA National Competitions' Manager
August 2017

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

INTRODUCTION

The rules detailed below apply to all ESFA competitions except where stated under the heading of any specific competition.

1. THE TROPHY

(a) The Trophy is the property of the English Schools' Football Association.

(b) The Trophy shall be presented to the captain of the winning team immediately after the match, or at the match function should that be held after the match.

(c) The winning School, College, or Association shall be responsible for suitable engraving and for the maintenance of the Trophy in good order. Arrangements for display of the Trophy must be agreed by Council.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the Council Member concerned to ensure the return of the Trophy in time for presentation at the Final.

2. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Council will determine closing dates for National Competitions and indicate this on the competition entry forms.

3. MEMENTOES

(a) <u>11-a-side Competitions</u>

Eighteen mementoes (16 players and 2 team officials) shall be awarded to each School or Association taking part in a final tie. Additional identical mementoes may be purchased by the finalists subject to the approval of the ESFA. Four mementoes shall be awarded to the match officials (referee, two assistant referees and reserve official), officiating at a final tie.

(b) <u>Small-Sided Competitions</u>

(i) Each County Champion School / Association (Under 11 7-a-side) will receive a suitable memento. There will be Championship Shields for each team winning an Area Competition (Under 12 5-a-side).

(ii) Certificates or other suitable mementoes will be presented to each player participating in the Regional Competitions (Under 11).

(iii) Mementoes will be awarded to all participants (players, team officials – two per team, and match officials) in the National Finals.

4. CONTROL

(a) The entire control and management of the competitions shall be vested in Council, or such committees that shall be appointed by Council.

(b) The rules of the game shall be those of the International Football Association Board, except as otherwise stated.

(c) All teams must be under the ultimate control of either

(i) a practising teacher, recognised as such by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, or

(ii) a retired teacher, or present or past employee of the education service who has received direct approval in writing from the appropriate Local or County Schools' Football Association to undertake such responsibilities.

(iii) A person who has direct approval in writing from the appropriate Local or County Schools' Football Association who:

(a) has at least a level 1 FA coaching qualification.

(b) has undergone a (FA DBS) Disclosure & Barring Service check – any payment associated with this shall be the responsibility of the Local/County Schools' Football Association.

Approval may be withdrawn by the ESFA, or the Local or County Schools' Football Association, at any time.
Any other person assisting with or coaching a team must operate in the presence of a person who is qualified under (i) or (ii) above.

(c) All Local and County representative teams must be under the ultimate control of either:-
- (i) A practicing teacher, recognised as such by the Department for Education, current employee of education service OR
- (ii) A retired teacher, or past employee of the education service or an AOTT who has received direct approval in writing from the appropriate Local or County Schools Football Association to undertake such responsibilities.

(d) (i) Approval may be withdrawn, by the ESFA, the Local and/or County Schools' Football Association, at any time.
- (ii) Any other person regularly assisting with or coaching a team must have an FA RC check and safeguarding training within the previous 3 years (either though an educational establishment or the F.A.) and operate in the presence of a person who is qualified under (i) or (ii) above.
- (iii) Associations must, at all times, comply with the FA's/ESFA's Safeguarding Criteria. Compliance must be in place at the time of affiliation.

(e) An individual cannot be the named manager/coach for more than two teams within the same Association, although they can be named as assistant manager/assistant coach for more than two teams.

(f) All District and County Associations who run representative teams must register all team personnel with the ESFA as a requirement of the affiliation. This information must be registered with the ESFA as part of the affiliation process, prior to affiliation being approved.

(g) Any official or player representing a School or Association in membership with the Welsh Schools' FA participating in any of the ESFA national competitions who is reported for misconduct, on or off the field of play, shall be referred to the Council of the Welsh Schools' FA for appropriate action.

5. THE FIELD OF PLAY

The following recommended pitch sizes for 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 youth football:

Age group	Type	Length (yards)	Width (yards)	Goal Height (ft)	Goal Width (ft)
U9 / U10 / U11	7 v 7	60	40	6	12
U11 / U12	9 v 9	80	50	7	16
U13 / U14	11 v 11	90	55	7	21*
U15 / U16	11 v 11	100	60	8	24
U17 / U18	11 v 11	110	70	8	24

If a pitch is provided for U13 / U14 it is recommended that 7 x 21 goalposts are provided. However, it should be noted that 8 x 24 would also be acceptable as not all sites will be able to provide specifically for this age group.

Artificial Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the register and must be tested (by an accredited test institute) every three years and the results

passed to The FA. The home team is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming the match arrangements.

6. THE BALL

The ball shall be size 5 except where stated under a specific competition rule.

7. SUBSTITUTES

'Repeated' substitutions are allowed in all competitions up to and including the Under 18 age group. In these age groups, a player who has been substituted during a match becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.

9v9 and 11v11 matches:	Teams are permitted to use 5 substitutes from five named players.
Small-Sided matches:	Indoor 5-a-side - 3 named substitutes 7-a-side - 3 named substitutes

8. PROTESTS

(a) Protests against decisions made in ESFA National Competitions shall be considered under paragraphs (f) and (g) below.

