

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

The Women's Football Conference is a meeting of Leagues within the Women's Pyramid of Football and The Football Association which takes place three times a year.

At the last meeting on Saturday 3rd October 2009, it was decided to produce an update from the meetings for County Football Associations to help provide Associations with issues concerning the Women's Game and updates on initiatives taking place.

The meeting on Saturday 3rd October produced the following key points:

- Girls' Centres of Excellence
Kay Cossington has been appointed as the FA's Project Officer for Women's Football and will be concentrating on supporting the FA Girls Centres of Excellence.
- Change of Club Names
The FA are concerned about Women's Clubs changing their names which may, in some instances, contravene the Women's Pyramid of Football. The FA are looking to produce some guidelines for Women's Clubs wishing to change their name. They also asked for the assistance of Leagues and County Football Association's in reporting change of names to The FA if there were any concerns that this was assisting the progression of a Club through the Pyramid.
- Girls' Leagues – Rule Change
The recent Rule Change regarding Girls' Leagues which limits the travel distances of girls teams to play in Leagues within their County (unless it does not run the appropriate age group, or the travel is less in a League outside the County) was discussed.

Issues were highlighted where Girls' Leagues are waiting until the last moment to confirm whether or not they would be running a certain age group for the season and not providing exit routes for the teams they cannot accommodate. The Conference requested that Leagues set up dialog with other leagues and if they are not able to offer a certain age group then the teams are directed to another league which can accept them.

They also requested that the County FA Women's & Girls' Football Development Officers pass this information onto the Girls' Leagues in their County.

- Charter Standard Leagues
It was confirmed that for those Women's Leagues who affiliate direct to The FA, they should seek the support of their County Association to which the majority of their teams affiliate to for help in achieving the Charter Standard Award. The County FA will receive recognition for this support.
- Women's Pyramid of Football Contact Booklet
A contacts booklet has been produced including all the Women's Leagues and other helpful information. Copies can be requested from Tessa Hayward at tessa.hayward@TheFA.com
- Female Referees Strategy
This draft strategy incorporates an updated order of precedence for matches which includes women's competitions, a female pathway for referees and discussion regarding the appointment of match officials within the Pyramid.
- Withdrawal of Clubs
Concerns were raised with regard to the number of Club withdrawals in the Pyramid and the loss of players. A short questionnaire will be sent to Leagues to try and get a clearer idea of the problem.

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact Tessa Hayward, FA Women's Leagues Co-ordinator on tessa.hayward@TheFA.com or 0844 980 8200 ext 4587