

# ECFA REFEREE'S

**For information on using  
ECFA referee's please contact  
James Lisher at the County  
Office on 01245 393097  
Or  
James.lisher@essexfa.com**

# SMALL SIDED ECFA GUIDE



**Essex County FA: The County Office, Springfield Lyons  
Approach, Chelmsford, CM2 5LB.  
Small Sided Enquiries: Maryanne Dennis on 01245 393070  
or Maryanne.dennis@essexfa.com**

## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

A small-side competition is one which all the clubs or leagues taking part are fielding teams of four, five, six, seven, nine or eleven players, as the case may be, in the competition. And all these need to be affiliated to the County FA.

There are three types of competitions, one in which the matches are completed in a single day, one which the games are spread over a period of time and one in which is played on behalf of a charity.

Below is information regarding the three types of competitions.

### **Single day / Weekend Competitions**

- Affiliation fee is £25 for each individual competition / Tournament
- Clubs/Leagues do not need to affiliate the slots (teams) taking part in the competition.
- 11 v 11 games can not run during the closed season of June. If you wish to play 11 v 11 you will have to seek permission from the County FA.

### **Ongoing Competitions**

- Affiliation fee is £25 for each individual league/ Competition. The affiliation fee will be for the year or for the time limit supplied by the Secretary.
- Clubs/Leagues have to affiliate for each slot (team) within the competition/league. The fee to affiliate each slot is £5
- The club secretary will have to obtain a "Form D" from the County Office and supply each teams details.
- 11 v 11 games can not run during the closed season of June. If you wish to play 11 v 11 you will have to seek permission from the County FA.

## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **Essex County FA Staff Contacts:**

Maryanne Dennis - Small Sided Football Administrator  
01245 393070 or [Maryanne.dennis@essexfa.com](mailto:Maryanne.dennis@essexfa.com)

James Lisher—Referee Development Officer  
01245 393097 or [James.lisher@essexfa.com](mailto:James.lisher@essexfa.com)

Nick Emery—Technical Lead for Small Sided Football  
01245 393077 or [Nick.emery@essexfa.com](mailto:Nick.emery@essexfa.com)

Chris Evans— Press and Publicity Officer  
01245 393085 or [Chris.evans@essexfa.com](mailto:Chris.evans@essexfa.com)

Anna Eborall— Governance Administrator (Discipline)  
01245 393080 or [anna.eboral@essexfa.com](mailto:anna.eboral@essexfa.com)

Nicola Crowl— Governance Administrator (Discipline)  
01245 393096 or [Nicola.crowl@essexfa.com](mailto:Nicola.crowl@essexfa.com)

Rob Craven— Governance Administrator  
01245 393082 or [Robert.craven@essexfa.com](mailto:Robert.craven@essexfa.com)

Fran Smith— Senior Clerk  
01245 393083 or [fran.smith@essexfa.com](mailto:fran.smith@essexfa.com)



## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **Safety**

The goals may be portable but they must be anchored securely to the ground during play as per Health and Safety requirements.

### **Playing Surface**

Where natural turf is not used the surface must be smooth and flat and non-abrasive. The use of wood or artificial material is recommended.

### **The Ball**

#### **Qualities and Measurements**

The ball is:

- \* spherical
- \* made of leather or other suitable material
- \* size appropriate to the age group playing

#### **Replacement of a Defective Ball**

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a match:

- \* the match is stopped
- \* the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the first ball became defective

If the ball bursts or becomes defective while not in play:

- \* the match is restarted according to the Laws

The ball may not be changed during the match without the permission of the referee.

## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **Charity Competition**

- Clubs/Leagues who want to put on a Benefit, one-day “Small-Side” matches to raise money for Charity
- Affiliation is free
- Clubs/Leagues will require “Form N” to affiliate the matches being played.
- The Charity Registration Number will need to be provided.
- After the games have taken place the Clubs/Leagues will have 14 days to send Essex County FA a Statement of Receipt to show that the money raised was given to charity.

All Affiliation Forms can be found on [www.essexfa.com](http://www.essexfa.com) on the downloads section or Contact Maryanne Dennis on 01245 393 070 or [Maryanne.dennis@essexfa.com](mailto:Maryanne.dennis@essexfa.com)





## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **ECFA Referee's**

A club or league can only use Essex County FA registered referees when they have affiliated.

