

**MAKING YOUR
CLUB INCLUSIVE
FOR THE LGBTQ+
COMMUNITY**



Making Your Club Inclusive for LGBTQ+

Do you wish there was an LGBTQ+ friendly club closer to where you live or work? Or perhaps you want to make LGBTQ+ friendly football more available and accessible in an area? If your answer is **'yes'** to either of these questions, perhaps you could start by making your own club more inclusive or setting up an LGBTQ+ friendly club.

But perhaps you **don't** know where to start or you are daunted by the effort that will be involved or you think you may not succeed.

The Amateur FA and London Unity League have worked together, to provide you with some top tips to make this happen.



Top Tips for Making Your Club Inclusive

- **Know what your club's identity and values are.** Let everyone know that your club is an LGBTQ+ ally and make a clear statement that everyone is welcome. This will give people something to start to believe in and to champion. Sign up to campaigns, such as [Rainbow Laces](#)
- Have a Code of Conduct and Policies for members. This will make people accountable for their actions, and for people to see the club is serious about being inclusive. Display them where possible and make them available digitally
- Become an ally for the LGBTQ+ community. Are you using the right language, do you celebrate the LGBTQ+ members in your club? Don't be afraid to ask difficult questions and find out about how they want to be supported
- Everyone's experience will be different. Be respectful of this and don't make generalised assumptions
- Try to get a mention of what you are trying to do in the LGBTQ+ media or other media, such as local news sources
- Is where you play/train easily accessible? This will help attract new players and keep your existing membership
- Think about other reasons people play football i.e. to meet new people. Organise socials for your club to members to get to know each other. Make it the role for someone already the club to be responsible for inducting new members
- Make links with other LGBTQ+ friendly and other football clubs. The social side of LGBTQ+ friendly football extends beyond the individual clubs, with friendships and relationship across clubs
- **Think about how to nurture and retain those players who haven't played** much football in the past **or haven't played for a while** - this is quite common for LGBTQ+ people. Providing training and practice matches is very important. Also, having football that is less formal, **such as kickabouts or beginners' training, alongside the formal football** can help



Setting Up a Club

- Click [here](#) for information on how to set up a club and become affiliated to a County FA
- Look at the [Development Resources](#) page on our website for further information about developing and growing a grassroots football club
- Have you thought about joining a league? Check out the [London Unity League](#). The league is based in London, designed to unite LGBTQ+ footballers and others in a competitive but friendly sporting environment
- Find information on what funding is available to you [here](#)
- Set up a website and/or social media presence, such as a Facebook and Twitter page, to use for communication
- Use social media to proactively contact potential players based on what they put in their profile, such as an interest in football or sport
- Another **way to find players is through 'find players' noticeboards, such as Gumtree or the [England Football Find Football](#)**

