

SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

(founded 1893)



For the attention of School Representatives and Association Team Managers

Schools/Sunday League Liaison

As a result of continuing fixture clashes between schools' football and Sunday Leagues, representations were made to the Secretary of Durham FA, Mr. John Topping. He subsequently attended a meeting of Durham County Schools' FA on 12th February.

There was general agreement that Youth Leagues are frequently too big, demanding too many fixtures and problems obtaining referees. Also problems with the numbers of competitions Sunday Leagues enter, hence more fixture congestion. Leagues have been clearly informed by Durham FA that schools' football has priority (by FA Rule) and they will be taken to task if they infringe on schools' football. However, these leagues do offer regular football for youngsters.

In an attempt to offer the best to all interested parties John Topping asked the County meeting if schools would be willing to confirm their fixtures with the Durham FA and the FA will then relay this information to the four main youth leagues who could then play on nights not needed by schools/associations. How successful this will be remains to be seen but it was agreed that this would be tried, particularly in the 'fixture-heavy' remaining months of the season, and assessed later.

Where there are clear breaches of rule and leagues do infringe on schools' football then a report can be submitted to John Topping himself as well as the secretary of school associations and/or schools' County associations.

Confirmation of fixtures to: michaelbell@durhamfa.com

Confirmation of infringements to: johntopping@durhamfa.com

Whilst this may not be an ideal solution it is clear that the present system is not always working. See how it goes!

John Robinson.
Hon. Chairman.