**INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL POLICY DOCUMENT**

**The Aim of the Representative Programme**

The aim of the ISFA Representative Programme is to provide the most talented pupils (boys and girls) attending independent schools with an opportunity to play at a standard higher than normal inter-school football and thus to develop and to improve as players. In addition, it provides the opportunity for players to meet and make friends with others from different schools and from different parts of the country through the common enjoyment of playing the game of football.

Occasionally ISFA’s outstanding players are approached by Premier League or Football League clubs or are already involved with such clubs. However, while ISFA enjoys any such success achieved by players in the programme, and will assist where and when appropriate and/or when requested to do so, it is incidental to the aims of the programme. The primary aim of the programme is to provide enjoyment from playing football, not to provide players for professional clubs.

**Qualification of Players**

A pupil participating in the ISFA Representative programme must be a full-time student at an independent school which is a Member of ISFA. ISFA will not permit any player to participate in any matches or Development Camps without the approval of his/her school and parents.

**Funding and Costs**

ISFA is a ‘not for profit’ organisation. Any surplus is reinvested for the benefit of the game in the independent sector.

ISFA makes no profit from its programme of development camps and representative teams, the aim being to provide high quality opportunities for players at minimum cost. On many occasions, the event costs are subsidised by ISFA; however, it is often necessary to ask parents to make a contribution towards the cost of their child’s involvement in the programme.

**Coaching**

Coaches of ISFA national representative teams and at ISFA Development Camps will be licensed FA coaches. Many either are or have been coaches with Academies or Centres of Excellence at professional clubs. Most ISFA staff are also current teachers or have recently been in the teaching profession.

**Safeguarding and Child Welfare**

All staff involved in all ISFA representative teams and Development Camps have undertaken an FA Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Check.

At each ISFA event, there will be a nominated member of staff responsible for Child Welfare.

Parents will be required to complete a medical form before their child participates in an ISFA Development Camp or plays for an ISFA National Team. This form will include emergency contact details.

At all ISFA tours and overnight camps, ISFA will ensure a staff/pupil ratio of not more than 1:16, which conforms to The FA’s best practice guidelines. In most cases the ratio will normally be better than this.

*For further information and more detail on ISFA’s Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures, please refer to the document on this matter.*

**Selection of Players**

It is a condition of participation in the ISFA representative programme that schools, players and parents abide by and accept the selectors’ decisions without exception.  ISFA reserves the right to exclude players from selection indefinitely if the above condition is not respected.

On those occasions where a coach is a teacher at the same school as a player under discussion, ISFA’s practice is that the coach concerned should withdraw from any discussion on that particular player’s selection or omission.

**Behaviour**

ISFA places an extremely high importance on player behaviour both on and off the pitch; indeed, a player’s conduct and attitude will be factors in determining selection. It is a condition of involvement in ISFA activities that players conduct themselves appropriately at all times. In particular, foul language and dissent towards match officials are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

**Photography at ISFA Representative Matches**

ISFA’s policy in relation to Photography and Social Media can be found in the Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy document.

At representative matches, group photos and sometimes action pictures are often sometimes taken. Approval for photography is included in the consent from sent to parents prior to the event. Where a child may not be photographed (eg if he/she is subject to a court order), their parents/guardians must inform ISFA’s representatives. Similarly, where parents do not wish their child to be photographed for any reason, they should inform ISFA’s representatives.

When matches take place against academies of professional clubs, these clubs

are obliged to abide by the rules of The Premier League and The Football League and ISFA must therefore also respect these rules. Therefore photographs must

not be taken on these occasions, including by parents themselves, unless specific permission has been obtained by ISFA from the opposing club.