



The Scottish Football Association

HAMPDEN PARK GLASGOW G42 9AY SCOTLAND

Telephone: 0141 616 6000 ■ Facsimile: 0141 616 6001 ■ www.scottishfa.co.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Our Ref: SR/SB

Anne Peat,
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

20th March, 2012

Dear Ms Peat

Scottish Parliament consideration of Petition PE1319 on Improving Youth Football

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 1st February, 2012, in connection with the above.

In relation to the petition, the Scottish FA have previously sent details of our new strategic plan with specific reference to the Strong, Quality Growth area which is designed to promote grassroots football. As part of our strategy, we have now set up an Operational Board – the Non-Professional Game Board – to review matters relating specifically to the recreational game including youth development.

The next step is for all our Affiliated National Associations to embrace One National Plan: a uniform approach to football development at the key age range of 12 to 16.

In relation to the specific point raised, it should be highlighted that, from season 2011/2012, a declaration form has been created (please see attached) which has to be signed by the player, player's parent(s)/guardian(s) and accredited club official. The idea behind this is that the player and his parents are fully aware of the implications of signing the form, including the ability of a club to obtain reimbursement of training costs, along with the fact that age group 15s can be taken into 16s and then 17s without the requirement to sign a fresh form. The declaration form enables the young player and his parent(s)/guardian(s) to make a more informed choice.

Also, it is worth noting that the regulations of FIFA – world football's governing body – make it a mandatory requirement that National Associations provide a system to "reward clubs investing in the training and development/education of young players", which is something we adhere to.

Finally, we have recently initiated a review of scouting procedures in conjunction with the Scottish Youth FA to ensure greater protection for children who are identified as having talent. Every scout will require to be registered and must carry ID at all times before approaching clubs and/or parents and players.

Yours sincerely,

STEWART M REGAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

Enc





THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
HAMPDEN PARK GLASGOW G42 9AY SCOTLAND
Telephone: 0141 616 6051 Player Registrations Office fax: 0141 616 6055 www.scottishfa.co.uk

SFA Non-Recreational Youth Registration Form (10-17) Declaration

1. The player has attained 10 years of age at time of signing this form.

Player's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Parent's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Club's Signature: Signing Date:.....

2. The registration of a player upon this type of Youth Registration Form for age groups 10 through to 14 will lapse automatically at the end of the season in which the player signed the form and the player will be free to sign for the club of his choice thereafter although his former club may have an entitlement to the reimbursement of training costs from the players new club providing a renewal of registration has been offered to the player, prior to the expiry of his existing registration, in writing in accordance with the Registration Procedures

Player's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Parent's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Club's Signature: Signing Date:.....



THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
HAMPDEN PARK GLASGOW G42 9AY SCOTLAND

Telephone: 0141 616 6051 Player Registrations Office fax: 0141 616 6055 www.scottishfa.co.uk

3. Registration at age group 15 allows a club should it wish and providing it has conformed with Scottish Football Association Procedure Rule 2.5.2 and any relevant league rules where applicable to bring the player's registration forward to age group 16 and thereafter for a final season at age group 17 on the existing registration form which had been signed at age group 15 or age group 16. The player's club may retain a right to compensation in relation to the player by offering, in writing, a professional contract prior to the expiry of his existing Youth registration.

Player's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Parent's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Club's Signature: Signing Date:.....

4. A player's participation in schools' football will be subject to the policy and discretion of the club for which he has signed, the detail of such policy having been clearly communicated to the player and his parents prior to signing the registration form.

Player's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Parent's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Club's Signature: Signing Date:.....

5. I confirm I have received a copy of the Club Academy Scotland regulations, which I have read and agree to the aforementioned terms.

Player's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Parent's Signature:..... Signing Date:.....

Club's Signature: Signing Date:.....