

# KICKABOUT

## IMPROVING STANDARDS AT GRASSROOTS

### HAPPY New Year

SYFA wishes all players, officials, clubs, leagues, associations and regions a Happy New Year and hope that 2011 will be another year of football containing both fun and enjoyment for all.

### IT IS NEW AND CONTAINS PERTINENT NEWS STORIES ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

This is the first issue of the Scottish Youth Football Association's new electronic newsletter "*Kickabout*" which has been designed to increase the flow of communications and keep member clubs and officials updated with useful information that supports grassroots football in Scotland.

In issuing this newsletter it is our intention that all SYFA member clubs and leagues interact by submitting pertinent questions, relevant issues or subjects that could be featured in future issues.



## EURO-SPORTRING® International Tournaments

The Scottish Youth Football Association has officially confirmed a new partnership with Europe's premier provider of the International grassroots tournaments.

The agreement involving Euro-Sportring extends a relationship that has been established over many years, and you will see children across Scotland benefit by way of an investment in the SYFA's Coach and Player Development Programme.

Euro-Sportring have also announced they will be working in partnership with the SYFA West Region to launch a new tournament within Glasgow next year – The Glasgow Easter Cup – and recruit international teams for the existing, but hugely popular Glasgow City Cup.

Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Euro-Sportring annually co-ordinate over 120 tournaments across Europe. Up to 8000 teams from 30 different countries annually participate.

Martyn Wilson, Sales, Marketing and Events Manager for Euro-Sportring U.K. and Ireland, said: "We are delighted to be involved in the grassroots football by helping both coaches and kids. Around 150 Scottish teams travel with Euro-Sportring on a regular basis, so there is a benefit to us as well."

[www.euro-sportring.org](http://www.euro-sportring.org)

SYFA, Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9BF Tel: 0141 620 4590  
Email: [syfa@scottish-football.com](mailto:syfa@scottish-football.com)

## SYFA NEWSLETTER

[www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk)



At the SYFA / Euro-Sportring Launch (Left to right) – Ernie Walker (Euro-Sportring representative) David Little (SYFA National Secretary) and Martyn Wilson (Euro-Sportring Sales, Marketing and Events Manager)

### NATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

Over the last two years SYFA has worked in conjunction with the SFA to produce a National Player Pathway that will help Scotland produce the stars of the future. The pathway has been debated the length and breadth of the country from Orkney to Paisley from Inverness to Dumfries and has received overwhelming support before final approval by the Executive Committee of the SYFA. This approval resulted in changes to the constitution which allows the pathway to become national policy. For the first time there will be a single approach to development of our young players. Implementation of the pathway will be supported by in service training for Fun Fours, Soccer Sevens and the 11-a-side game, all supplied by the SFA Technical Department.

[READ FULL STORY ...](#)

### THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SEASON 2011 / 2012

#### Age groups 2001 to 2005

The season will start on 1 March 2011 until 30 November 2011

#### Age group 2000

The season will be split into 2 periods: Period 1 will start on 1 March 2011 until 30 November 2011 and Period 2 from March 2012 until June 2012

#### Age group 1999

The season will be split into 2 periods: Period 1 up to June 2011 and Period 2 from August 2011 until June 2012

#### Age groups 1998 to 1990

For leagues at age group 2003 with local implementation issues please contact the SYFA Office.



[www.syfaregistrations.co.uk](http://www.syfaregistrations.co.uk)

The season will start in August 2011 until June 2012

Age groups 2005 (see rules for age 6), 2004 (see rules for age 7) and 2003 (see rules for age 8) will play **Fun Fours**.

