



ENGLAND
FOOTBALL

YOUTH LEAGUE AGMS 2025/26



WHAT DO WE ALREADY KNOW?

FutureFit



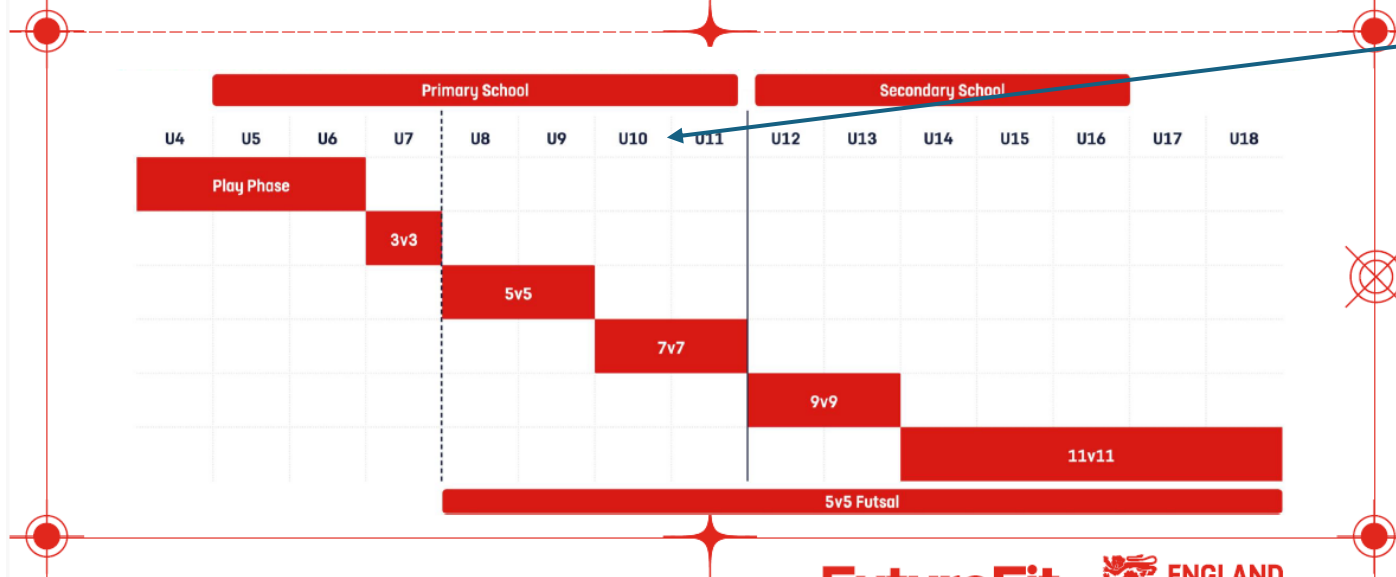
Introduce 3 v 3



Smaller formats for longer



Changes will be carried out through the following pathway
from the start of the 26/27 season.



Heading & Dribble/Kick
in Guidance.

The phasing out of
'Deliberate Heading' will
now be introduced at
U10's, as it has been for
U7-U9s. Along with 'Kick
Ins'



HOW IS 3V3 SET UP?

Game Set Up	
Max Format	3 v 3
Pitch Size	Range from 10x15m to 15x20m
Game Length	Range: 6-10 mins
Max Minutes Per Day	Recommended game play: 30-40 mins Maximum game play daily: 60 mins
Ball Size	Size 3 (psi. 5)
Goal Size	Maximum size 150x90cm
Goalkeeper	No
Match Officials	No
Substitutes	No – every Child plays

FutureFit



How is the Game Played	
Heading	No
Retreat Line	Yes
Goal Line Restarts	Yes
Corners	Yes
Sideline Restarts	Yes
Fouls and Misconduct	Yes
Free Kicks	Yes
Penalty Kicks	No
<i>All restarts (goal line, corners, sidelines and free kicks) provide players with the option to either dribble or pass in.</i>	



ESSEX FA INTENDED SUPPORT

- *ON-GOING SUPPORT THROUGH OUR DEVELOPMENT & FOOTBALL SERVICES TEAMS AT ESSEX FA.*
- *DESIGNATED CPD SESSIONS FOR COACHES WHO WILL BE FACILITATING U7 FOOTBALL.*
- *IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FA, WE WILL BE LOOKING TO HOST MORE THAN ONE PRACTICAL ROADSHOW EVENT IN ESSEX.*
- *CPD SESSIONS FOR LEAGUES ON SCHEDULING FULL-TIME FIXTURES AND FURTHER ADMIN SUPPORT.*

FA INTENDED SUPPORT

- *A FUNDING PACKAGE FOR GOALS IS BEING WORKED ON, WHICH SHOULD COVER 75% OF THE COSTS.*
- *AT LEAST ONE PRACTICAL ROADSHOW DELIVERED IN ESSEX TO STAKEHOLDERS TO RUN A WORKSHOP OF 3V3 FOOTBALL BEING DELIVERED.*

