



Scottish Charity

No: SC006452

To: School Football Reps & Association Secretaries

Re: Programme for Season 2020-21

Date: Tuesday August 25th 2020.

RATIONALE

Restarting football will not be at the top of your “to do list” now that you are back in school but its eventual safe re-emergence will be a welcome sign to pupils, carers/parents and staff that we are moving in a positive direction so thank you for your ongoing commitment to our children and to our sport.

Schools football provides a positive footballing experience which is free of charge, something which will be even more important to our communities as the economic impact of Covid-19 begins to bite.

Further to our [June Newsletter](#), please find below an outline of what we hope to deliver this season. Given that the pandemic makes it impossible to deliver the usual SSFA Programme of local, national and international events, the SSFA has devised an alternative which focusses on delivering some key priorities for season 2020-21.

This Programme is indicative only. Changes arising from the future management of Covid-19 at national, Local Authority and school level will inevitably impact on what the SSFA can do. **Any activities which can be delivered will take place according to the relevant Local Authority guidelines for delivering the school curriculum/activities and, where appropriate, guidance from the Scottish Govt/Sportscotland/SFA.**

SSFA PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR SEASON 2020-21

1. Core Local Association Programme for Season 2020-21

In terms of football, the Scottish Government/Sportscotland/SFA Phase 3 guidelines provide information which may be of use to individual schools and Local Associations in deciding what football related activities can safely be undertaken for example during PE lessons or after-school activities/training. On-going Phase 3 (training/small-sided games/fixtures) guidance can be found on the [Scottish F.A. website](#)

The current Phase 3 guidelines for the return of all areas of Grassroots Football indicate as follows but for full details click the link above:

Stages 1 & 2. From 24th August – outdoor contact training in groups of 15/20/30 and small sided games.

Stage 3. From 11th September – able to arrange local (friendly) games.

Stage 4. From 1st October – match play. Please note, match day protocols for clubs will be available on the SFA website from August 31st.

Once schools are permitted to return to playing matches, Local Associations will be asked to assist in the provision of whatever format of football individual schools and/or groups of schools would find most helpful in supporting children's wellbeing. For example, the small sided game/festivals, individual 11-aside games, league and cup games – whatever is most appropriate to the children's needs, local conditions (e.g. travel distances, available staffing etc.), Local Authority Guidance to schools and Scot Govt./Sportscotland/SFA Covid-19 protocols.

2. Core National/International Programmes for Season 2020-21

- Completion of as many unfinished Shield and National Association competitions as possible from season 2019/20. Most of the outstanding fixtures are at semi-final or final stages. Further information will be sent to the relevant schools and Associations in due course.
- In recognition of the commitment and considerable preparation undertaken by the 2019/20 girls team and their support network, the SSFA is trying to organise a Covid-19 compliant international fixture possibly against England before Christmas.
- Preparing for and competing in the Centenary Shield and Bob Docherty Tournament in March/April 2021.
- Soccer Sevens for U13 boys and U15 girls. Entry is free and entry forms will be sent out in October with a view to running the competition between March and May 2021.

Should the current crisis abate sufficiently, the Association will consider adding events to this programme.

Administration and Communication with the SSFA

1. Please note that currently the on-line system for **registration, affiliation and competition entry is currently closed.**
2. Our office at Hampden is closed but our General Secretary, John Watson, can be reached at john.watson@scottish-football.com

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