(b) Protests arising from competitions organised for schools by a District Schools' Football Association shall be submitted to that District in line with the ESFA policy for protests, which shall apply as follows:
   - (i) All protests shall be in writing and shall be received at the DSFA nominated address within 2 working days of the match concerned.
   - (ii) No protest relative to the ground, goalposts, or other appurtenances of the game shall be considered unless a protest in writing was made to the referee before the start of the match.
   - (iii) Any protest shall be signed by the Headteacher/Principal as acknowledgment of their approval of its submission.
   - (iv) The (insert responsible person/committee) will gather any evidence they wish to have before making their decision.
   - (v) A copy of this decision must be relayed to both teams in writing.

(c) Should the complainant not be satisfied with the decision of the District Association, an appeal shall be submitted to the CSFA in line with the ESFA policy for appeals, which shall apply as follows:
   - (i) Any appeal against the decision of a District Schools' FA within the CSFA boundaries must be made within 2 working days of the receipt of the ruling that the DSFA has made.
   - (ii) The appeal must arrive at the CSFA headquarters by letter, countersigned by the Headteacher/Principal/Association Secretary and accompanied by a School/College/Association cheque for £50. This will be returned if the appeal is upheld.
   - (iii) The appeal will be considered by (insert responsible person/committee) and shall be final and binding on all participants.

(d) Protests arising from competitions organised for schools by a County Schools' Football Association shall be submitted to that County in line with the ESFA policy for protests, which shall apply as follows:
   - (i) All protests shall be in writing and shall be received at the CSFA nominated address within 2 working days of the match concerned.

(ii) No protest relative to the ground, goalposts, or other appurtenances of the game shall be considered unless a protest in writing was made to the referee before the start of the match.
(iii) Any protest shall be signed by the Headteacher/Principal as acknowledgment of their approval of its submission.
(iv) The (insert responsible person/committee) will gather any evidence they wish to have before making their decision.
(v) A copy of this decision must be relayed to both teams in writing.

(e) Should the complainant not be satisfied with the decision of the County Association, an appeal shall be submitted to the ESFA in line with the ESFA policy for appeals, which shall apply as follows:
(i) Any appeal against the decision of a County Schools' FA must be made within 2 working days of the receipt of the ruling that the CSFA has made.
(ii) The appeal must arrive at the ESFA headquarters by letter, countersigned by the Headteacher/Principal/Association Secretary and accompanied by a School/College/Association cheque for £50. This will be returned if the appeal is upheld.
(iii) The appeal will be considered by the ESFA's Governance Committee and shall be final and binding on all participants.

(f) Protests arising from competitions organised for schools, districts or counties by The English Schools' Football Association shall be submitted to the ESFA in line with the ESFA policy for protests, stated below:
(i) All protests regarding ESFA national competitions shall be in writing and shall be received at the ESFA headquarters within 2 working days of the match concerned.
(ii) No protest relative to the ground, goalposts, or other appurtenances of the game shall be considered unless a protest in writing was made to the referee before the start of the match.
(iii) Any protest shall be signed by the Headteacher / Principal or the relevant Association Secretary as acknowledgment of their approval of its submission.
(iv) The National Competitions Department (NCD) will gather any evidence they wish to have before making their decision.
(v) A copy of this decision must be relayed to both teams in writing.

(g) Should the complainant not be satisfied with the decision of the ESFA, an appeal shall be submitted to the ESFA in line with the ESFA policy for appeals, as stated below:
(i) Any appeal against the National Competitions Department (NCD) decision must be made within 2 working days of the receipt of the ruling that the NCD has made.
(ii) The appeal must arrive at the ESFA headquarters by letter, countersigned by the Headteacher / Principal / Association Secretary and accompanied by a School / College / Association cheque for £50. This will be returned if the appeal is upheld.
(iii) The appeal will be considered by members of a panel appointed by the ESFA Competitions Committee Chairman. The Competitions Committee shall have the power of Council to make all decisions in relation to the organisation, control, and management of any ESFA competition which shall be deemed to be the decision(s) of Council and shall be final and binding on all participants.

9. TARGET DATES

Council shall fix target dates by which all matches shall be played. Failure to keep to those dates may lead to disqualification. In the event that the team secretaries are

unable to agree a mutually convenient date to play the fixture, the default date for playing the match becomes the published deadline date.
The Competitions Committee, access to which is via the ESFA office, shall have the power to

(a) Order a match to be played on, or by, the given date
(b) Grant a reasonable extension to the target deadline
(c) Expel any team from the competition.

10. PLAYERS' ATTIRE

(a) Where Schools or Associations have similar colours, the home team shall be entitled to retain their colours and the visiting team shall change to colours that provide a satisfactory contrast.
(b) Teams must not wear shirt advertising of a conflicting interest to that of the competition's sponsor.
(c) Players' shirts shall be numbered.
(d) Attire worn by players and staff must only reflect their School, College or Association and not make any reference to other football organisations.

