



# EDMSL U8 Managers Meeting

Season 24/25



# AGENDA

This is what we plan to cover:

- Welcome & Introductions
- EDMSL Overview and **Key Dates**
- Your Role – some **Do's** and **Don'ts**
- **Safeguarding** & Qualifications
- On **match day**
  - Before the match & setup
  - Referees
  - Rules
  - Venues
  - After the match
  - Reporting results
- Respect
- League Communications, asking questions and your AGC
- Q&A

## ABOUT THE LEAGUE

25

**YEARS**

Run by volunteers, EDMSL is celebrating 25 years this year

48

**CLUBS**

Providing **DEVELOPMENT** football for U7-U10 age groups to 48 Clubs

4600

**FIXTURES**

Last season's fixtures we scheduled



7600

**MINUTES**

Number of minutes of football played every weekend, across ~150 matches every week



# WHERE & WHEN

The league starts on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

All your fixtures will be played at **Stoneham Lane Football Complex** or **Ganger Farm** on 3G surface.

Kick Off Times will be between 9am and 5pm

Fixtures every weekend with a break at Christmas and Easter (**we don't break for half term**)

The season ends 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> May 2025

# Your role





# YOUR ROLE

What it **should** be:

**Set an example** and encourage children to **develop their skills, grow friendships** and **love the game.**

What it **shouldn't** be:

Winning games at all costs, marginalising 'weaker' children, berating children and referees for poor performance.

**It should never be about you!**

***"... there are no results published and no prizes for winning. Change what winning means for each child by focusing on their individual development as well as the team"***

*- Hants FA Coach Mentor*



# WHAT IS WINNING?

Frankie Dick: from  
1979 to 1994 he was  
the British Athletics  
Federation's Director  
of Coaching





# HOW DOES THE LEAGUE HELP PLAYER DEVELOPMENT?

- We do:
  - mandate every child has **AT LEAST** 50% game time
  - move teams between divisions to ensure you're being challenged at the right level (reviewed approximately every 6 weeks)
  - celebrate the development of children and their love for the game
  - fully endorse the FA Respect principles
- We don't:
  - publish scores, results or league tables
    - we will charge clubs if we see anyone publishing results on social media
  - promote or demote teams
  - award teams or managers for winning



# Safeguarding

## AND QUALIFICATIONS



# TO BE PITCHSIDE THE LEAGUE REQUIRES THAT YOU MUST HAVE:



## FA DBS

The **DBS must be in-date** and must have been **provided by the FA** – records are stored online – check yours at [myaccount.thefa.com](https://myaccount.thefa.com)



## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

There are various FA provided Safeguarding Courses, but **Safeguarding Children is Mandatory**



## FA FIRST AID COURSE

One person must hold a valid **FA First Aid Course**

## Some notes and exceptions...

- Parent referees do not need a DBS or Safeguarding Children (\*they will do if they referee more than 3 games in a month)
- Players do not need any qualifications
- Parents must never enter the pitch or surrounding areas for any reason – they must remain outside the barriers
- Your Clubs are all England Accredited. To achieve that, one Manager or Coach must also hold the Introduction to Coaching Football qualification (or old Level 1). The league does not check for this, but if your team does not have someone with this, your Club are in breach of the England Accreditation which breaches League Rules.



A stylized white outline of a soccer player in a dynamic pose, positioned on the right side of the image. The background is dark blue with abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue and white, creating a modern, digital aesthetic.

# MATCH DAY





# FIXTURES

- All fixtures will be release in w/c 26<sup>th</sup> August
- Fixture cover until at least Christmas – plan ahead with your parent groups.
- Your fixtures will be available via the FA Matchday App
  - Ask Club Secretary if you can't get access
- Any changes to fixtures that the league make we will try to do 2 weeks in advance
  - Note – we do not always notify of changes – check Matchday App!
- Cancellations
  - If you **cannot fulfil a fixture you must give 2 weeks notice**
  - School Events, Cub & Beaver Events, Remembrance Sunday are the only valid reasons for cancellation
  - Lack of players is rarely acceptable – you can play with 4 players.
  - Non-fulfilment risks a league charge



