

Scottish Student Football Women's National Team

Strategy, Events & Planning 2017-18

Purpose

The SSF Women's programme is the pinnacle of Women's student football in Scotland. It exists to offer the best performing students the opportunity to represent Scotland on an international stage and builds into the World University Games. The value of the programme is determined by the high level of student satisfaction, engagement and opportunity it provides. The success of the programme necessitates the engagement of all of the member institutions of the SSS network, and this programme must seek to bring together institutions and students to work, train, and perform as one. Alongside the Men's team, the SSF Women's team is a flagship of student activity, national innovation and high performance competition for both SSS and the member institutions.

Season 2017-18 will see a new development to offer the student players and volunteers of the programme professional development opportunities, in order to increase their retention in the wider Scottish Football community both as players and members of the workforce.

Key Objectives 2017-18

1. Provide a high-quality national programme, offering students the chance to train and play at a higher level of football than traditional BUCS league level football. Return a high level of student satisfaction and engagement from the opportunities provided.
2. Be competitive on an international stage. As current Champions of the BUCS Home Nations Championships (held April 2017, Edinburgh), the programme is now challenged to maintain this standard of achievement, particularly in fixtures away from home.
3. Make the programme truly national, by encouraging student players from all over Scotland to trial, be they University or College students. Holding one centralised base at Oriam in Edinburgh, but using a range of locations around the UK for matches, making this an opportunity to represent on an international scale.
4. Ensure that the programme offers students of all FE & HE institutions the opportunity to trial to become part of the programme, whether that's students at Colleges or Universities.
5. Offer professional development opportunities to student players and volunteers. Amongst this, talks from Alumni of the programme and engagement with the SFA professional development pathway.
6. Continue to support players and coaches within the BUCS Home Nations to feed into the FA/BUCS squads and staff for the World University Games (next held in Naples, ITA 3rd - 14th July 2019).

Timetable of Events

The student year begins in September, and ends by June, due to the restrictions of exam diets, our programme must finish no later than the end of April. It is essential that in advance of the programme year, Coaches, Players, Directors of Football, and Staff of the SSS member institutions are fully aware of our programme, its purpose, objectives and timetable. As students join or return to their student football teams through September and October, we ask that all Coaches, Directors and Staff consider those students from their squads who are good enough to represent Scotland in the SSF Women's programme. Ability, commitment, professionalism in both conduct and attitude, and determination to win should all be considered. Trials will be open to all students, but we ask institutions to flag students whom they believe are of the calibre to represent SSF.

Due to the Scottish Women's Premier League schedule we will be holding trials on the 3rd of December. Beyond this, we will also strive to hold a portion of events or match events away from our centralised base – which will be Oriam, Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh.

Finally, it is important to clearly state the culmination of our programme. This will be an away trip to play an international challenge match.

Our provisional timetable is as follows:

<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>TIME OF YEAR</i>
National Trial	Oriam	Sunday 3 rd December, 1330-1700
Training	Oriam	Saturday 13 th January, 1500-1800
Match vs TBC	TBC based on opponent	February - TBC
Training or International Challenge Match vs TBC	TBC based on opponent	March - TBC
International Challenge Match vs TBC	TBC based on opponent	April – TBC

Staff

Team Manager: Florence Haines;

Head Coach: Grant Scott - Stirling University WFC;

Assistant Coach: Mike Ross - Edinburgh University WAFC;

Assistant Coach: Nichola Sturrock - Edinburgh University WAFC;

Assistant Coach - Graeme Hart - St Andrews University WFC

GK Coach: Edward Gallagher - Celtic WFC;

Physio/Medical Support - Seeking

Kit

For the 2017/18 season the programme will purchase a new set of 20 Home strips in blue.

Players may receive training or leisure wear. If this is the case these are to be retained by the player for the duration of the season and beyond. Players are expected to turn up to all events in their SSF kit, to represent the programme at all times.

Equipment

At present the SSF programme has no equipment of its own and relies on the equipment of institutions it visits for the basic use of equipment. For season 2017/18, the programme has purchased basic training equipment in order to raise the standard of training session delivered to students.