

CONSTITUTION

Introduction

Name

The Association shall be called the East of Scotland Soccer Development Association.

Objective

To promote the enjoyment of football for boys and girls through the playing of non-competitive small sided games as detailed in the rules and guidelines, in an environment that fosters fair play and participation for all, irrespective of race, colour, or religion and shall encourage co-operation, discipline and the need for teamwork.

The association shall endeavour to promote these values, and will work closely with any other allied professions or agencies that have similar aims.

Membership Criteria

Paragraph 1:

Membership shall be open to all interested parties which wish to participate in the promotion of the small-sided game, and uphold the objectives of the ESSDA, subject to approval by the committee.

Paragraph 2:

The main criterion for membership is a willingness to uphold the spirit of the game, in the best interests of the children involved.

Paragraph 3:

Age groupings are for guidance, however in the interest of safety, and in an effort to prevent mismatched games, coaches should adhere as close as possible to a 1st January eligibility date. Coaches should inform the other team, of players who are “over-age” as at 1st January. In the event of an obvious mismatch, such players should be substituted by appropriate players.

Paragraph 4:

The Association seeks to attract coaches who have the children’s best interest at heart, and who are committed to the objectives of the ESSDA.

Paragraph 5:

All club coaches must attend the SFA E (early touches) certificate course, and preferably the SFA Working with Children certificate course, within **1 year** of joining the Association.

Paragraph 6:

First Aid material, as prescribed in the Basic First Aid Module, must be available at each activity session. All club coaches should attend the SFA Basic First Aid Module, or an appropriate certificated course within **1 year** of joining the Association. Each team is required to have at least one First Aid qualified person in attendance at matches.

Paragraph 7:

In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of children, all club coaches will be vetted under section 5 of the police act 1977 (child protection). This vetting procedure is to establish that all coaches are of sound moral character, and will be carried out in association with the Scottish Youth Football Association.

Responsibility

Paragraph 1:

It is the responsibility of all members of the ESSDA to promote the objectives of the Association within their own clubs. Any breaches of the game should in the first instance be brought to the attention of the appropriate member of the Association. Subsequent breaches should then be reported to the committee via the General Secretary of the Association.

Management

Paragraph 1:

All complaints to be in writing to the General Secretary.

Paragraph 2:

The committee of the ESSDA shall have the power to deal with all matters affecting the administration, development, and general well-being of the Association.

Paragraph 3:

Committee meetings shall be held to update members and monitor progress. At these meetings alterations and amendments to the constitution can be considered. Proposals for such amendments or alterations must be circulated among members in advance of the AGM. However, if necessary the committee may call an Emergency General Meeting should changes to the constitution be needed before the AGM.

Paragraph 4:

Committee meetings shall be held once a month, or as necessary. But the General Secretary shall have the authority to convene meetings as required. The Association shall set-up a group to devise rules for the conduct of meetings.

Paragraph 5:

The responsible officials of the Association shall consist of co-opted members as determined by the clubs of the ESSDA.

Paragraph 6:

Finalising of the seasons dates, should be achieved through consultation with the local secretaries. However, the season must run wherever possible as close to the summer period as possible. A recommended date schedule is March to November.

Paragraph 7:

No games shall be played in seriously inclement weather.

Paragraph 8:

It is the responsibility of the home team to contact their opposition at least one week in advance, to organise matches. Where teams are unable to take part, or pitches are unplayable please contact opponents A.S.A.P to re-arrange where possible.

Paragraph 9:

Clubs organising seven-a-side festivals must firstly inform the General Secretary in writing. Any such festivals must operate on a non-competitive basis, where no points, cups or medals are awarded. Certificates of participation is the preferred option. Where possible festivals should not interfere with normal league fixtures. If fixtures are missed due to a festival, coaches must try to re-arrange the fixture.

Finance

Paragraph 1:

The annual subscription to the Association shall be set by the committee prior to the start of the each season.

Paragraph 2:

The accounts shall be passed by the Association prior to payment, and all cheques shall bear two signatures. The Treasurer, Secretary, and Chairperson to act as signatories.

Paragraph 3:

The Treasurer shall effect all money transactions, and shall make a financial statement at each meeting.

Paragraph 4:

The Treasurer shall make the Association bank, and all accounts available for inspection at every meeting.

Paragraph 5:

The Treasurer shall produce written statements of the audited accounts for the AGM, and from time to time as required by the Association.

Paragraph 6:

In the event of a new Treasurer being appointed before the date of the AGM, the books must be audited, and provided before being over to the auditors.
