



Football School Games Position Statement

The School Games – Background

The School Games is a national programme, designed to motivate and inspire millions of young people across the country to take part in more competitive school sport.

The School Games are made up of four levels of activity: competition in schools, between schools, and at a county/area level:

- **Intra-School Competition (Level 1)**
- **Local Inter-School Competition (Level 2)**
- **County Final (Level 3)**
- **School Games National Finals**

Football's Offer

Through the School Games we want to give young people the opportunity to participate locally in Intra, inter and County Finals. Football is not included in the School Games National Finals.

Objectives

The Objectives of Football's School Games Offer are:

- Grow the number of schools participating locally in schools football. Whether it through new or existing competitions.
- Create participation opportunities for under-represented groups, such as girls and young people with disabilities.

Inter-School Football (Level 2/3)

Any discussions regarding Inter School or County Final football competition should include:

- **School Games Organiser(s)**
- **Local Organising Committee Representative (at County Finals)**
- **County Football Association**
- **County Schools' Football Association.**

Where there is existing football competition taking place, School Games competition should look to 'add value' and grow current competition, rather than creating new ones.

Football's key focus and priority work for SGOs in terms of new activity and raising participation is **Primary Girls (years 5/6), Secondary Boys and Girls Futsal and Secondary Disability football (years 7-11)***. However, this does not mean that we don't encourage activity in other age groups and formats in addition to the above.

More information on the most appropriate formats can be found via the 'Your School Games' website: <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/taking-part/our-sports/football/>

*Disability Competition should be played across no more than a two year age-band as recommended good practice.

Unified Sports

Please note there is also an additional opportunity for schools (SEN and Mainstream Secondaries) to participate in Unified Football, in partnership with Special Olympics Great Britain. Unified Football is where young people with and without intellectual (learning) disabilities compete together on the same team. For further information please visit

<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/how-it-works/inclusive-sport/>

N.B. We recommend this is played as a participation event only

Additional Offers

FA Girls' Football School Partnerships

The Football Association is working in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust to build a robust, committed and well-supported infrastructure of education-based FA Girls' Football School Partnerships to create strategic partnerships with families of schools which will grow and develop girls' football. Our strategy is to build an infrastructure through which fantastic bespoke programmes can be delivered which engage, excite and encourage girls and young women to make football a part of their life.

For further details please visit (www.youthsporttrust.org/FA-partnerships).

SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres

SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres provide girls aged 5-11 with regular opportunities to play football. The initiative offers organised sessions in a fun and engaging environment created exclusively for girls. More than 800 centre run across England. SSE Wildcats Girls' Football sessions take place on a weekly basis, either after school or at weekends, and provide a safe environment where girls can try football for the first time. The initiative aims to inspire participants to engage with football, meet new friends, develop fundamental skills, learn new things and create the foundation for a lifelong love of football.

For further details please visit <https://womenscompetitions.thefa.com/en/Article/SSE-Wildcats---For-Girls>