

The FA National Football Development Programme

Schools' Competition National Football Framework



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The following framework sets out the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) and The Football Association (The FA) framework for inter-school football competitions from Key Stage 1-4. The framework offers a variety of engaging options for all young people including young people with disabilities. These include:

- Mini-soccer at Key Stage 2
- The use of 6v6 or 7v7 for development purposes at first phase of Secondary School
- Transition to 9v9
- 11-a-side at Year 6 and above
- Futsal (5-a-side), an exciting new game to the majority of English Secondary Schools.

This framework builds on the schools competitions provided by the ESFA Districts and County Associations up and down the country. It is integral to the coordination and

development of schools' football competitions that Schools' Football Associations must be engaged in the implementation of any new aspects outlined in the framework. All schools' competitions must be registered and sanctioned by the District Schools or County Schools Associations. In addition, Schools' Associations provide 11-a-side representative school football.

For further information please contact **John.Read@SchoolsFA.com** or **Donna.McIvor@TheFa.com**

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Introductory Development Activities to introduce young people to high quality schools' competitions				
Age group	Recommended format	Location	Proposed Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 1 (age 5-7)	<p>FUN football festivals to support The FA OSHL, School Club Link, and Junior Football Organiser programmes.</p> <p>One off festivals should incorporate movement skills delivered through a multi skill approach through fun football games. All players to experience all positions including goalkeeper through 4v4 or 5v5 .</p> <p>Mini-soccer games.</p> <p>No Cup/League Competitions or results.</p>	Central venue sites based around SSPs.	Sept-Oct or April-July when the weather is appropriate	N/A

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Introductory Development Activities to introduce young people to high quality schools' competitions				
Age group	Recommended format	Location	Proposed Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 2 (age 7-9)	<p>FUN football festivals to support The FA OSHL School Club Link, and Junior Football Organiser programmes.</p> <p>One off festivals should incorporate movement skills delivered through a multi skill approach through fun football games. All players to experience all positions including goalkeeper through 4v4 or 5v5.</p> <p>Mini-soccer games.</p>	Central venue sites based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Sept-Oct or April-July when the weather is appropriate	N/A

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Age group	Recommended format	Location	Proposed Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 2 (age 9-11)	Mini-soccer 6v6 or 7v7. Can be played mixed, or for development purposes girls or boys only including young people with disabilities.	Weekly, fortnightly or monthly central venue inter-school leagues based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Sept-Dec Winter break March-April	U11s boys inter-school 7-a-side U11s girls only interschool 6-a-side U11s mixed 6-a-side (small schools only) Competitions run September to May

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Age group	Recommended format	Location	Proposed Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 3 (Age 11-12)	6v6 or 7v7-a-side leagues. Boys only or girls only including young people with disabilities for development purposes.	Weekly central venue inter-school competitions based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Sept-Dec Winter break March-April	U12s boys indoor 5-a-side
	9v9 boys or girls only games to support the transition from Mini-soccer to 11-a-side.	Central venue secondary school pitch split into 2 pitches based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Sept-Dec Winter break March-April	U12s boys 11-a-side
	11v11 boys or girls only.	Home and away fixtures based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Sept-Mar	U12s girls indoor 5-a-side
	Futsal (5-a-side). Boys only or girls only.	Central venue. Preferably indoor site. Sports hall (basketball court size) but can be played outdoor on sand based astro-turf). Based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Dec-Feb	Competition runs September to April (The transition from 5-a-side to Futsal is currently being explored for the 2007/08 season)

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Age group	Recommended format	Location	Proposed Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 3/4 (Age 12-16)	<p>11-a-side boys only and girls only including young people with disabilities.</p> <p>6/7-a-side boys only and girls only including young people with disabilities for developmental purposes.</p> <p>Futsal (5-a-side) boys only or girls only.</p>	<p>Home and away fixtures based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations</p> <p>Central venue. Based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations</p> <p>Central venue. Preferably indoor site. Sports hall (basketball court size) but can be played outdoor on sand based astro-turf). Based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Winter break March-April</p> <p>Sept-Dec Winter break March-April</p> <p>Dec-Feb</p>	<p>U13 boys only 11-a-side</p> <p>U13 girls only 11-a-side</p> <p>U14 boys only 11-a-side</p> <p>U15 girls only 11-a-side</p> <p>U15 boys only 11-a-side</p> <p>U16 boys only 11-a-side</p> <p>U16 girls only 11-a-side</p> <p>Competition runs September – May</p> <p>Inter-school regionalised knock out competitions</p>

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Age group	Recommended format	Location	Proposed Scheduling	Exit route
Junior Varsity (age 16-19)	11-a-side male only and female only including young people with disabilities. Futsal (5-a-side) single sex.	Home and away fixtures based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations Central venue. Preferably indoor site. Sports hall (basketball court size) but can be played outdoor on sand based astro-turf). Based around SSPs and ESFA District / County Associations	Sept –April Sept-April	U18 male 11-a-side competition for schools Inter-school regionalised knock out competitions U18 female 11-a-side competition for schools Inter-school regionalised knock out competitions U18 male 11-a-side competition for sixth form and FE colleges Inter-colleges regionalised knock out competitions Competition runs September to April