

Competition Framework



Youth Sport Trust



Schools Competition National Football Framework Guidance Notes

Competitions review

Player development and growth and retention are two of the core objectives in the Football Association's new National Game Strategy to be launched in the latter part of 2007. One of the key objectives of the strategy will be to undertake a comprehensive competitions review across grassroots football. In the interim, The FA Football Development Division and ESFA have developed the following schools competition framework.

Benefits

The development of the framework has provided both organisations with an opportunity to review the existing competitions programme and the pathways provided for young people in schools football. The FA and ESFA are determined to put in place a framework that puts the development of young people at its heart and supports The FA's Long Term Player Development models for male and female players.

Key messages

- The competition programme must not be developed in isolation of the FA Leadership or School Club link programme.
- A programme designed to take young people through from Mini-Soccer to 11-a-side football.
- An opportunity to focus on girls, boys and young people with disabilities who are not currently offered the opportunity at school to take part in our National Sport.
- The framework introduces the game of FUTSAL to schools for the first time, a fast exciting 5-a-side game for boys and girls.

Supporting Resources

- The FA offers a number of specific CDP courses for teachers and coaches working in education to support schools football as well as the traditional football coaching courses. Including a new module “Working with school teams”, to be introduced in 2007.

The Framework

Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
<p>Introductory development activities to introduce young people to high-quality schools competitions.</p> <p>One-off Festivals incorporating movement skills delivered through a multi-skill approach though fun football games.</p>	<p>Mini-Soccer 6v6 or 7v7. <u>or 7v7</u>. Can be played mixed, or for development purposes girls or boys only, including young people with disabilities.</p>	<p>6v6 or 7v7 a-side leagues. Boys only or girls only including young people with disabilities (Developmental purposes). 9v9 boys or girls only games to support the transition from Mini-Soccer to 11 a-side. 11 v 11 boys or girls only.</p> <p><i>FUTSAL (5-a-side)</i>. Boys only or girls only.</p>	<p>11-a-side boys only and girls only including young people with disabilities. 6/7-a-side boys only and girls only including young people with disabilities (Developmental purposes). <i>FUTSAL (5-a-side)</i> boys only or girls only.</p>

Delivery Information

- This provides us all with an opportunity to educate those people responsible for running schools teams and competitions in Long Term Player Development (LTPD) strategies for football.
- Competition Managers and School Sport Partnerships are required to make contact with their Schools Football Association in order to form a meaningful partnership to deliver schools football competitions and identify gaps in provision.
- County Football Association Football Development teams are an integral partner to support this work. A full list of contacts can be found at <http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/CountyFA/>

- FA Junior Football Organisers and the FA Step into Sport programme should be integral to the growth and development of schools football competitions particularly to support young people and teams at Key Stages 1-2.

Working with Competition Managers

Key points of planning for Counties

To ensure the role of the Competition Managers complement and develop the existing Football Development and competition programmes in counties the first point of contact for Competition Managers should be the Local Schools Football Association and the County Football Development Officer who will in partnership be able to provide information on the existing programmes and competitions that exist for girls, boys and young people with disabilities.

Existing Data Sources

The local Schools Associations and County Football Development Officers hold all information on local schools competitions from mini-soccer to disability football and Futsal. Please ensure contact is made with both the school and county association before any new work is programmed in.

PESSCL

It is essential that both Club Links and Step into Sport are considered as part of any planning process and not seen in isolation. If we are to engage more young people in playing football then it is not only essential that a pathway to community football is provided but also essential that we develop the next generation of coaches, referees and administrators to support the organisation and delivery of new competitions.

How can Senior Competition Managers and Competition Managers work with us?

By engaging locally Senior Competition Managers and Competition Managers can strategically plan with Football Development Officers and Schools Associations to ensure the most appropriate player pathway is developed as part of the wider football development programme.

Local Contacts

Local Schools Associations

The ESFA website contains all of the local affiliated association contacts.

<http://www.esfa.co.uk/directory/associations.asp>

Local County Football Development Officers

The FA website www.Thefa.com contains a list of the local contacts.

