

Small Sided Football

Affiliation Process



Small Sided Football (SSF) leagues and competitions affiliate to The FA or County FAs through the 'Slots System' (this is described below). The cost of affiliation is £5 per slot (+ VAT), and the duration of the affiliation is 12 months from the point of affiliation.

Those SSF providers that operate leagues and competitions in three counties or more should affiliate nationally to The FA. Smaller more localised operators that run leagues in less than three counties should affiliate to the respective County FAs that they are running their competitions within.

Upon affiliation, the SSF provider will need to submit a copy of their competition rules for approval by The FA or County FA. At the point of affiliation the SSF provider must provide the league organisers contact details for each league or competition that they affiliate. At the point of affiliation SSF providers do not need to provide individual team details for each slot, this is only required once a disciplinary charge is brought against a team involved in the competition.

Upon affiliation, regardless of whether the SSF competition was affiliated nationally by The FA, the responsibility for handling disciplinary matters is that of the local County FA in line with the FA Small Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

The Small Sided Football Slots System

Small Sided Football affiliation is frequently referred to as the 'Slots System'. Unlike traditional football affiliation, small sided leagues and competitions do not affiliate 'teams' as such, but the places (or 'slots') that they run in their leagues and competitions.

Due to the shortened seasons and competition cycles that occur in Small Sided Football, a small sided provider may operate a number of shortened seasons during one full 11v11 season. Teams will frequently drop-out after a shortened season and be replaced by another team. The small sided affiliation therefore covers not the team, but the slot that they occupy in the league and is transferrable between teams.

For example, a SSF provider may have ten teams involved in their league at the start of a football season and so they affiliate ten slots (£5 per slot x 10 teams = £50 + VAT) to the FA / County FA. After 8 weeks the season ends, and two of these original teams stop playing and are replaced by two new teams. As these two new teams are simply filling the slots vacated, they would still be classified as being affiliated. However, if another team was to join the league, making eleven teams taking part in the league, the provider would be required to purchase one extra affiliation slot from The FA / County FA.