11. PLAYERS

(a) If Council has any doubt over the qualification of a player taking part in any competition, it shall have the power to call upon the player's Association or School to which he or she belongs to prove that he or she is qualified according to the rules, and failing satisfactory proof the offending School or Association shall be disqualified from the competition.
(b) Mixed-gender matches shall be played in line with current FA regulations.
(c) A player may only play for the School or College he/she is currently attending and on whose roll he/she appears at the time of the game in which he/she is playing.
(d) A pupil shall not play for more than one School / Association / County in the same competition during any season, except by permission of Council.
(e) Pupils under the statutory school leaving age who are not on the roll of a school may apply to the ESFA to participate in representative football for the Local or County Association in which they reside.
(f) In individual school/college competitions, a maximum of three players who are registered with any FA Licensed Academy / Centre of Excellence can participate in a match. Participation of the three players relates to their inclusion in the named squad. This rule does not apply to the Elite Schools' Cup competitions. ***Note: this rule does not apply to girls' that are registered with Regional Talent Centres (RTCs)*
(g) A pupil on a managed move referral is not eligible to participate in a national competition fixture without the permission of the English Schools' FA.

12. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

(a) In the National Rounds of all 11-a-side and 9-a-side competitions, extra time of 10 minutes each way (7 minutes at under 12 and 13) shall be played if the match ends in a draw. Should the scores remain equal after the conclusion of extra time, then the result shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark (taken in accordance with the recommendations of FIFA and published in the Laws of the Game).
(b) If, in the opinion of the referee, for circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, scheduled extra time in a match cannot be started or completed, a match shall be deemed to have been completed at the end of normal playing time. Penalties, if scheduled, shall then follow.

(c) Postponed or abandoned matches in the Individual Schools' competitions shall be played by the Saturday following the target date. Where schools are not mutually agreed on a date, then the matter will be referred to the Competitions Committee (via the ESFA Office).
(d) Postponed or abandoned matches in Inter Association or Inter County Competitions shall be played as Council directs.
(e) In the event of any match being abandoned for any reason stated under Law 5 of The Laws of the Game, Council shall have the power to allow the score at the time of the abandonment to stand and to remove from any competition any team found guilty of causing such abandonment.
(f) There shall be a half time interval of ten minutes in all 11-a-side matches which can only be altered with the consent of the referee.
(g) All arrangements for Finals shall be subject to the approval of Council.

13. MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) The Match Officials shall be appointed as Council shall direct. Their duties shall be accordance with the Laws of the Game as sanctioned and enforced by the International Football Association Board.
(b) In the event of a referee failing to appear, the teams involved must agree in writing upon one on the ground so that the game shall be conducted in accordance with the rules. The official so acting shall have the powers of a duly appointed referee.
(c) Match Officials for National Competitions shall be arranged by Council Members in accordance with the rules of the competition

14. MATCH DAYS

Matches will be played on Saturdays, but a match may be played midweek where teams are mutually agreed, or, where on the application of the home team, the Council considers it desirable. In the case of emergency, matches must be played on any date ordered by Council.

15. FINANCE

Financial assistance to the Competitions is at all times subject to confirmation by the Trustees in accordance with General Rule 10. Details of financial assistance will be circulated to the participating teams at the start of each season.

16. OVERNIGHT STAY

In exceptional circumstances where a School / College / Association needs to organise an overnight stay for the Official Party, and such an arrangement is approved by Council (access through the relevant Council Member), assistance towards the cost shall be up to £30 per head. These expenses will not be set against the gate, but will be met by the ESFA.
The official party shall consist of:-
(i) eight players and two officials (for 5-a-side competitions)
(ii) ten players and two officials (for 7-a-side competitions)
(iii) sixteen players and three officials (for Inter School 11-a-side competitions)
(iv) sixteen players and six officials (for Inter Association / County 11-a-side competitions)

17. ALTERATION OF RULES

These rules may be altered only at a General Meeting of the Association in accordance with the principles laid down in General Rule 15.

ESFA DANONE NATIONS' CUP
(UNDER 11 SMALL SIDED COMPETITIONS)

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME
ESFA Danone Nations U11 7-a-side Schools' Cup for School Teams
ESFA Danone Nations U11 7-a-side Schools' Cup for Girls
ESFA Danone Nations U11 Small Schools' Soccer Sevens
ESFA Danone Nations U11 7-a-side Inter Association Trophy

2. ENTRIES
(a) The Trophies shall be offered for annual competition in Schools/Associations in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association.
(b) To be eligible to enter the Small Schools' Soccer Sevens, the affiliated school must have fewer than 100 pupils on Roll in Key Stage Two, and not more than 30 pupils in Year 6 as of 1st September. Schools that qualify for the Small Schools' Soccer Sevens may enter that competition OR the Schools' Cup for School Teams – not both.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
(a) Only boys/girls receiving full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts, on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and to their Local Association and who are under the age of 11 and who are over the age of 9 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in these competitions. (Year 5 and 6 only)
(b) Each School/Association will select a squad of 10 players.
(c) These competitions are available to mixed teams except for the 7-a-side Girls' Cup. *Note: this competition is specifically designed to aid the development of girls' football.*

