

## Assembly Resource

Read through the information found below about 9-year-old footballer Ellie Duffy's campaign. Do you agree that girls' football should be classed as elite in the same way as the boys' has been?



Source: Ellie Duffy

Left: Ellie Duffy at football training.

Right: Ellie's letter to the FA.

Boys at football academies are elite from the age of 8 but girls are only elite at 18 years old. Ellie found this to be extremely unfair and clearly a disparity in opportunities for girls. Ellie also wrote to the FA and the women's FA to ask them to explain their decision and to change their minds.



Four days after Ellie started the petition, the FA announced that they had changed their decision and now were allowing girls under 18 at RTCs to train!

Ellie has decided to continue her petition and to share her story to ensure the FA will consider her point that girls at RTCs should be named elite to make sure they are valued for their talent and given the same training opportunities as boys the same age.

Dear Sir /Madam,

I am writing to you in response to your recent rules that you have announced and that I am extremely disappointed that you are allowing boys in academy's from under 9's up to under 16's to continue to play and train but are disallowing girls to do the same who are in RTCs(Regional Talent Centres).

I believe this is unfair for girls all around the country that are in RTCs (Regional Talent Centres). Not only that, but I believe that before lockdown the FA were trying to increase the number of girls all around the country that play football and I feel like this is a huge setback. And I therefore require you to explain why and how you came to this extremely unfair decision.

So, I would like to ask you to allow RTCs (Regional Talent Centres) to reopen if they have Covid-19 safe facilities. Another thing I want you to do is change the label of talented girl footballers in RTCs from Grassroot football to Elite.

Your Sincerely,

Ellie Duffy age 9

Ellie's petition 'Girls have Goals' can be found online [www.change.org/girlshavegoals](http://www.change.org/girlshavegoals)