



# Welcoming Disabled Cricketers

A user friendly guide for clubs



# Introduction



At a sports day for over 350 disabled people held in Lincolnshire in the summer of 2013, cricket was the third most popular sport from a choice of 24 !

Disabled people like to play sport when given the opportunity, and the different formats of cricket means that it can appeal strongly to disabled and non-disabled people alike. From 2013 all County Cricket Boards (CCBs) will be looking to attract more disabled participants into cricket.

Currently over 120 clubs across the country provide opportunities for disabled players and this number is growing, and so help for new clubs looking to establish similar programmes will never be too far away.

The ECB was one of the first governing bodies of sport to develop its own cricket-specific Disability Inclusion Training course to help coaches gain the confidence and understanding of how to work with disabled players.

In recent years the sport has done some fantastic work introducing cricket to over 100,000 young disabled people in schools. Many of these young people want to continue to play cricket outside of school.



This tool-kit has been produced by the ECB Inclusion & Diversity Team

If you have any questions email [disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk](mailto:disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk)

HOW THE CLUB  
BENEFITS

MORE PEOPLE  
PLAYING THE  
GAME

INCREASED  
MEMBERSHIP

CAN ATTRACT  
GRANT-AID AND  
SPONSORSHIP

NEW POTENTIAL  
POOL OF  
VOLUNTEERS AND  
HELPERS

STRONG FOCUS  
FOR THE  
COMMUNITY

**This tool kit is an easy step-by-step guide that explains how your club can welcome disabled people who – like you – love cricket.**





# Points to Consider – Where Do I start?

## Support of the club

How can this programme become part of the culture of the club?

## School pupils to club members

What can be done to support young players to move from school to club cricket?

## Recruiting from the community

Research confirms five million disabled adults of working age - and a lot want to play sport.

## Cricket programmes

What will the cricket programme look like - what's best? Read on!

## Facilities

Meeting the needs of disabled people is not as difficult as you might think.

## Where can I get help

Information is available about who is around to advise you.



TAKE YOUR TIME  
TO BUILD  
SOMETHING  
THAT LASTS

SCHOOLS  
PROGRAMMES  
CAN NOW  
DEVELOP  
SUITABLE EXIT  
ROUTES

THERE IS A  
STRONG  
DESIRE FROM  
DISABLED  
PEOPLE  
TO PLAY SPORT

PROGRAMMES  
CAN BE  
REWARDING  
FOR EVERYONE

THE ECB HAS A NETWORK OF PEOPLE WHO CAN BE CONTACTED ABOUT MAKING YOUR CLUB MORE INCLUSIVE

FOR HELP EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

[disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk](mailto:disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk)

THE ECB IS CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE AT LEAST ONE NEW INCLUSIVE CLUB IN EVERY CCB BY 2017

WHY CAN'T IT BE YOUR CLUB?



1. It is right that clubs take the time to understand fully what it needs to do to make the club welcoming to disabled people.
2. This can be difficult particularly when the club might not know what is involved or are not sure where to start. Go and see or speak with clubs who do have disability cricket programmes before making any decision. Email [disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk](mailto:disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk) for details of your nearest disability cricket club.
3. Have a look at what being an inclusive club involves. Log onto: <http://www.inclusion-club-hub.co.uk/> This toolkit will give you ideas, methods and resources to ensure everyone has a positive club experience.
4. Support is available to you – **every step of the way** to help your club to become disability-friendly. The ECB can help you to find a club near you.

REMEMBER TO WELCOME THE PARENTS, CARERS AND ADVOCATES OF NEW CLUB MEMBERS.

THEY ARE OFTEN THE KEY DECISION MAKERS.

ANY PERSONAL CARE NEEDS REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THEIR SUPPORT NETWORK

HOWEVER INDIVIDUAL CARE NEEDS SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO THE CLUB

1. Target programmes in schools close to your club to provide on-going community-based opportunities for disabled participants. Agree what role you want the school to play – they must be an **active** partner.

2. When offering a programme to schools, inform them of the intention to signpost pupils to your club. Ask that the club be allowed to attend some of the schools sessions to **establish a personal link**. It helps if the first contact is the participants usual environment (school) not that of the sport (club).