# WEATHER

- **Simple rule – your match is on until we tell you otherwise**
- It is very rare for matches on 3G to be cancelled, but more frequent on grass
- Only the referee or venue can cancel a match – the league may intervene if appropriate.
  - We will communicate via WhatsApp, Facebook and the Website
- Pitch inspections will take place between 08:00 and 08:30 the day of matches – if there are to be cancellations they will be notified then.
- **Football is an outdoor game; wet or cold weather is not a reason for cancellation**
- We **ONLY** use the MetOffice for our forecasts
- In the event of obvious, significant adverse weather we may cancel matches early
- We will never play if Thunder/Lightning occurs (Leave the pitch immediately if it happens mid-match)





# BEFORE THE MATCH

- Check the FA Matchday App for **fixture details and times**
  - You should also get a weekly email from the FA Fulltime system with opponent contact details (Check with Club Secretary if you don't!)
  - You can also check for contact details on the EDMSL website
- Make contact with your opponent – make sure you know **what colour kit** they're playing in
  - You need an alternative colour kit – EDMSL allows wearing of **numbered** bibs
- Arrange to meet 10-15 minutes before your kick off time
- Make sure you have a **first aid kit** with you and bibs for your substitutes.
- Pack a Ball – **Size 3** for all ages (Home team provides the match ball).
- Make sure you have your **squad list**



# SQUAD LISTS

- Your squad list shows all registered and available players
- It also shows the managers and coaches who are allowed to be pitchside
- Anyone not on your squad list should not be on the pitch or pitchside
  - **You will be charged if we find anyone pitchside who isn't on your squad list**
  - **Anyone not on your squad list will be asked to leave the pitch – even if that means the game has to stop**
- **Before** the match you **must show** your squad list to your opponent and to the referee
- You must also show your squad list to any league representative that asks to see it.
- **You will be charged if you do not have your squad list on you**

# SQUAD LISTS

- A valid squad list can be downloaded from clubs.thefa.com (or from your Club Secretary)
- All coaches must have a picture
- The FA Matchday App **IS NOT** a valid squad list
  - It doesn't show coaches and doesn't show player pictures.
- A screenshot on a phone **IS** acceptable (but we prefer paper copies)
- Download new copies when changes to your team occur e.g. new players, coaches added/removed
  - It is yours and your club's responsibility to ensure squad lists are accurate



**Squad List**

13 August 2024  
Time: 18:00

**Registered Players (13)**

 Matthew Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	 Charlie Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]
 Oliver Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	 Hugo Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]
 Alfred Age: 10 Reg: 06 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	 Hugo Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]
 Finley Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	 Barnaby Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]
 Radvin Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	 Deshawn Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]
 Teal Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	 Joseph Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]
 Jackson Age: 10 Reg: 07 Aug 2024 Emergency Contact: [REDACTED]	

**Team Officials (6)**

 Team Manager	 Team Coach
 Assistant Team Coach	 Team Coach

All copies of this document must be securely destroyed once they are no longer needed. Failure to ensure that the information contained within this document is only used by Club and Match Officials to administer and operate the league effectively is a breach of the FA's privacy policy and could be a data breach under the provisions of the GDPR. Any unauthorised disclosure of or access to the information contained in this document should be immediately reported to the FA at dataprotection@thefa.com. Together with relevant details relating to the issue, disclosure or access. If you are not a Club or Match Official there is no requirement that you destroy any copies of this document.

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# PLAYING KITS

- Must be common style and colour and must be numbered
- **Kits cannot be black** (that's reserved for referees)
- **Kits cannot have names or initials on**
- You need an away kit – but EDMSL allow use of numbered bibs
- The GK needs a different shirt

# REFEREES

- EDMSL will try and provide a qualified referee for your fixtures –there are not enough to cover every match
- Appointed Referees are provided by Hants FA, not by EDMSL
- Referees are usually assigned no later than Friday afternoon but can be assigned on Matchday
- If you don't have a Ref assigned (or if Ref is unwell), then the **Home team needs to provide one**
  - This can be a coach or parent... But it **CANNOT BE THE MANAGER**
  - Ask a couple of parents to be prepared to ref
- The majority of appointed **referees are children** – think very carefully about how you interact with them
  - **The League, Hants FA and the FA do not tolerate any form of abuse to the referees – regardless of age – from anyone**
  - Make sure your parents are briefed
- Any person who referees a game of Development Football has the authority to apply the Laws of Mini-Soccer even if they are not a fully qualified referee.