Working with Competition Managers

National Contacts

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Primary Framework

Introductory development activities to introduce young people to high quality school sport and competition				
Age group	Recommended format	Level and Location	Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 1 (Age 5-7)	<p>3 Lions FC football Festivals.</p> <p>Festivals should incorporate the <u>FA Skills Awards</u>, and include 4v4 or 5v5 Mini-Soccer games.</p> <p>FA Skills Programme http://www.thefa.com/Skill/s/</p> <p>All players to experience all positions including goalkeeper.</p> <p>No Cup competitions or result.</p>	<p>Central venue sites based around SSPs.</p> <p>The festivals are aimed at young people who not involved in football or sport on a regular basis.</p> <p>The festivals should be delivered by FA Young leaders as part of their Junior Football Organisers Award or Step into Sport programme.</p>	<p>Sept-Oct or April-July when the weather is appropriate</p>	<p>FA Club Link programme</p> <p>FA Skills programme</p>

Introductory development activities to introduce young people to high quality school sport and competition				
Age group	Recommended format	Location	Scheduling	Exit route
Key Stage 2 (Age 7-9)	<p>3 Lions FC football Festivals.</p> <p>Festivals should incorporate the FA Skills Awards and include 4v4 or 5v5 Mini-Soccer games.</p> <p>FA Skills Programme http://www.thefa.com/Skills/</p> <p>All players to experience all positions including goalkeeper.</p> <p>No Cup Competitions or results</p>	<p>Central venue sites based around SSPs.</p> <p>The festivals are aimed at young people who not involved in football or sport generally.</p> <p>The festivals should be delivered by FA Young leaders as part of their Junior Football Organisers Award or Step into Sport programme.</p>	Sept-Oct or April-July when the weather is appropriate	<p>FA Club Link programme</p> <p>FA Skills programme</p>

Age group	Recommended competition/festival	Level and location	Scheduling	Exit route to National ESFA Competitions
<p>Key Stage 2 (age 9-11)</p>	<p>Mini-Soccer 6v6 or 7v7. Can be played mixed, or for development purposes girls only.</p>	<p>Weekly, fortnightly or monthly central venue inter-school leagues based around SSP's. under the jurisdiction and affiliation of the ESFA District / County Schools' FA</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>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 June</p>
	<p>Pan Disability Mini-Soccer 4v4, 5v5, 6v6 or 7v7 depending on the number of players available. Mixed or girls only.</p>	<p>Weekly, fortnightly or monthly central venue inter-school leagues based around SSP's. under the jurisdiction and affiliation of the ESFA District / County Schools' FA</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>FUTSAL (5-a-side). Can be played mixed, or for development purposes girls only.</p>	<p>Central venue. Preferably indoor site. Sports hall (Basketball court size, but can be</p>	<p>Dec-Feb</p>	<p>N/A</p>

		played outdoor on sand-based Astro-turf).		
	<p>Pan Disability Futsal 5v5, Can be played mixed, or for development purposes girls only.</p>	<p>Weekly, fortnightly or monthly central venue inter-school leagues based around SSPs. under the jurisdiction and affiliation of the ESFA District / County Schools' FA</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>N/A</p>



Secondary Framework

Competition framework	Recommended competition	Level and location	Scheduling	Exit route to National ESFA Inter-School Competitions
Key Stage 3 (Age 11-12)	6v 6 or 7v7a-side leagues using mini-soccer rules. Boys only or girls only.	Weekly central venue inter-school competitions.	Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April	U12s boys indoor 5aside U12s boys 11aside
	Pan Disability 6v6, 7v7 a-side leagues using mini-soccer rules. Boys only or girls only.	Weekly central venue inter-school competitions.	Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April	U12s girls indoor 5aside N/A

	9v9 boys or girls only games to support the transition from small sided football to 11-a-side.	Central venue secondary school pitch split into 2 pitches.	Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April	N/A
	Pan disability 9v9 boys or girls only games to support the transition from small-sided football to 11-a-side.	Central venue secondary school pitch split into 2 pitches.	Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April	N/A
	11v11 boys or girls only.	Home and away fixtures	Sept-Mar	Competition runs September to April

	<p>FUTSAL (5-a-side). Boys only or girls only.</p>	<p>Central venue. Preferably indoor site. Sports hall (Basketball court size) but can be played outdoor on Sand based Astro-turf)</p>	<p>Dec-Feb</p>	<p><i>(The transition from 5-a-side to Futsal is currently being explored for the 2008/9 season)</i></p>
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	<p>Pan Disability Futsal 5v5, girls or boys only.</p>	<p>Weekly, fortnightly or monthly central venue inter-school leagues based around SSPs.</p> <p>All competitions must be registered and sanctioned by the ESFA District / County Schools' FA.</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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Competition framework	Recommended competition/festival	Level and location	Scheduling	Exit route to National ESFA Inter-School Competitions
<p>Key Stage 3&4 (Age 12-16)</p>	<p>6v 6 or 7v7a-side leagues using mini-soccer rules for development purposes. Boys only or girls only.</p>	<p>Weekly central venue inter-school competitions.</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>U13 boys only 11-a-side U13 girls only 11-a-side</p>
	<p>Pan Disability 6v6, 7v7 a-side leagues using mini-soccer rules. Boys only or girls only.</p>	<p>Weekly central venue inter-school competitions.</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>U14 boys only 11-a-side U15 girls only 11-a-side U15 boys only 11-a-side</p>
	<p>9v9 boys or girls only games to support the transition from small sided football to 11 aside.</p>	<p>Central venue secondary school pitch split into 2 pitches.</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>U16 boys only 11-a-side U16 girls only 11-a-side</p>
	<p>Pan Disability 9v9 boys or girls only games to support the transition from small sided football to 11 aside.</p>	<p>Central venue secondary school pitch split into 2 pitches.</p>	<p>Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April</p>	<p>Competition runs September – May</p>