4. THE COMPETITION
(a) All games throughout this competition will be played outdoors.
(b) *Local Associations*: For Individual Schools' Competitions, each Local Association shall stage its own competition, providing its own Champion School to the County Competition.
(c) *County Associations*: Each County Association shall stage its own County Competitions to find its own County Champion School/Association to represent the County in the appropriate Regional Competition. All County Championships must be played by a date decided annually by Council. Full details of these County Championships must be sent to the ESFA Chief Executive, giving a minimum of 28 (twenty-eight) days' notice before the event takes place.
(d) *Regional Competitions*: The County Champion School/Association will play in one of four regional competitions. Schools/Associations representing counties shall travel to play at a suitable venue in each region. Details of the territory to be covered by each of the four regions will be decided by Council. The Regional Competitions shall each provide at least one entrant to the National Finals.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) *Local and County Associations:* The Secretary of the Association shall appoint the match officials.

(b) *Regional Competitions:* The Council Member in whose area the Regional Competition is being staged shall appoint the match officials.

(c) *National Finals:* The match officials shall be appointed by Council.

6. DURATION OF MATCHES

(a) Matches will consist of two periods of seven minutes with the teams changing straight round at half time.

(b) Teams should play in “league format”, followed by a “knock-out” section to determine the Champion School/Association. This two section competition will ensure that every team will play more than one game. In the League Section, a win will gain 3 points, and a draw will gain 1 point. Should teams share a qualifying position in the league the position shall be decided on goal difference. Should points and goal difference be equal the winners shall be the team scoring the most goals. If this fails to determine the winning team, the position shall be decided by a play-off in accordance with 6(c).

(c) If the scores are level at the end of normal time in a “knock-out” section of the Competition, play will continue for a period of six minutes, three minutes each way. If this fails to determine the winning team, the position will be decided by penalty kicks, taken in accordance with the regulation of FIFA, as published in the Laws of the Game. Where the National Final ends in a draw, extra-time shall be played. If the game remains a draw, the Trophy shall be shared.

(d) Council may amend the structure and players rules for the National Finals should circumstances demand.

7. OTHER MATCH REGULATIONS

(a) A size 4 football shall be used.

(b) ESFA recommends that (i) the pitch sizes should follow the FA regulations for mini soccer for children age ten years or over and (ii) goalposts should be 12 ft wide and 6 ft high. It is recognised that local conditions may require of compromise in dimensions.

(c) *Offside:* The law relating to Offside does not apply in these competitions.

ESFA IMPACT TROPHIES UNDER 12 INDOOR 5-A-SIDE CUPS

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitle "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME
ESFA Impact Under 12 Indoor 5-a-side Cup for Boys
ESFA Impact Under 12 Indoor 5-a-side Cup for Girls *(this competition is specifically designed to aid the development of girls' football)*

2. ENTRIES
The Trophies shall be offered for annual competition to schools' in affiliated membership with the English Schools' FA.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
(a) Only bona-fide boys and girls receiving full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts, on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 11 and under the age of 12 at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this Competition. (Year 7 only)
(b) Each school will select a squad of 8 players (see playing rules).

4. THE COMPETITION
(a) All games throughout this Competition will be played indoors.
(b) **Local Associations:** Each Local Association shall stage its own Competition, providing its Champion School to the Council Member concerned by a date decided annually by Council.
(c) **Area Competitions:** Each Area shall organise an Area Competition providing a Champion School to the ESFA Chief Executive by a date decided annually by Council. The Competitions shall each provide an entrant to the National Finals.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS
(a) The Hon. Secretary of the Local Association shall appoint the Match Officials for the local Association Competition.
(b) The Council Member concerned shall appoint the Match Officials for the Area Competition.
(c) The Match Officials for the National Finals will be appointed by the Council.

6. DURATION OF MATCHES
(a) Matches will consist of two periods of 5 (five) minutes, with teams changing straight round at half-time.
(b) Teams should play in a "league" format, followed by a "knock-out" section to determine the Champion School. This two section Competition will ensure that every team plays more than one game. In the League Section, a win will gain 3 points, and a draw will gain 1 point. Should teams share the first position in the league the position will be decided on goal difference. Should points and goal difference be equal the winners shall be the team scoring the most goals. If this fails to determine the winning team, the position shall be decided by a play-off in accordance with (c).
(c) If the scores are level at the end of normal time in a "knock-out" section of the Competition, play will continue for a further period of six minutes, three minutes each way. If this fails to determine the winning team, the position will be decided by penalty kicks, taken in accordance with the recommendations of FIFA, as published in the Laws of the Game.

7. OTHER MATCH REGULATIONS

(a) **Size of ball:** A size 4 indoor ball shall be used.

(b) **Goal Posts:** Should be 16 feet long and 4 feet high (5 metres by 1.4 metres).