3. Encourage the teachers to **consolidate the learning** with the pupils outside the sessions coaches provide, and not just wait for the next session to be delivered.

4. At some stage the **parents should be encouraged to attend the sessions** to see the positive benefits the sessions are having on their children. They should have the opportunity to meet with the cricket club members and learn how what their children are benefiting from can be continued outside of school in a club.

5. Attending a session at your club should be an explicitly stated **no-obligation** opportunity to continue the sessions in a community club setting. In the first instance this might be just going along to watch – very much a **TRYb4uBUY** philosophy.

6. Let young players **bring a friend** or parent if they want to – even if they are non-disabled they can play too. Most young people want to be with friends or family.

7. Your club should identify a **dedicated club member** to be the first point of contact for new disabled participants coming to the club. It would help if this person can attend some of the school-based sessions so they are recognised and known to potential new members and those who support them.

8. The club needs to check that suitable access arrangements (physical and attitudinal) are in place. **It is perfectly reasonable** for you to seek support from parents, carers or advocates and teachers in helping to create a safe and welcoming environment.

## Inspirational Stories

<http://www.ecbtv.co.uk/video/i/2379834/title/disabled-youngsters-shine-at-lord-s/search/disability> <http://www.ecbtv.co.uk/video/i/2596792/title/the-comeback-kid/search/disability> <http://www.simply-cycling.org/about-us/testimonials/>

GO AND MEET  
WITH PEOPLE

GET TO KNOW  
EACH OTHER

BUILD YOUR OWN  
CONFIDENCE

DON'T BE AFRAID  
TO ASK THEIR  
ADVICE

WHAT DO THEY  
WANT?

MANAGE  
EXPECTATIONS

1. All CCBs and clubs can access a directory of national and local disabled people organisations (DPO) to whom each might wish to offer cricket.

2. Self Help Example

Find disabled people organisations in Staffordshire

<http://www.dotcommunity.org.uk/>

- hover over and **click** West Midlands
- hover over and **click** Staffordshire
- **click** search icon
- In Search Box
- **click** serviced providers (local)
- insert club postcode
- define radius of search
- **click** support for carers and family
- key word – disabled
- **click** search

3. The next step is to go and meet with those in charge of these organisations and explain to them that you are interested in offering cricket to disabled people – no flyers or letters at this stage, **face-to-face** contact is the key.

4. If you can **persuade them**, they will sell your ideas for you to their members. They will know when and how best to get your message across.

5. Consider the non-sporting reasons for offering cricket. Use cricket to develop individuals through sport and not just for sport. There are a range of **genuine reasons** for taking part in sport: health, self-esteem, friendship, social interaction – all are equally as valid as the more traditional reasons i.e. skill development, success, prestige.

6. Many of the **Critical Success Factors** for schools are applicable for community-based programmes. Most important is whatever organisation or community a club works with – it must be an active and not a passive partner.



ADVICE AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO CLUBS ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DISABILITY

CONTACT THE ECB, YOUR OWN CCB OR THE RELEVANT NATIONAL DISABILITY SPORTS ORGANISATION (NDSO) FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

CONTACT DETAILS ARE AT THE END OF THIS TOOL KIT

1. From table cricket to test matches, cricket is one of the most adaptable sports around for disabled people. All CCBs now have access to grants for adapted equipment from The Lord's Taverners. Specific **help and advice** on adapting cricket for different disability groups can be obtained from disabled cricket organisations, see the links to the right for more information.

2. The ECB has produced its own **Disability Inclusion Training Course** and has over 30 trained tutors across the country. This course is designed for cricket coaches who are interested in and want to learn about working with disabled players. Most CCBs have a trained tutor. You should find one in your own or nearby county.

3. A number of coaches in the England Disability Cricket national and regional programmes are able to be **contacted for specific advice**. In the first instance, email your coaching query to [disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk](mailto:disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk).