***THE REFEREE IS RIGHT. ALWAYS.***  
***(\*EVEN WHEN THEY'RE NOT)***





# AT THE MATCH

- Warm up away from the Playing areas and **don't interfere with in-flight matches**
- Show your squad list to your opponent & referee
- **Please check for any safeguarding issues with your opponent and advise parents accordingly**
- Setup your technical area
  - Make it big enough to accommodate all your kit and subs
  - Subs must remain in the technical area (wearing bibs)
- Make sure you have a Respect Marshall identified who understands the role. (Hi-vis jackets to be worn)
- Early morning kick-offs and transition kick-offs might be asked to help move the goals into position depending on venue





# AT THE MATCH

- Applaud both teams
- Mandatory every player plays at least 50% of the match (more is better!)
- Avoid constantly talking and directing – you don't need to worry about not being involved in the game – **LET THEM PLAY**
  - **The FA Their Game rules apply to all EDMSL matches**
- Keep your language polite – you're an example to the players
- DO NOT abuse the referee or opposition
- Stay in your Technical area – do not prowl the line
- Prior to kick-off, players should shake hands (Respect Handshake)

RULES	U7	U8	U9	U10
FORMAT	5V5	5V5	7V7	7V7
DURATION	4X 10 MINS	4X 10 MINS	4X 15 MINS	4X 15 MINS
MAX SQUAD SIZE	10 (min 4)	10 (min 4)	14 (min 5)	14 (min 5)
BALL SIZE	3	3	3	3
OFFSIDE	NO	NO	NO	NO
THROW INS	NO	NO	NO	YES
BACKPASS	YES*	YES*	YES	YES
RETREAT LINE (GOAL KICKS)	YES	YES	YES	YES
MANDATORY POWER PLAY	YES	YES	YES	YES
PASS OR DRIBBLE IN	YES	YES	YES	NO
DELIBERATE HEADING	NO	NO	NO	YES

# RULES – DELIBERATE HEADING



## ***HEADING IN YOUTH FOOTBALL*** ***DELIBERATE HEADER RESTART LAW***



# RULES – PASS OR DRIBBLE IN



LEARNING



LEARNING



LEARNING



LEARNING



# RULES

- We DO NOT play extra time – your match starts and ends as scheduled.
- All free kicks are Direct (except for Deliberate Heading which is Indirect)
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick off
- Kick off can be taken in any direction (opposition to be 5 yards away)
- **Shin pads must be worn** – no shin pads, no play. Mini Shin Pads are strongly discouraged
- Sin Bins are in use and Yellow/Red cards can be issued
- **All jewellery must be removed** – the FA no longer allow taping of earrings
- Children are learning the game – EDMSL asks all referees (including parent/coaches) to **educate, allow them to try again before penalising**.
  - As the children get older, the tolerance reduces



## VENUES



**STONEHAM LANE**

3G U7 & U8  
GRASS FOR U10



**GANGER FARM**

3G U8  
GRASS U10



**PLACES LEISURE**

3G U9 & U10



**TESTLANDS HUB**

U10 GRASS



**MOUNTBATTEN**

3G U10



**TOYNBEE SCHOOL**

U10 GRASS





# VENUES

- Venue Maps will be available on the EDMSL website ([edmsl.org.uk](http://edmsl.org.uk))
- Venue Emergency Action Plans are also available on the EDMSL website
- Venue Maps show warm up areas
- Time between matches is short – please finish and leave – do team talks away from the pitch
- Stoneham Lane Football Complex requires a QR code to gain entrance
  - **EVERYONE** visiting needs their own code
  - Please ask parents to register before the first day – you cannot register in person on site – it's all online.
- Stoneham also has strict footwear rules (please check the website)
- You can/should use the overflow parking at Stoneham – please only park in marked bays