(c) **Pitch:** The goal area should be a semi-circle of 25 feet (7.5 metres) radius, with the penalty spot placed 20 feet (6 metres) from the centre of each goal. The playing area will vary according to the facilities available.

5-A-SIDE INDOOR COMPETITION - PLAYING RULES

The Laws of the Game shall apply, except where noted, as follows:

1. (a) Each game is to be played by two teams of five players. Three substitutes shall be allowed at any time. A player who has been substituted during a match becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time.
   (b) One player from each team shall be the goalkeeper, whose dress must be distinct from that of the other players and the referee.
   (c) Players must wear shin pads and training shoes. Normal “outdoor” football boots or boots with blades are not allowed.
2. The time of the game shall be controlled either by the referee or by an independent timekeeper.
3. Play is started or restarted by the referee dropping the ball on the centre mark between one player of each team. The ball is not in play until it has reached the floor.
4. (a) The ball shall not intentionally be played above a height of two metres. Infringement of this rule will result in an indirect free kick being awarded to the opposing team from the place where the ball was last played.
   (b) Should a goalkeeper propel the ball above a height of two metres in the course of making a save then, providing the ball remains within the goal area, the goalkeeper shall have possession of the ball for him to release it into play in the normal fashion.
5. (a) Only the goalkeeper is allowed inside the penalty area.
   (b) Defending players entering this area intentionally, and gaining to seek an advantage will be penalized by a penalty kick.
   (c) The goalkeeper must not come out of the area and play the ball. If infringed a penalty shall be awarded and taken from 30 centimetres outside of the goal area.
6. (a) The goalkeeper must release the ball into play by rolling it underarm with the arm below horizontal. Otherwise the goalkeeper must comply with the Laws of the Game (i.e. release the ball into play with his feet provided that the ball has not been controlled with the hands or arms or release the ball with his feet if he has received the ball directly from one of his colleagues). Any infringement of this rule shall be the award of an indirect free kick taken three metres outside the goal area.
   (b) When a goalkeeper passes the ball to a colleague (either by throwing or kicking), the ball cannot be played directly back to the goalkeeper - it has to be via a third party. Any infringement of this rule shall be the award of an indirect free kick taken two metres outside the goal area.
   (c) If the ball is played over the boundary line behind the goal by any player, then the ball will be returned to the goalkeeper for play to be restarted by an underarm throw.
7. (a) Players shall stand at least three metres away from the ball when an opponent is taking a free kick.
   (b) In the event of a free kick being awarded adjacent to the penalty area or to a rebound surface then the ball shall be moved to a point one metre from that boundary, but not nearer to the opponent’s goal.
   (c) If the ball is played over the boundary line behind the goal by any player, then the ball will be returned to the goalkeeper for play to be restarted by an underarm throw.
8. (a) Penalty kicks shall be taken from the penalty mark or, if necessary, from a point one metre outside the penalty area (where no appropriate penalty mark is indicated)
   (b) A player taking a penalty kick may not take more than two steps before striking the ball.
9. Sliding tackles on an opponent shall be deemed as foul play punished by a free kick to the opposing team.
10. The Law regarding offside shall not apply.
11. Ideally the pitch will be surrounded by a rebound surface off which the ball can be played without penalty. If such a surface is not available, or the ball is played over the surround without the playing rules being infringed, the ball shall be returned into play by the referee dropping the ball between two opponents at a point one metre into the playing area from where the ball left the playing area boundary.

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 12 9-A-SIDE SCHOOLS' CUPS

The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME

ESFA PlayStation Under 12 9-a-side Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 12 9-a-side Schools' Cup for Girls (this competition is specifically designed to aid the development of girls' football)
ESFA PlayStation Under 12 9-a-side Small Schools' Trophy
ESFA PlayStation Under 12 9-a-side Elite Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 12 9-a-side Schools' Cup for B Teams

2. ENTRIES

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup, Small Schools' and Girls' Cups: The Cup shall be offered for annual competition to schools in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association. Council has the right to fill any vacancy that may occur in the first national round. To be eligible to enter the Small Schools' Trophy, the affiliated school must have fewer than 65 boys on roll in Year 7.

(b) 'B' Team Cup: The cup shall be offered for annual competition to B teams of Schools in affiliated membership with the ESFA, and which have entered an 'A' team entered and fulfilled a fixture in the in the ESFA PlayStation Under 12 Schools' Cup (includes Elite and Small Schools' Cups).

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup and Small Schools' Trophy: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 11 years and under the age of 12 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Year 7 only)

(b) Girls' Cup: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 10 years and under the age of 12 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Years 6 & 7 girls only)

(c) B Team Cup: Only players who have not represented their school in the ESFA PlayStation Under 12 Schools', Elite or Small Schools' Cup are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Schools that enter this competition must, on request from the ESFA, provide evidence that they have adhered to this rule. Schools that infringe this rule will be removed from both competitions. Players registered with the programme for excellence are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. (Year 7 only)

4. THE COMPETITION

(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all other school games.

(b) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

(c) The ball shall be size 4.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 30 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 60 minutes, the Team Managers of the competing teams and the referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 50 minutes (25 minutes each way).