					Inter-school regionalised knockout competitions
11-a-side boys only and girls only.	Home and away fixtures	Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April			
Pan Disability 11-a-side boys only and girls only.	Home and away fixtures	Sept-Dec Optional Winter break March-April			
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).	Dec-Feb			
Pan Disability 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).	Dec-Feb			
	All above competitions must				

Competition framework	Recommended competition/festival	Level and location	Scheduling	Exit route to National ESFA Inter-School Competitions
<p>Junior Varsity (Age 16-19)</p>	<p>11-a-side male only and female only including young people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Home and away registered and sanctioned by the ESFA District / County Schools' FA.</p>	<p>Sept –April</p>	<p>U18 male 11-a-side competition for schools</p>
	<p>FUTSAL (5-a-side) single sex.</p>	<p>Central venue. Preferably indoor site. Sports hall (Basketball court size) but can be played outdoor on Sand based Astro-turf)</p>	<p>Sept-April</p>	<p>Inter-school regionalised knock out competitions</p> <p>U18 female 11-a-side competition for schools</p> <p>Inter-school</p>

<p>regionalised knock out competitions</p>	<p>U18 male 11-a-side competition for sixth form and FE colleges</p>	<p>Inter-colleges regionalised knock - out competitions</p>	<p>Competition runs September to April</p>	



Primary Organisers Sheet

Age group	Format	Facilities	Organiser/Helpers	Equipment	Resources
Key Stage 1-2 (5-7)	<p>3 Lions FC football Festivals.</p> <p>Festivals should incorporate the FA Skills Awards and include 4v4 or 5v5 Mini-Soccer games.</p> <p>FA Skills Programme http://www.thefa.com/Skills/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed • Girls only 	1 Grass pitch split into 4 mini-pitches	Junior Football Organisers County FDO Competition Managers	Size 3 footballs, mini-soccer goals	<p>FA Skills Programme online test Cards http://www.thefa.com/Skills/</p> <p>3 Lions FC online Festival pack http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/School/CharterStandard/Postings/2005/05/default</p> <p>Mini-Soccer handbook – download at http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Player/Postings/2005/06/MiniSoccer.htm</p>
Key stage 2 (9-11)	<p>Mini-Soccer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed • Girls only 	1 Grass pitch split into 4 mini-pitches	Schools Football Associations/County FDO Competitions Managers Junior Football Organisers	Mini-Soccer goals Size 4 footballs	<p>Mini-Soccer handbook http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Player/Postings/2005/06/MiniSoccer.htm</p>
	<p>Futsal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed • Girls only 	Indoor court – Basketball size	As above	Futsal goals Futsal	Equipment is available through The FA School Club Link Programme - please contact your County FDO Fact sheet and rules

<http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Player/Postings/2006/05/Futsal>



Secondary Organisers Sheet

Age group	Format	Facilities	Organiser/Helpers	Equipment	Resources
Key Stage 3 and 4	6v6 or 7v7 leagues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate girls and boys competitions 	1 Grass full-size pitch split into 4 small pitches	Schools Football Associations/County FDO Competitions Managers Junior Football Organisers	Size 4 footballs 11-12yrs, size 5 12-16 mini-soccer goals	Mini-Soccer handbook http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Player/Postings/2005/06/MiniSoccer.htm Festival pack http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/School/CharterStandard/Postings/2005/05/default
	9v9 or 11 v 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate girls and boys competitions 	1 junior grass pitch	Schools Football Associations Competitions Managers	Size 4 footballs 11-12yrs, size 5 12-16 Junior 11-a-side goals	http://www.thefa.com/TheFA/RulesAndRegulations/
	Futsal	Indoor court – Basketball size	As above	Futsal goals Futsal	Equipment is available through The FA School Club Link Programme - please contact your County FDO Fact sheet and rules http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Player/Postings/2006/05/Futsal
	Pan disability football All of the above applies				http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Player/Postings/2006/06/DisabledFootball_DisabilityAbilityCountsCompetitions

