



EDMSL U8-U10 Managers Meeting

Season 25/26

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

25+

YEARS

Run by volunteers, EDMSL is celebrating 26 years this year

48

CLUBS

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

4713

FIXTURES

Last season's fixtures we scheduled



7880

MINUTES

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



IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR NEXT SEASON

- The FA have introduced Future Fit
- From Season 26/27, U7s will play 3v3 (EDMSL are early adopters this season)
- U8 & U9 will play 5v5
- U10 & U11 will play 7v7
- U12 & U13 will play 9v9 and
- U14+ 11v11
- What that means for you?
 - You will all have an extra season at your current playing format
 - EDMSL will offer U11's football with Tyro changing to start from U12
 - U8's next season will stay on Saturday's (those in this room will all remain on Sunday's)



ENGLAND
FOOTBALL

FutureFit



WHERE & WHEN

The league starts on **Sunday 7th September 2025**

All your fixtures will be played at one of 5 venues with a majority 3G and some Grass.

Kick Off Times will be between 9am and 4:30pm (4pm for U8)

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

The season ends 31st May 2026

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



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



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, graphic look.

MATCH DAY





FIXTURES

- First fixtures have been released for all Age Groups and are 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
 - Please review fixtures and plan ahead with your parent groups.
 - 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 (U8) or 5 players (U9 & U10).
 - Non-fulfilment risks a league charge



FIXTURES

- We are happy to try and make changes where we have sufficient notice and as a one-off
- **BUT**
 - We cannot provide regular fixed time kick-offs for teams
 - We cannot provide regular pitch allocations for teams
 - If you manage 2 teams on the same day, it is up to you and your club to arrange cover – we will not be moving your games to accommodate
- Moving fixtures is not something we do lightly
 - All our venues are at capacity – which means we don't have “spare” pitches
 - Moving a fixture therefore impacts at least 4 teams – that's ~40 families impacted.
 - We release fixtures in advance to give you all chance to plan ahead
- We will give notice when fixtures are being created – if you have a specific event you need us to accommodate – let us know via the Google Form. If you don't, it may be too late.



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
Date: 15 August 2024
Time: 18:09

Registered Players (13)

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

Team Officials (6)

 Ian [REDACTED] Team Manager	 Liam [REDACTED] Team Coach
 Michael [REDACTED] Assistant Team Coach	 Neil [REDACTED] Team Coach

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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	3V3	5V5	7V7	7V7
DURATION	3X 12 MINS	4X 10 MINS	4X 15 MINS	4X 15 MINS
MAX SQUAD SIZE	9 (min 5)	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	NO
BACKPASS PENALISED	N/A	YES*	YES	YES
RETREAT LINE (GOAL KICKS)	N/A	YES	YES	YES
MANDATORY POWER PLAY	N/A	YES	YES	YES
PASS OR DRIBBLE IN	YES	YES	YES	YES
DELIBERATE HEADING	NO	NO	NO	NO



RULES

- We DO NOT play extra time – your match starts and ends as scheduled.
- All free kicks are Direct (except for deliberate headers)
- 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/Micro 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 & U9
GRASS FOR U10



PLACES LEISURE

3G U9



MOUNTBATTEN

3G U10



GANGER FARM

3G U8
GRASS U10



KING GEORGE V (Cosham)

3G U10



VENUES

- Venue Maps are available on the EDMSL website (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 & King George V Complex requires a QR code to gain entrance to the main building
 - **EVERYONE** visiting needs their own code – same code can be used at both venues
 - Please ask parents to register before the first day – you cannot register in person on site – it's all online.
- Stoneham & KGV have strict footwear rules for the building (please check the website)
- You can/should use the overflow parking at Stoneham – please only park in marked bays



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:
 - 1st Step – The Club Secretary and Team Manager are to meet with the league
 - 2nd Step – The Club are asked to put an improvement plan in place
 - 3rd Step – Loss of fixtures for 1 month
 - 4th 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 the 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





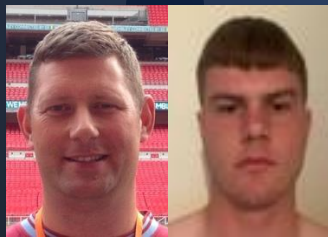
SHARING INFORMATION

- **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 or 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.



YOUR AGCs

- Our role is to support Team Managers
 - Answering questions that your club can't answer,
 - Arrange fixtures and
 - Monitor division placements.
- We will answer as many as we can but if information has been shared on the group, or is available on the website, or via your club, you're unlikely to get a response
- **Importantly: Your AGC is NOT your PA** - we are not on call 24/7/365
 - We cannot remember every message, or every request sent
 - Teams: 75x U8s, 79x U9s, 86x U10s
 - Last year we had 657 queries posted via the google form (plus countless DM's)



U7

Nigel Schwarzer, Oliver Landreth



U8

Ian Akers



U9

Nick Bloomfield



U10







Jordan Meadows, Charlotte Cummins



PLEASE READ OUR MESSAGES!

First Fixtures Out This Week!

Some key notes before they arrive:

-  Division names change each year - e.g *Red last year does not mean Red this year*. We know the strengths of the divisions, trust the process.
-  **Teams *will* be moved** if needed to keep football competitive - this is done in the first 5-6 weeks once results are in. No changes before the season starts
-  Some divisions have **odd** numbers, so some weeks you may not have a game.
-  **14 Sept requests** have been honoured - if you've no game, your opponent likely asked. Where possible, we've swapped fixtures (so you may see the same team twice close together).
-  **Requests? Use the new Google form** (link in group description) **No fixed-time requests** - odd one-offs are fine, but manager cover is your responsibility. KO times range 9am-4pm.
-  **Questions?** Please bring them to the managers meetings (27th Aug or 3rd Sept, 7pm, Oakwood School)

20:03 ✓✓



When will fixtures be released

Subject: Request to Move Down a Division

We believe that we should be in a much lower league than last season because of this. Is this possible?

20:10

As per  email request

Hi, is it possible to request 2pm or later kick offs please.



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**
 - Please select your Role after signing up – your account might not be approved if you don't!



Welcome

To get started, please let us know the club/team you are involved with. You can select more than one team & role.

Role

Team

Role

Team

Select Role

Choose role first

[+ Request More Role\(s\)](#)

CONFIRM MY ROLES

CONTACTING OTHER MANAGERS

- Login to the website
- Select Teams menu