Goalpost and pitch size guide

The correct size goal posts for this format of football is 16 ft x 7 ft, although 21 ft x 7 ft can be used. Pitch size should be no greater than 80 x 50 yards.

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 13 INTER ASSOCIATION TROPHY

The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled “General Competition Rules”.

1. NAME

ESFA PlayStation Under 13 Inter Association Trophy

2. ENTRIES

The Trophy shall be offered for annual competition amongst affiliated local Associations in England.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts, who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the local Association, over the age of 11 years and under the age of 13 years at midnight between 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to play in this Competition. (Years 7 and 8)

4. THE COMPETITION

(a) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.
(b) Matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all other Inter Association matches with the exception of the Under 15 Inter Association Trophy.
(c) The final 16 teams shall then be divided into two equal sections, which shall be known as ‘North’ and ‘South’ respectively. The ties in each section will then be drawn independently until the last four teams, two from the North and two from the South remain. These shall be drawn openly and the two remaining teams shall compete in the Final.
(d) The ball shall be size 4.
(e) The Semi Finals and Final shall be played on grounds approved by Council.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 35 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 70 minutes the Secretaries of the competing teams and the referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each way).

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 13 SCHOOLS' CUPS

The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME

ESFA PlayStation Under 13 Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 13 9-a-side Schools' Cup for Girls *(this competition is specifically designed to aid the development of girls' football)*
ESFA PlayStation Under 13 Small Schools' Trophy
ESFA PlayStation Under 13 Schools' Cup for B Teams
ESFA PlayStation Under 13 9-a-side Elite Schools' Cup

2. ENTRIES

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup, Small Schools' and Girls' Cups: The Cup shall be offered for annual competition to schools in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association. Council has the right to fill any vacancy that may occur in the first national round. To be eligible to enter the Small Schools' Trophy, the affiliated school must have fewer than 65 boys on roll in Year 8.

(b) 'B' Team Cup: The cup shall be offered for annual competition to B teams of Schools in affiliated membership with the ESFA, and which have entered an 'A' team entered and fulfilled a fixture in the in the ESFA PlayStation Under 13 Schools' Cup (includes Elite Schools' and Small Schools' Cups).

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

(a) Schools' Cup and Small Schools' Trophy: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 12 years and under the age of 13 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Year 8 only)

(b) Girls' Cup: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 11 years and under the age of 13 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Years 7 & 8 girls only)

(c) B Team Cup: Only players who have not represented their school in the ESFA PlayStation Under 13 Schools' or Small Schools' Cup are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Schools that enter this competition must, on request from the ESFA, provide evidence that they have adhered to this rule. Schools that infringe this rule will be removed from both competitions. Players registered with the programme for excellence are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. (Year 8 only)

4. THE COMPETITIONS

(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all school games.

(b) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

(c) The ball shall be size 4.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 35 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 70 minutes, the team managers of the competing teams and the referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each way).

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 14 INTER COUNTY TROPHY (BOYS & GIRLS)

The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled “General Competition Rules”.

1. NAME

ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Inter County Trophy for Boys
ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Inter County Trophy for Girls

2. ENTRIES

The Trophies shall be offered for annual competition amongst the affiliated County Associations who provide football for boys and girls. Welsh County Associations, with the permission of the Welsh Schools’ FA, may apply to enter the competition.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Only bona-fide scholars receiving full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts, who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the County Association, over the age of 13 years and under the age of 14 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in the competition (Year 9 only). Girls should be over the age of 12 years and under the age of 14 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition (Years 8 & 9)

4. THE COMPETITION

(a) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.
(b) The ball shall be a size 4 unless mutually agreed to be a size 5.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 35 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 70 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be no less than 60 minutes (30 minutes each way).

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 14 SCHOOLS' CUPS

The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME

ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Schools' Cup for Girls *(this competition is specifically designed to aid the development of girls' football)*
ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Small Schools' Trophy
ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Elite Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Schools' Cup for B Teams

2. ENTRIES

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup, Small Schools' and Girls' Cups: The Cup shall be offered for annual competition to schools in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association. Council has the right to fill any vacancy that may occur in the first national round. To be eligible to enter the Small Schools' Trophy, the affiliated school must have fewer than 65 boys on roll in Year 9.

(b) 'B' Team Cup: The cup shall be offered for annual competition to B teams of Schools in affiliated membership with the ESFA, and which have entered an 'A' team entered and fulfilled a fixture in the in the ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Schools' Cup (includes Elite and Small Schools' Cups).

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup and Small Schools' Trophy: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 13 years and under the age of 14 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Year 9 only)

(b) Girls' Cup: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 12 years and under the age of 14 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Years 8 & 9 girls only)

(c) B Team Cup: Only players who have not represented their school in the ESFA PlayStation Under 14 Schools', Elite or Small Schools' Cup are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Schools that enter this competition must, on request from the ESFA, provide evidence that they have adhered to this rule. Schools that infringe this rule will be removed from both competitions. Players registered with the programme for excellence are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. (Year 9 only)

4. THE COMPETITION

(a) The matches shall be played on the cup tie principle and shall take place over all other school games.

