



Scottish Charity
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SSFA NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2020

This newsletter provides important information for all those involved in schools' football. **Please forward it to those involved in your school.** An electronic copy is also available on the SSFA website under the NEWS tab.

Please keep the conversations going about what might be possible in terms of schools football. That way when the current crisis permits, we are in a position to offer positive football experiences to pupils who have no other means of accessing the game.

Contact the General Secretary at john.watson@scottish-football.com if you need advice or think the national body can support your efforts or those of your Local Association.

QUICK LINKS: INFORMATION, UPDATES AND ACTION REQUIRED

Important and Urgent Action Required on Registration. Further to the General Secretary's recent e-mail, the on-line system for registration and affiliation is now open. **Schools must register via Local Association membership only.** Because there are no national shield competitions this season, this is the only way to ensure that existing school data rolls on. Schools which do not register by this means will lose all their existing data. Existing data can, however, be updated. <https://www.scottishfalive.co.uk/scottishfa/>

Local Associations also need to register but unfortunately cannot do so at this time as there is a fault in the system. The SFA have been advised of the situation and are endeavouring to fix it. More information from the General Secretary to follow.

SFA Phase 3: Matchday Protocols. Much of the document relates to the context in which clubs rather than schools provide football. It does, however, contain important football specific protocols for matchdays, for example regarding conduct on and off the pitch and limits on numbers. <https://scottishschoolsfa.co.uk/sfa-updated-phase-3-guidelines/>

Mental Health in Scottish Football. See link for a very worthwhile e-learning module. This module is currently free of charge. Well worth considering as part of your professional training. <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/football-development/coaching/find-a-course/>

Sportscotland Covid Officer training. This e-module was developed by sportscotland and the SRU. It contains information which may be of use to those of you who volunteer at club level. <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/football-development/return-to-football-hub/>

7-side U-13 boys and U-15 girls. The invitation to participate in these events has been put back until after Christmas. There will be no charge for entering these competitions.

Update on Outstanding Shield and Plate fixtures. See link for list of fixtures held over from season 2019-20 which we hope to finish this season. <https://scottishschoolsfa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Shield-Nat-Cup-Outstanding-Fixtures.pdf>

QUICK LINKS: NEWS

Following the untimely death of our great friend and colleague David Eccles, the SSFA have, after consultation with David's family, renamed one of our annual awards in his honour. The Volunteer of the Year Award will now be known as the David Eccles Volunteer of the Year Award.

The School of the Year Award for season 2019-20 has been presented to Woodmill High School in recognition of the dedication and commitment of pupils and staff in offering opportunities and experiences through football during a traumatic year for their community. Click on link for pics and more detail of Woodmill High's achievements.

<https://scottishschoolsfa.co.uk/woodmill-high-school-of-the-year/>

International Squads. Congratulations to our senior boys who are in the process of receiving their international caps for season 2019-20. Click on link for some fabulous photos of the boys.

<https://scottishschoolsfa.co.uk/boys-cap-ceremony-2020/>

Unfortunately, the Girls International against England has had to be postponed. Further info to follow. In the meantime, here is a cracking photo of the girls.

<https://scottishschoolsfa.co.uk/girls-to-play-england/>

Facebook/Twitter. Please continue to upload your schools' football news onto our Facebook and Twitter feeds. The positive content and tone provides a much needed boost to a surprisingly broad range of people.

<https://twitter.com/sschoolsfa>

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishschoolsfa/>

And Finally. Restarting football will not be at the top of your "to do list" given all the structural and curricular changes which you are currently managing. But judging by the response from many Local Associations and from schools involved in the 2019-20 Plate and Shield fixtures, its safe re-emergence is a welcome sign to pupils, parents/carers and staff that we are moving in a positive direction, albeit in fits and starts, and for that, they, and we, thank you.

With best wishes to you and yours from everyone at the Scottish Schools Football Association.

October 2020