## Stoneham Lane Football Complex – U8 configuration

- Main Car Park
- Secondary Car Park
- Team Meet Up Area

Coach/Subs Area

Pitch Markings  
(Not all Pitches  
Used)







## Ganger Farm Sports Complex - U8 Configuration

- Overflow Car Park Entrance
- Main Car Park

- Access Routes
- Spectators / Respect line
- Coach/Subs Area
- P2a

 Pitch Markings (Not all Pitches used)





## AFTER THE MATCH

- Congratulate the opposition – encourage players to shake hands
- Collect your belongings and exit the pitch promptly – the next match could be kicking off in as little as 5 minutes after you finish.
- Deliver any post-match team talks away from the pitch
  - We would encourage you to deliver these in front of parents
- Submit your Scores and Respect Marks via the FA Matchday App
  - Must be submitted by 7pm night of your match
- If you have an appointed ref and you want to provide more feedback than Matchday allows, use the Google Form.

# DISCIPLINE





# DISCIPLINE RULES

- Each team has a 5-point threshold and each proven charge incurs a number of points.
- If you breach the 5 point threshold:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Step – The Club Secretary and Team Manager are to meet with the league
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Step – The Club are asked to put an improvement plan in place
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Step – Loss of fixtures for 1 month
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Step – Removal from the League



# RESPECT



# FA RESPECT PROGRAMME



- Set a positive example for those you're responsible for and show respect to everyone involved in the game.
- Encourage fair play
- Respect the referee
- Never enter the field of play without the Referee's permission
- Be gracious in victory and defeat
- After a match you are asked to mark your opposition for:
  - Behaviours on the pitch (players and coaches)
  - Behaviours around the pitch (parents and supporters)
- As a league **we reward teams with 100%** marks
- Those with low marks can be **excluded from the cups**



# FA RESPECT PROGRAMME



- Marking your opposition in the Matchday App:
  - You give a Traffic Light Score – Red = regular issues, Amber = some issues, Green = all good
  - You must provide a comment if you do not award a Green
  - The EDMSL Discipline team may ask for more information about your report – please provide it so they can take appropriate action.
  - **Note:** on field issues should be raised via your Club Secretary to Hants FA – not the league
- Things that are not cause for marking Amber or Red:
  - Hard or firm tackles if they are genuine attempts to win the ball.
  - Shoulder barges, fouls or late tackles
  - Asking the referee questions at an appropriate time in an appropriate tone
  - Constantly talking and coaching
  - Referee performance



# COMMUNICATING





# SHARING INFORMATION

- **Your AGC is your point of contact.** Managers & Coaches are NOT to contact the league secretary – that will result in a club charge.
- There is a **WhatsApp group for each Age Group** where the AGC will post updates and reminders – AGCs do not send or reply to emails
- Please Do NOT message the AGC directly (unless of an issue on Matchday)
- To ask your AGC a question, there is a **Google Form linked in the Age Group** description in WhatsApp. The form is for:
  - Requesting fixture time change
  - Requesting a cancellation
  - Requesting to be added to the WhatsApp group
- The form is not for reporting respect or safeguarding issues.
- Any **other questions should be directed to your Club Secretary** – they can contact the league for clarification if required.



# FINDING INFORMATION

- The EDMSL website is a great source of information
- Managers Page, Venue Maps, News and Cup details (when the time comes) will all be shared here.
- Additionally – you can find the contact details for all managers and the kit colours for all teams.
- Signup at **EDMSL.ORG.UK (but not yet!)**
  - Please select your Role after signing up – your account might not be approved if you don't!

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Welcome". Below the title is a message: "To get started, please let us know the club/team you are involved with. You can select more than one team & role." There are two input fields: "Role" and "Team". Below these, there is a section with two buttons: "Select Role" and "Choose role first". At the bottom of this section is a link that says "+ Request More Role(s)". At the very bottom of the form is a large orange button that says "CONFIRM MY ROLES".



# THANKS!

Do you have  
any questions?



EDMSL U8 24/25 Managers

WhatsApp group



Links to all FA Rules and EDMSL website