(b) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

(c) The ball shall be a size 4 unless mutually agreed to be a size 5.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 35 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 70 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each way).

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 15 INTER ASSOCIATION TROPHY

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled “General Competition Rules”.

1. NAME
ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Inter Association Trophy

2. ENTRIES
The Trophy shall be offered for annual competition amongst affiliated local Associations in England.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts, who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the local Association, over the age of 13 years and under the age of 15 years at midnight between 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to play in this Competition. (Years 9 and 10 only)

4. THE COMPETITION
(a) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.
(b) Matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all other Inter Association matches.
(c) The final 16 teams shall then be divided into two equal sections, which shall be known as ‘North’ and ‘South’ respectively. The ties in each section will then be drawn independently until the last four teams, two from the North and two from the South remain. These shall be drawn openly and the two remaining teams shall compete in the Final.
(d) The ball shall be size 5.
(e) The Semi Finals and Final shall be played on grounds approved by Council.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES
The duration of each match shall be 40 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 80 minutes the Secretaries of the competing teams and the referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way).

ESFA PLAYSTATION UNDER 15 SCHOOLS' CUPS

The rules stated below shall be addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME

ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Schools' Cup for Girls *(this competition is specifically designed to aid the development of girls' football)*
ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Small Schools' Trophy
ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Elite Schools' Cup
ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Schools' Cup for B Teams

2. ENTRIES

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup, Small Schools' and Girls' Cups: The Cup shall be offered for annual competition to schools in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association. Council has the right to fill any vacancy that may occur in the first national round. To be eligible to enter the Small Schools' Trophy, the affiliated school must have fewer than 65 boys on roll in Year 10.

(b) 'B' Team Cup: The cup shall be offered for annual competition to B teams of Schools in affiliated membership with the ESFA, and which have entered an 'A' team entered and fulfilled a fixture in the in the ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Schools' Cup (includes Elite Schools' and Small Schools' Cups).

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

(a) Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup and Small Schools' Trophy: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 14 years and under the age of 15 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Year 10 only)

(b) Girls' Cup: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 13 years and under the age of 15 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Years 9 & 10 girls only)

(c) B Team Cup: Only players who have not represented their school in the ESFA PlayStation Under 15 Schools' or Small Schools' Cup are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Schools that enter this competition must, on request from the ESFA, provide evidence that they have adhered to this rule. Schools that infringe this rule will be removed from both competitions. Players registered with the programme for excellence are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. (Year 10 only)

4. THE COMPETITIONS

(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principal and shall take precedence over all other school games.

(b) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 40 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 80 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way).

ESFA PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 16 SCHOOLS' CUPS

The rules stated below shall be addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME

ESFA Premier League Under 16 Schools' Cup for Boys
ESFA Premier League Under 16 Schools' Cup for Girls
ESFA Premier League Under 16 Small Schools' Trophy
ESFA Premier League Under 16 Elite Schools' Cup

2. ENTRIES

Schools' Cup, Elite Schools' Cup, Small Schools' and Girls' Cups: The Cup shall be offered for annual competition to schools in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association. Council has the right to fill any vacancy that may occur in the first national round. To be eligible to enter the Small Schools' Trophy, the affiliated school must have fewer than 65 boys on roll in Year 11.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

(a) Schools' Cup and Small Schools' Trophy: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 15 years and under the age of 16 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Year 11 only)

(b) Girls' Cup: Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 14 years and under the age of 16 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition. (Years 10 & 11 girls only)

(C) B Team Cup: Only players who have not represented their school in the ESFA PlayStation Under 16 Schools', Elite Schools' or Small Schools' Cup are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Schools that enter this competition must, on request from the ESFA, provide evidence that they have adhered to this rule. Schools that infringe this rule will be removed from both competitions. Players registered with the programme for excellence are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. (Year 11 only)

4. THE COMPETITIONS

(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principal and shall take precedence over all other school games.

(b) The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

The duration of each match shall be 40 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 80 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way).

ESFA UNDER 16 INTER COUNTY TROPHY (BOYS & GIRLS)

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled “General Competition Rules”.

1. NAME
ESFA Under 16 Inter County Trophy for Boys
ESFA Under 16 Inter County Trophy for Girls

2. ENTRIES
The Trophies shall be offered for annual competition amongst the affiliated County Associations who provide football for boys and girls. Welsh County Associations, with the permission of the Welsh Schools’ FA, may apply to enter the competition.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
Only bona-fide scholars receiving full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts, who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA. Boys should be over the age of 15 years and under the age of 16 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in the competition. (Year 11). Girls should be over the age of 14 years and under the age of 16 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in the competition. (Year 10 & 11).

4. THE COMPETITIONS
The draws will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES
The duration of each match shall be 40 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 80 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each way).

ESFA UNDER 18 INTER COUNTY TROPHY FOR BOYS

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled “General Competition Rules”.

