



## HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

### ESFA DEVELOPMENT FUND

The recently launched ESFA development fund attracted nearly 70 applications for funding by the deadline of 9th January. Overall, applicants have bid to support the creation of over 1800 new teams, with high volumes of applications to support Futsal and nearly 150 proposed new opportunities for disabled players to engage. These applications are being considered by a panel and it is anticipated that decisions will be communicated no later than w/c 23rd January.



### NATIONAL COMPETITIONS UPDATE

National finals confirmed!

The dates and venues for our two earliest national competitions' finals have now been finalised.

The ESFA Impact Trophies U12 Indoor Football Fives final will be held on Monday 6th March at the Playfootball Centre in Birmingham. We are looking forward to using this venue for the first time! Details of the area finals leading up to the national final can be found by clicking [here](#).

The date and venue for The Deaf Schools' Trophy national finals have also been finalised and we are pleased that once again the Derby Soccerdome will host us, on Tuesday 7th February.

National Competitions reminders....

Please remember that if, in exceptional circumstances, DSFAs/CSFAs are seeking financial support from the ESFA for overnight stays to participate in Association national competitions, requests for funding must be in advance, via your Council member. Please also remember that claims for home losses must be supported by receipts.

The fixture hub on the ESFA website went live in November. If you're looking for fixtures please log in and find your next opponent!



**IMPACT**  
TROPHIES & MEDALS

## SAFEGUARDING – USEFUL REMINDERS

We wanted to reiterate some of the ESFA policies and remind you of the safeguarding measures in place for representative schools' football.

As you will know, every District and County Association should by now have given ESFA a full list of all their management team and coaching staff. Every person involved in coaching representative football MUST have an accepted FA Criminal Record Check and also have had safeguarding training either through The FA or (practising teachers only) through their employer within the last 3 years.

The FA provides safeguarding training which is football focussed and child-centred. There is safeguarding training suitable for everyone, whatever their role and full information can be found on the FA website [here](#). AOTTs who need to renew their safeguarding training through the FA can now update this online and it is now free. Please go to the link above and scroll down to Online Recertification where full instructions can be downloaded.

On the ESFA website, we have provided a list of policies and guidance for Associations on a range of topics. You can find the documents to download [here](#), but we would like to draw your attention to the following guidance which hopefully will answer some of the most frequently asked questions:

- If an Association is providing transport for players, either with a minibus or offering lifts, then the drivers must have an FA DBS check and be insured to transport the children. If the parents arrange to share lifts, then it is a private arrangement and DBS checks and business insurance are not necessary.

- Volunteers who occasionally run the line for the Association are not required to have an FA DBS check but regular referees must be both qualified and FA DBS checked (contact your local County FA for confirmation)

- Do all your players and their parents know who the Welfare Officer is? Every Association who runs rep teams has an FA qualified Welfare Officer and it is important that your players, parents and coaches know how to contact them.

- Social media is a great way to share your successes and encourage support for your organisation but remember, Associations have a responsibility to ensure all posts by managers, coaches and players are acceptable. Anything which is abusive, offensive or makes comment about other teams or match officials will result in sanctions and possible fines so please ensure your members post responsibly.

- Managers and coaches must not be friends on social media with players in their teams, unless they are immediately related to them.

- If your players use Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, please encourage them to have private settings and keep personal information private



- If managers use text messaging to communicate with players, this must be with written parental consent and must only be about football and must never be individual, personal messages.

An adult (parent or another coach) should always be copied in to correspondence with players.

- Taking photographs at a football match in a public place does not require consent. If the match is in school or private ground, they may have their own policies but in a public place such as a park, it is perfectly ok to take photographs and video. However, if you have a child who is under a Child Protection Order or a child whose parent/ guardian has not given consent on their registration form then none of the children can be photographed, to protect the identity of the child.

- If you have serious concerns about a possible child protection issue relating to the use of photographs or video recording, then call the Police. This action should only be taken where you believe that someone may be acting unlawfully or putting a child at risk.

- There should always be at least 2 adults present at any training or match. If an assistant coach is unavailable, it is fine to ask a parent to stay and support the manager; they don't need to have an FA DBS check for a one-off session. If they help every week, four times in a month or on an overnight trip, then the law says they must have an FA DBS check.

- There should always be an adult female present where girls' teams are playing and vice versa. This could be a parent, but best practice is to have a regular helper who is FA DBS checked who can go into changing rooms and support the team if there are any problems such as injury or illness.

We hope these reminders are helpful and please do use the information on the website to help guide your child welfare practice. For further information and advice, please contact [Sarah.dacosta@schoolsfa.com](mailto:Sarah.dacosta@schoolsfa.com) or [Martin.duffield@schoolsfa.com](mailto:Martin.duffield@schoolsfa.com)



## ON THE HUNT FOR VOLUNTEERS?

Have you thought about advertising that some websites can offer you? Volunteering “job” websites are on the increase, are often free, allow advertisers to specify the skills/experience (eg, QTS) they are looking for and can be searched geographically by those who are considering volunteering. Here are some options you might not know about – check terms and conditions before committing:

<https://do-it.org>

The first website which pops up on a google search for volunteering, this website offers free advertising for 28 days.

[www.charityjobs.co.uk](http://www.charityjobs.co.uk)

Although referencing jobs, this website has nearly 2000 volunteering opportunities nationally.

[www.joinin.org](http://www.joinin.org)

The Sport and Recreation Alliance’s volunteering arm. Click on the “we need volunteers” tab to see if their service matches your needs

Many county councils have voluntary opportunities advertised on their websites – simply google “volunteering in <county>” and you should be able to follow the links to the relevant pages to find out how to advertise. This google search might also generate links to the local county sports partnership or other sports volunteering agencies who will take your advert at little or no cost.

If you are looking for younger volunteers, Vinspired is a charity which helps young people to find opportunities for volunteering. Targeting those aged 14-25, it also runs a recognition scheme for its volunteers, and has a small grant scheme (called “cashpoint”) to “bring community projects to life”. There’s a football example on there – might this work for you? Have a look at their website at <https://vinspired.com> to see if you are eligible to advertise.

Have you thought about contacting your local FE college or university? All full time students under the age of 18 studying in FE must undertake work placement as part of their programmes of study. This could be a

short experience of work at peak times for you, or a longer programme which builds their skills – and your volunteer base – over a year or more. Search for your local FE college and find the link to “work experience”,



or call and ask to speak to the person responsible for finding work placements. Depending on what you want from your volunteers, this might bring you access to IT or arts students who need to create websites; business students who need to arrange events, or who are following a journalism pathway and need activity to film, report on and publish; public services students who need to act as stewards and administration students who need to organise events, plan and minute meetings and produce reports: as well as the more obvious choice of sports students, these vocational learners may be helpful way to introducing new volunteers to your Association. Widen this to Universities which offer work experience as part of their degrees or as a “sandwich” year and you bring in the potential for physiotherapy practice, marketing and promotions or even finance and fundraising! And whilst not for everyone, sports graduates in particular often look for a period of work experience after they complete their degrees in order to give them the edge when applying for jobs: if this appeals to you as an option, again, contact your local University’s academic or student services department, or their Students’ Union.

