



## Overview

The ESFA are the National Governing Body for Schools' Football with a Football Association remit to administer and organise all National, Regional and Local schools' football competitions.

There are currently 16,017 school teams that participate in the 22 ESFA Football Competition programme an increase of 4,303 teams since 2002-3. The ESFA 2008-12 Strategic plan will set out the vision for schools competition programmes in England as part of the National Game Strategy. A key objective of The FA National Game Strategy is growth and retention of teams and to provide tiered levels of playing opportunity for over 1.1 million young people that identified the would like to play for a team (*club or school*). High quality schools competition programmes can contribute considerably to this.

### Fig 1 – draft growth and retention targets for 22 national competitions 2008-12

#### Draft Growth Targets (National Competitions only)

All schools are required to affiliate their schools' in accordance with FA, UEFA and FIFA regulations.

Targets -ESFA	Baseline season 07-08 (1st Nov 2007)	Target season 08-09 (1st Nov 2008)	Target season 09-10 (1st Nov 2009)	Target season 10-11 (1st Nov 2010)	Target season 11-12 (1st Nov 2011)	Overall +/- Change
Mini-soccer teams	3709	3724	3739	3754	3769	60
Youth Male small sided (including 9-a-side)	1572	1622	1672	1722	1772	200
Youth Male 11-a-side teams	6896	6964	7032	7100	7168	272
Youth Female small sided (including 9-a-side)	1032	1082	1132	1182	1232	200
Youth Female 11-a-side teams	2808	2895	2982	3069	3156	348
<b>Total Number of teams</b>	<b>16017</b>	<b>16287</b>	<b>16557</b>	<b>16827</b>	<b>17097</b>	<b>1080</b>

To maximise investment and outcomes of high quality competitions for school teams, competitions should be co-ordinated in association with the network of 44 County Schools Associations, additionally programmes must not been seen in isolation and therefore planned as part of The FA Club Links and Leadership and Volunteering programmes which are managed by the network of 43 County Football Associations (Football Development Staff).

#### Engagement with ESFA and FA Network

The ESFA Strategic plan 2008-12 sets out a clear priority to develop 44 County Schools' competition plans in partnership with Senior Competition Managers and the network of FA County Football Development Officers (FDO). Co-ordinated planning and investment is essential to meet the needs of

the partners and young people. (There are 418 ESFA District Schools Associations who would be included in this process co-ordinated by the County SFA).

County Competition plans will clearly outline the baseline figure for inter school football teams with predicted growth and retention figures across the School Sport Partnerships / Districts Schools Associations to meet the needs of the young people. County Schools Associations will hold the data on the current number of teams participating in SFA and ESFA competitions. Additionally County Football Association FDO's hold area data that can also support the mapping of local population figures to team growth.

### **Prioritising competitions**

The Focus for SCM's is to provide flexible and sustainable playing opportunities for young people to take part in football from recreational, intra school competition to playing in the first 11 in partnership with the County SFA and CFA identifying and filling gaps in provision. The priority is to ensure the work is strategically planned with The FA club links and leadership and volunteering programmes to ensure there are exit routes for young people and a new workforce of volunteers and officials is created to support at all levels.

### **Competition Framework**

The County planning process will determine key local priorities however the following target groups have been identified for consideration as these are the areas where football experiences the biggest drop out rate.

- Transition from Key Stage 2 – 3.
- Transition from Key Stage 3 – 4

Additionally:

- Pan disability football across age groups for both genders
- Increased playing opportunities for boys beyond first 11.
- Futsal as a tool to engage with a wider range of young people who would prefer to play small sided football/indoor.

### **Key Priorities (June – Sept)**

- Senior Competition Managers to contact County Schools FA and FDO to begin the process of developing 44 Competition plans

### **Key contacts**

John Read, ESFA CEO or Mike Spinks  
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1-2 Eastgate Street  
Stafford  
ST16 2NQ  
Telephone: 01785 251142  
[office@esfa.co.uk](mailto:office@esfa.co.uk)

Local Schools Associations

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

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

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London  
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Telephone: 02077454597  
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Local County Football Development Officers

The FA website contains a list of the local contacts.

[http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/CountyFA/Postings/2006/05/CD\\_contacts.htm](http://www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/CountyFA/Postings/2006/05/CD_contacts.htm)