



GSA GIRLS' FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

In partnership with ISFA

INFORMATION PACK

WEDNESDAY 6 – THURSDAY 7 MAY 2026

KING'S HIGH SCHOOL, WARWICK

CV34 6YE

ISFA would like to welcome all schools registered to take part in the GSA and ISFA Girls' Football Festival, taking place at King's High School, Warwick on Wednesday 6 – Thursday 7 May 2026. Together, ISFA and GSA are looking to build on the increasing popularity of girls' football, and this event is part of that journey and aims to be a day of fun filled football for Y5 to Y8 girls of all abilities.

Using the performance of the Lionesses in recent years, we hope to encourage more girls across the country to start playing football, both in and out of school, whilst continuing to support those already playing.

ISFA and GSA would like to place on record our huge thanks to King's High School, Warwick for hosting the Girls' Football Festival, which has become an annual event in the GSA Go Bold Student events calendar.

Any school that would like find out more about how ISFA can support you with developing girls' football in your school should speak to any of the ISFA staff in attendance at the festival, contact ISFA's Girls' Football Development Officer, Mitchell Dunstan, via mitchelldunstan@isfa.org.uk or visit the website www.isfa.org.uk.

Finally, we wish everyone taking part the very best of luck, and most importantly hope that all teams taking part will enjoy the festival.

Mitchell Dunstan

ISFA Girls' Football Development Officer

TIMETABLE FOR THE DAYS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9.30am | Schools arrive. Schools to register their attendance with the ISFA control table. A debrief of the day will be given to the coaches upon their arrival and this time can also be used to warm up. |
| 9.45am | Welcome briefing to all schools in attendance. |
| 10.00am | Morning session matches kick off. |
| 12.00pm | Lunch break. Schools are required to bring packed lunches with them. |
| 12.30pm | Afternoon competition matches kick off. |
| 14.30pm | Finals take place followed by presentations and photographs. |

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

- The Girls' football festival has been split into two parts. In the morning, schools will take part in a series of friendly matches against other schools. The results of these matches will determine which competition each school takes part in during the afternoon session.
- During the afternoon, schools will be placed into one of three/four competitions (depending on number of entries and based on results during the morning matches) and will take part in a round robin league competition.
- U11 competition - only girls born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2016 can participate in the festival (schools ages Y5 and Y6).
- U13 competition - only girls born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2014 can participate in the festival (schools ages Y7 and Y8).
- Schools are encouraged to wear matching kit (bibs may be used if necessary) and all players must wear shinpads. All matches will be played on grass, so it is advised that studded football boots are worn. Hair should also be tied back, and all jewellery removed when activities are underway.
- Schools are requested to bring packed lunches with them.
- Changing facilities and toilets for players and staff will be available on site. Schools are requested to arrive ready changed where possible.
- Minibus parking is available at the school and schools should follow instructions upon arrival.
- ISFA will provide fully qualified referees who regularly officiate for their competitions. Fully qualified NHS medics will provide first aid cover.
- In the event of an injury, the medics should be summoned if required, and the teacher in charge of the team should be responsible for the injured player until they arrive.
- Parents and spectators are welcome to attend and watch the event.
- GSA and ISFA will be taking photographs at the event for use on the GSA website and their social media accounts. Participating schools should ensure that appropriate consent has been obtained for this purpose.
- All schools should register their arrival at the ISFA control table as soon as they arrive. In the event of difficulties, please contact the festival organiser, Mitchell Dunstan on: **07449572225**

FESTIVAL RULES

1. **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS** – In line with FA regulations the GSA Girls' Football Festival is open to girls currently in school years 5 - 8. Only girls born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2016 can participate.
2. **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS** – All matches will be 7-a-side. Each school is permitted a squad of no more than 10 players, only seven of whom may be on the pitch at any one time. However, it is not mandatory to bring 10 players and schools may bring less than 10 players if they wish.
3. **LAWS OF THE GAME** – Except where otherwise stated in this document, the normal Laws of the Game will apply. However:
 - There will be no offside
 - At all restarts players must be at least five yards from the ball
4. **SUBSTITUTIONS** – All substitutions are 'roll on roll off' meaning you can make as many substitutions during the game as you wish.
5. **MATCHBALLS** – A size 4 ball will be used in all matches. Schools should provide a match ball for each match during the competition.
6. **PITCH & GOAL SIZES** – Pitch sizes will be approx. 60x40 yards. Mini-soccer goals will be used.
7. **FORMAT OF TOURNAMENTS** – The morning matches will be used to determine the afternoon competition for each school. The afternoon competitions will be a round robin league competition
8. **GROUP MATCHES** – 3 points will be awarded for a win; 1 point will be awarded for a draw. In the event of two or more schools being level on points, teams will be separated as follows:
 - a) goal difference
 - b) number of goals scored
 - c) if only two schools are involved, by the result of the match between those two schools
 - d) if none of the above are decisive, the positions will be decided by calculating a league table with the record of the lowest placed uninvolved team being omitted
 - e) if none of the above are decisive, the positions will be decided by a penalty shoot-out
9. **SAFEGUARDING OF PLAYERS:** In all inter-school football, including matches played in this tournament, the safeguarding of the children involved is the responsibility of the relevant school's governance. Safeguarding in school football is underpinned by the Department for Education ['Keeping Children Safe in Education'](#)
10. **CANCELLATION:** Should you need to cancel attendance, we ask for a minimum of 14 days' notice. This is because any cancellation will significantly impact on the experience of all participants and will enable us to find replacement teams.