Age groups 2002 (see rules for age 9s) 2001 (see rules for age 10s) and 2000 (see rules for age 11 & 12s) will play **Soccer Sevens**

Age groups 1999 (13s), 1998 (14s), 1997 (15s), 1996 (16s), 1995 (17s), 1994 including 1993 (19s) and 1992, 1991 and 1990 (21s) will play **11-a-side**

#### Registration procedures for leagues and clubs for season 2011/2012 are as follows:

- Leagues with teams at age group 2000 and below January 2011
- Leagues with teams at age group 1999 and above March 2011
- Teams at age group 2000 and below who have not previously been affiliated February 2011
- Teams at age group 2000 and below who are renewing their affiliation March/April 2011
- Teams at age group 1999 and above April/August 2011

[READ FULL STORY ...](#)

## SUBSTITUTES AT 19S AND 21S LEVEL

Jim Dolan, John McCrimmond and the National Secretary attended a meeting in August 2010 at Wembley with representatives from the other home Nations' grassroots representatives to come up with a strategy to allow for greater participation at the older age groups. At present after the third substitute enters the field of play at ages 19 and 21 the remaining two substitutes can play no part in the game. As our players participate for fun, enjoyment and health it seems strange to ignore the government's objective of increasing participation.

The SYFA request is that for all SYFA grassroots competitions the SFA have delegated powers from the International Football Association Board (IFAB) to enable 5 substitutes to be allowed to participate in a game from the 5 substitutes stripped and listed on the team sheet.

### The reasons for this change are four hold as follows:

1. It has become harder to attract players at these 2 age groups due to players having to take on part and full time jobs in supermarkets etc. where shift patters cover weekend working. Students in particular need this type of work to support their studies.
2. The number of players at clubs has diminished recently as substitute numbers 4 and 5 know that they have no chance of playing even if the team is reduced to ten players through injury. Last season team numbers at age 19 reduced by 20% over the course of the season. This relates to 41 clubs and approximately 800 players.
3. An integral part of the youth action plan and the government's policy on sport is that more people should become active and participate on a more regular basis. This aspiration could be helped by the proposed change.
4. For season 2010/2011 this could have an impact on 4934 players who are currently registered at 19s and 21s age groups.

As part of the SYFA campaign we have the support of the SFA Recreational Committee (approved unanimously at meeting held on 10 November 2010), SFA Technical Department, The FA, Irish

FA, Welsh Football Trust, Shona Robison, Scottish Minister for Public Health & Sport, various MSPs and most importantly recreational players and volunteers. The SYFA proposal is to be placed before the Board of the SFA but has the backing of Stewart Regan, SFA Chief Executive.

From information received from websites it is noted that the following have adopted this change:

- USA Youth Soccer National League
- Oregon Youth Association who allow 5 substitutes in the professional league and six in the PDL for under 20's
- The English Schools FA
- The Canadian FA youth

We do not wish to change the Laws of the Game but merely have the same dispensation as awarded to **female players** thus allowing more recreational players to participate in grassroots football.

## STOP PRESS

The FA have put the substitutes issue onto the IFAB meeting agenda for March 2011.

## TEAMER – TEAM ORGANIZING MADE EASY

SYFA are delighted to introduce Teamer.net to grassroots football clubs across Scotland. SYFA are confident that Teamer can become an invaluable part of your management team and ask you to look at their site. Teamer is free to use.

About Teamer - Teamer is a sports team management service, designed to make the job of the team organiser less stressful and time consuming. Teamer facilitates the sending of game and training details to team members by SMS and/or Email. The responses to these messages are collated on the site for the team members to view. Teamer offers a private and secure web space for the team to:

- Blog (talk tactics, arrange transport....)
- Track Attendance
- Vote for the Player of the Match
- Store Documents (registration forms, injury claims forms....)
- Cancel Events (events can be cancelled with the click of a button)

Teamer & Best Practice - Teamer has been designed in line with best practice in terms of communicating with juveniles. Every communication is recorded and traceable and can be viewed by the whole team.

Here's a demo that shows you how Teamer works:  
<http://www.teamer.net/pages/demo>

This is what users say about Teamer:  
<http://teamer.net/pages/testimonials?country=gb>

[READ FULL STORY ...](#)

## BAA COMMUNITIES TRUST

The BAA Communities Trust is funded by an annual donation from the company. The independently run Trust makes grants to support projects in the communities closest to BAA's airports - Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The Trust funds a wide range of community organisations and charitable groups including:

Locally-based charitable organisations

Grassroots community groups and organisations

The Trust places priority on funding projects linked to education, the environment and economic regeneration.