4. SCUUK run **disability awareness training** all year round to introduce to volunteers and helpers ways of catering for disabled participants

<http://www.sportscoachuk.org/workshops/workshop-search>

Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities  
[www.cfpd.org.uk](http://www.cfpd.org.uk)

England Cricket Association for the Deaf  
<http://ecad.hitssports.com/>

Blind Cricket England and Wales  
[www.bcew.co.uk](http://www.bcew.co.uk)

British Association for Cricketers with a Disability  
[www.bacd.co.uk](http://www.bacd.co.uk)

County Cricket Board – contact details  
<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/get-into-cricket/development-structure-and-contacts/>



CRICKET A GAME  
THAT CAN BE  
ADAPTED TO SUIT  
ANY  
ENVIRONMENT

WHERE THERE'S A  
WILL THERE'S A  
WAY!

CONTACT LOCAL  
FOOTBALL OR  
RUGBY CLUBS  
ABOUT USING  
PITCHES IN THE  
SUMMER

ALSO MAKE  
FRIENDS WITH  
DISABILITY  
FRIENDLY  
FOOTBALL CLUBS  
CONTACT COUNTY  
FA FOR DETAILS

[www.thefa.com/my-football/more/county-fa](http://www.thefa.com/my-football/more/county-fa)

1. The perceived prohibitive cost of providing suitable access is often used as a reason for not encouraging disabled people to join a sports club. Research shows that one of the **biggest barriers** to disabled people taking part in sport is not about accessibility; but the **attitude of non-disabled people**.

Many clubs in a number of sports, including cricket, have not let questions around accessible facilities get in the way. To learn more about this contact : [disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk](mailto:disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk).

2. Consider developing programmes in other locations as well as the club. What more do you really need other than space? Day Care Centres, school playgrounds. There is even a thriving **Car Park League** in London!

3. Establish satellite locations so each could act as a feeder to the local cricket club.

4. Grants are available to clubs to help improve facilities. First point of call should be the ECB - Facilities & Investment Managers. For more information contact <http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/facilities-funding/contacts/>





TAKE YOUR TIME  
DON'T RUSH

START SMALL AND  
HAVE PATIENCE, IT  
WILL BE  
REWARDED

MANAGE  
EXPECTATIONS

THINK OUTSIDE  
THE BOX

THE FORMAT OF  
THE GAME CAN BE  
WHATEVER YOU  
WANT IT TO BE

NO ONE EXPECTS  
YOU TO KNOW  
EVERYTHING –  
DON'T BE AFRAID  
TO ASK

## Bexley Barmy Army

“Seek assistance from your County Cricket Development Team and be aware of the opportunities provided by other local groups”

## Hampshire Visually Impaired CC

“Get a sound backroom staff together; it is the lifeblood of the team”

## Sheffield United Spinners

“Get the whole club to support the programme”

## South Loughton CC

“Don't expect instant results. It takes time to build confidence amongst the participants, and levels of commitment can vary greatly”

## Harold Wood CC

“Know your client base. If from schools, get in and do sessions to build confidence. Find a location that suits the needs of the group. Be prepared to have loads of patience with members when building up club”

## Old Elthamians Bears CC

“Get the parents more involved in the disability section of your club”

## ECB Staff & ECB Four Regional Disability Cricket Forums

Contact Disability Cricket Helpdesk: [disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk](mailto:disabilitycricket@ecb.co.uk)

England and Wales Cricket Board [www.ecb.co.uk/development/disability-cricket/](http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/disability-cricket/)

## National Disability Sports Organisations

All have dedicated full-time staff to help connect disabled people with different sports – including cricket

English Federation of Disability Sport [www.efds.org.uk](http://www.efds.org.uk)

Disability Sport Wales [www.disabilitysportwales.com](http://www.disabilitysportwales.com)

British Blind Sport [www.britishblindsport.org.uk](http://www.britishblindsport.org.uk)

Cerebral Palsy (CP) Sport [www.cpsport.org](http://www.cpsport.org)

UK Deaf Sport [www.ukdeafsport.org.uk](http://www.ukdeafsport.org.uk)

Mencap / SOGB [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

Dwarf Sports Association [www.dsauk.org](http://www.dsauk.org)

Wheelpower [www.wheelpower.org.uk](http://www.wheelpower.org.uk)