1. NAME
ESFA Under 18 Inter County Trophy for Boys

2. ENTRIES
The Trophy shall be offered for annual competition amongst the affiliated County Associations who provide over-statutory aged football for boys. Welsh County Associations, with the permission of the Welsh Schools’ FA, may apply to enter the competition.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
Only bona-fide scholars receiving full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts, who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the County Association, over the age of 16 years and under the age of 18 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in the competition. (Years 12 and 13)

4. THE COMPETITION
The draw will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES
The duration of each match shall be 45 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 90 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be no less than 80 minutes (40 minutes each way).

ESFA UNDER 18 ELITE SCHOOLS' & COLLEGES' CUP

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME
ESFA Under 18 Elite Schools' & Colleges' Trophy for Boys

2. ENTRIES
The Cup shall be offered for annual competition to schools and colleges in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association. Council has the right to fill any vacancy that may occur in the first national round. This competition is specifically designed to cater for those schools and colleges that offer a football academy programme at sixth form level.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school or college affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 15 years and under the age of 18 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition (Year 11 to 13). Students on courses based upon day-release are ineligible to take part in this competition.

4. THE COMPETITIONS
(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all other school games.
(b) The draws will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES
The duration of each match shall be 45 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 90 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be no less than 80 minutes (40 minutes each way).

ESFA UNDER 18 SCHOOLS' TROPHIES (BOYS & GIRLS)

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME
ESFA Under 18 Schools' Trophy for Boys
ESFA Under 18 Schools' Trophy for Girls
ESFA Under 18 Schools' Trophy for B Teams

2. ENTRIES
(a) The Trophies shall be offered for annual competition to schools in affiliated membership with the English Schools' Football Association.
(b) Schools entering this competition will not be allowed to enter the Under 18 Colleges' Trophy.
(c) Schools must have at least one hundred students / scholars under statutory school age on roll.
(d) 'B' Team Cup: The cup shall be offered for annual competition to B teams of Schools in affiliated membership with the ESFA, and which have entered an 'A' team entered and fulfilled a fixture in the in the ESFA Under 18 Schools' Trophy.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
(a) Only bona-fide scholars receiving full time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a school affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 15 years and under the age of 18 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition (Year 11 to 13). Students on courses based upon day-release are ineligible to take part in this competition. Students that have enrolled at a school/college as part of a football academy programme are ineligible to participate in this competition, save for the ESFA Under 18 Elite Schools' & Colleges' Trophy. ***Guidance note: This applies to schools that offer a Football Academy, Football Development Programme or Sports Academy with a football section (boys competition only). Students that undertake 6 or more hours of football training at the school per week (excluding competition fixtures and strength and conditioning sessions) are not eligible to participate in this competition and should be entered into the 'Elite' competition.*
(b) B Team Cup: Only players who have not represented their school in the ESFA Under 18 Schools' Trophy are eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup. Schools that enter this competition must, on request from the ESFA, provide evidence that they have adhered to this rule. Schools that infringe this rule will be removed from both competitions. Players registered with the programme for excellence are not eligible to take part in the 'B' Team Cup.

4. THE COMPETITIONS
(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all other school games.
(b) The draws will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES
The duration of each match shall be 45 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 90 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be no less than 80 minutes (40 minutes each way).

ESFA UNDER 18 COLLEGES' TROPHIES (BOYS & GIRLS)

INTRODUCTION
The rules stated below shall be in addition to those entitled "General Competition Rules".

1. NAME
ESFA Under 18 Colleges' Trophy for Boys
ESFA Under 18 Colleges' Trophy for Girls

2. ENTRIES
(a) The Trophies shall be offered for annual competition to Colleges in affiliated membership to the English Schools' Football Association.
(b) Colleges entering these competitions will not be allowed to enter the Under 18 Schools' Trophies.

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS
Only bona fide scholars/students receiving full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts who are on the roll of a college affiliated to the ESFA and who are over the age of 15 years and under the age of 18 years at midnight between the previous 31st August and 1st September shall be allowed to take part in this competition (Year 11 to 13). Students on courses based upon day-release are ineligible to take part in this competition. Students that have enrolled at a school/college as part of a football academy programme are ineligible to participate in this competition, save for the ESFA Under 18 Elite Schools' & Colleges' Trophy. ***Guidance note: This applies to colleges that offer a Football Academy, Football Development Programme or Sports Academy with a football section. Students that undertake 6 or more hours of football training at the college per week (excluding competition fixtures and strength and conditioning sessions) are not eligible to participate in this competition and should be entered into the 'Elite' competition.*

4. THE COMPETITIONS
(a) The matches shall be played on a cup tie principle and shall take precedence over all other college games.
(b) The draws will be published on the ESFA website (www.esfa.co.uk) and will be arranged so that the travelling by the away team is kept to a minimum.

5. DURATION OF MATCHES
The duration of each match shall be 45 minutes each way. If it is deemed inadvisable to play for 90 minutes, the Secretaries of the competing teams and the Referee may decide that the duration of play shall be no less than 80 minutes (40 minutes each way).