A referee found to be officiating in non-affiliated football is at risk of facing punishment from The FA or County FA. Also The FA or County FA are only able to take action against any disciplinary incidents that occur in affiliated football. So on the rare occasions in Small Sided Football when a player commits a serious offence (e.g. Assaulting another player or referee) and it is non affiliated football, The FA or County FA are unable to take any action against that individual.

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed, from the moment they enter the locality where the pitch is situated until he leaves.

If a Club or League approaches a ECFA Referee, without going through the County FA, the Referee will always check if the game they have been asked to referee is affiliated. A Referee is entitled to ask for the Affiliation number of the League or tournament.

If you would like any information regarding Referees please contact James Lisher at the County Office on 01245 393097 or [James.Lisher@essexfa.com](mailto:James.Lisher@essexfa.com)

## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **A penalty area is defined at each end of the pitch as follows:**

A semi circle of 8m radius shall be drawn from the centre of each goal line. The extremities of these semi-circles should reach the goal-line, barrier or wall regardless of whether or not the goal posts encroach onto the playing area.

### **Penalty Mark**

A penalty mark is drawn 6m from the midpoint between the goal posts and equidistant from them.

### **The Corner Arc**

Where barriers do not surround the playing area a quarter circle with a radius of 25cm from each corner is drawn inside the pitch



## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **Pitch Markings**

The pitch is marked with lines. These lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries.

The two longer boundary lines are called touchlines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines. All lines are 8cm wide.

The pitch is divided into two halves by the halfway line.

The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of 3 m is marked around it.

If barricades are used to surround the playing area, where possible an opening should be provided at the point of the halfway line and the touch line.

### **Goals**

Goals must be placed on the centre of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from each corner and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar.

The distance (inside measurement) between the posts is maximum 5m, minimum 3m and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is maximum 2m minimum 1.20m.

Both goal posts and the crossbar have the same width and depth of 8cm.

## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **FA Discipline Process for Small Sided Football**

The FA have developed a disciplinary process to accommodate the varied and different needs of Small sided football. It is important to note for all small sided football providers, that failure or disregard in establishing and effectively implementing these FA disciplinary process can and will lead to The FA removing affiliation and classifying providers competitions as being unsanctioned by The FA.

### **Affiliation and Provision of Team Information**

When affiliating competitions and slots to The FA or County FA, all small sided football providers must provide the following information for all teams playing in their competitions to ensure that disciplinary cases can be managed appropriately:

- Team Name
- Team Captain/Manager contact details (name, address, email and telephone number)

The small sided football provider must also ensure that The FA or County FA is updated with accurate team information through the course of the affiliation period. Small sided football providers will not be affiliated unless this team information is provided accurately.

Please be advised any Team Names that is deemed inappropriate you will be asked to change the Team Name, and your Competition/ Tournament will not be affiliated until these changes are made.

## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **Affiliation Benefits**

- Use of FA Qualified Referees
- Help with Discipline
- Fee Public Liability Insurance
- Advertise leagues/ matches on the Essex FA website.
- Potential funding through small sided development fund.

### **Re-affiliation for Ongoing Competitions**

Once the competition/Tournament affiliation has expired, please ensure that you re-affiliate before the games are due to start again. However if a league has not re-affiliated prior to the expiry date a reminder letter will be sent out to the Sectary 2 weeks before the affiliation is due to expire.

### **Advertise on the Essex FA Website**

If you wish to advertise your Competition/Tournament on the [www.essexfa.com](http://www.essexfa.com) website please contact Chris Evans on 01245 393082 or [Chris.evans@essexfa.com](mailto:Chris.evans@essexfa.com)

However please be advised that Chris will require an affiliation number before a competition/tournament is advertised.



## **Essex County FA Small Sided Football**

### **General Principle**

The Normal laws of Association Football apply however with the following exceptions

### **The Pitch and Dimensions**

Small Sided Football may be played with or without barriers.

The pitch must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

**Length:** minimum 25m  
maximum 50m

**Width:** minimum 16.5m  
maximum 35m

For 7 a side football the following dimensions are recommended

**Length:** minimum 50m  
maximum 60m

**Width:** minimum 30m  
maximum 40m