For more information go to [www.BAA.com](http://www.BAA.com)



## AWARDS FOR ALL SCOTLAND

(You can call with any questions you may have on 0870 240 2391 or email at [scotland@awardsforall.org.uk](mailto:scotland@awardsforall.org.uk) )

You can apply to Awards for All Scotland if you are a:

- Voluntary and community organisation
- School
- Community council

But under this programme they will not fund:

- Individuals and sole traders
- Profit-making organisations
- Non-departmental public bodies
- Government departments

They are unlikely to fund organisations that are in poor financial health or those that have had a previous grant which has not been managed satisfactorily.

The organisation filling in the form must be the same organisation that will receive the grant and manage the project. They will not consider an application made by one organisation on behalf of another.

[READ FULL STORY ...](#)

## RANGERS COMMUNITY CASHBACK INITIATIVE

Rangers Football Club has teamed up with the Scottish Youth Football Association to launch the Community Cashback initiative, a project which offers all SYFA registered youth teams discounted match tickets for Rangers SPL home games and will help raise money for their clubs.

SYFA Youth teams around the country can purchase match tickets from Rangers at reduced prices for a number of Ibrox games this season, sell them on to their members at a higher value and retain the profits for their own club's funds.



Registered Scottish Youth Football Association teams can apply for discounted Ibrox match tickets for games against Hearts, Motherwell, Dundee United, St Mirren, Hamilton, Inverness and St Johnstone in the coming months by emailing [communitycashback@rangers.co.uk](mailto:communitycashback@rangers.co.uk). Full details can also be found online at [www.rangers.co.uk](http://www.rangers.co.uk) and [www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk](http://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk).

[READ FULL STORY ...](#)

## PLAYERS' AGENTS – APPROACHES TO/REPRESENTING MINORS

FIFA's Players' Agents Regulations state that a licenced agent can enter into a representation contract with a minor providing that the contract is also signed by the player's legal guardian(s).

A licenced agent should not, as such, have a say in what matches a player can and cannot play in as the eligibility of a player to play in matches is governed by the registration/competition rules of whichever association's

jurisdiction the player is under.

A player at a recreational level cannot be forced to play in a match he does not wish to play in.

However, an agent cannot simply take a registered player of an SYFA club to a senior club and arrange for him to play for that club in a match.

This would clearly be a breach of SFA Registration Procedure Rule 12.3 which states that in order to render a registered player of a recreational club to be eligible to play for a senior club the written permission of the player's recreational club is required prior to each match.

## USEFUL LINKS



The Scottish FA Quality Mark is a youth football initiative which supports SYFA grassroots club development. With over 400 SYFA clubs and schools already participating, over 8500 coaches have directly benefited from coach development and first aid training to date.

### SFA Quality Mark

Link:

[http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish\\_football.cfm?page=169](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_football.cfm?page=169)

### Coach Education:

Link:

[http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish\\_football.cfm?page=778](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_football.cfm?page=778)

### Scottish FA Regions:

Link:

[http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish\\_football.cfm?page=424](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_football.cfm?page=424)

## SYFA REGIONAL SECRETARIES

### Central

Jim Dolan

Tel: 01698 400920

Email: [jd009a2705@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jd009a2705@blueyonder.co.uk)

### East

Hugh McGregor

Tel: 01383 734002

Email: [hughfifsec@hotmail.com](mailto:hughfifsec@hotmail.com)

### North

Neil Paterson

Tel: 01224 897897

Email: [Nap18lang@aol.com](mailto:Nap18lang@aol.com)

### Southeast

Allan Archibald

Tel: 0131 334 0135

Email: [allanarchibald@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:allanarchibald@blueyonder.co.uk)

### Southwest

Lynn McBride

Tel: 01292 479768

Email: [lynnmcbride.pwk@btinternet.com](mailto:lynnmcbride.pwk@btinternet.com)

### West

Jim Smith

Tel: 0141 764 3663

Email: [syfawest@onetel.com](mailto:syfawest@onetel.com)

## SYFA SCOTTISH CHALLENGE CUP FINALS EXCELSIOR STADIUM, AIRDRIE

### SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2011

13's and 21's Finals

### SUNDAY 1 MAY 2011

17's and 19's Finals

### SUNDAY 8 MAY 2011

14's, 15's and 16's Finals