FutureFit



AFFILIATION / TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

- Club Affiliation is scheduled to open on Tuesday 3rd June and will again take place via the Club Portal
- Youth clubs are requested to add U6 teams to their applications for the 2025/26 season at no additional cost. This will assist Essex FA in understanding and delivering support ahead of the launch of Future Fit in 2026/27
- Whole Game System will be closed down during the summer of 2025
- For the 2025/26 season, the discipline process will be administered via the Club Portal (for clubs) and Competition Portal (for leagues). Training materials will be made available online, and Essex FA will be offering online training sessions and virtual clinics to assist with the transition. Direct communications will be sent to clubs and leagues
- From June 2025, FA DBS checks will be initiated in the Club Portal. Verifications, which include a new self-verification system, will take place via First Advantage and will be online

Accreditation

- Process to apply for accreditation:
 - Log into Club Portal, and select the accreditation tab. This brings up a checklist including Club, Officials & Documents. Each checklist must be complete.
 - Each youth team must have a manager with an in-date FA DBS, Safeguarding Children Qualification, FA Introduction to first aid in football qualification and FA Level 1/Introduction to Coaching football qualification.
 - Clubs are required to upload a Club Development Plan outlining strengths, areas for development and future plans – please contact your local FDO for support and templates (but can also be found on the website).
- England Football Accreditation Renewal Window – **November to March**
- Access to Accredited Clubs Package.
 - To include; Access to Club Programme – Danny & Jason (2 & 3*), Buddle Workshops, CPD discount, Club Report (20+ teams), Your Club Programme

Accreditation checklist [Learn more](#)

Club
[Review](#)

Officials
[Review](#)

Documents
[Review](#)

[Apply for Accreditation](#)

NEW CLUBS*



5x Nike Strike Footballs

**Welcome to England Football
Accredited Pack**

**England Football Accredited
Digital Asset Pack**

**England Football Accredited
Digital Certificate**

INCOMPLETE

INCOMPLETE

INCOMPLETE

REFEREEING

FA Referee Courses – our course programme for season 2025/26 is confirmed with individuals now able to book onto our summer courses (June and July). For further details, please email Referees@EssexFA.com.

Laws of the Game Changes 2025/26 – two online workshops will be delivered in July and August to update referees, managers and coaches of the Law changes for season 2025/26. Please keep an eye out for a booking link in upcoming newsletters.

Referees Portal – The FA will be launching the Referees Portal from the 1st June in which referees can access the portal at Referees.TheFA.com.

2025-2026	SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CLUBS WITH YOUTH TEAMS				 ENGLAND FOOTBALL
Roles	FA DBS Check	Safeguarding Children Course	Safeguarding for Committee Members Course	Welfare Officer Course	First Aid Course
Club Secretary		 Recommended	 Mandatory		
Club Chair		 Recommended	 Mandatory		
Club Treasurer		 Recommended	 Mandatory		
Club Welfare Officer (Including Assistants)	 Mandatory	 Mandatory	 Mandatory	 Mandatory	
Other Committee Roles		 Recommended	 Recommended		
Team Manager/Coach (Including Assistants)	 Mandatory	 Mandatory			<i>(If England Football Accredited, one per team).</i>  Mandatory Otherwise Recommended
Team Medic/First Aider (Including Assistants)	 Mandatory	 Mandatory			 Recommended

Safeguarding

Virtual self ID verification has been introduced to FA DBS applications

Volunteer fee increased from £10 to £11

Guidance and videos on the new FA DBS process can be found at GrassrootsTechnology.TheFA.com

Coach Development Offer 25/26 Season

- **Local CPD Workshops**

- Delivery of 2-hour face-to-face only workshops across a range of venues across the County, supplemented by an online blended learning approach to improve accessibility – [Essex Coaches](#)

- **‘Your Club’ Programme**

- Bespoke Club support to continue through our ‘Your Club’ Club Coach Support Programme - [Club Coach Support - Essex FA](#)

- **England Football Learning**

- All England Football Learning related queries are now to go through the [Support : FA Support Portal](#).
No longer a contactable number.
- For your awareness, England Learning took complete control of the management, administration, coordination, and allocation of all national courses from County FA's. This means County FAs across the country, including Essex, no longer have any control over when national courses become available or who is accepted onto them.

UEFA C Courses

- UEFA C 2025/26 course release will start from the 29th May and courses will be released throughout the season, with a staggered release expected in the early parts of the season.
- In addition, an individual can book onto any course in any region.
- Depending on your eligibility, you may also have the chance to apply for funding for the UEFA C qualification. The Funding Eligibility Form is available for submission during the first two weeks of each month, and you will receive the results of your application by the end of that same month. For additional details and to apply for the funding, please visit the [UEFA C page](#). Once awarded, all funded places will be available to claim any time before the end of the 2025/26 season. Funding offers will only be withdrawn once their respective programmes reach capacity.
- Alongside the funding options, learners who are actively coaching at an Affiliated Grassroots club will continue to be eligible for a £50 discount towards the cost of the UEFA C Licence. This discount is also accessed via the monthly Funding Eligibility Form, and coaches will need to enter their club's affiliation number to qualify.
- Please note that England Learning will not provide a refund should you book onto the course prior to receiving funding confirmation.
- For any further queries, please see [Support : FA Support Portal](#).

Useful Links

Contact us - [Contact Us - Essex FA](#)



Future Fit - [FutureFit](#)



England Football Learning - [Courses | England Football Learning](#)



