

RAF FA – Mixed Gender Open Age Football Pilot Competitions

In response to a growing number of requests for the Football Association to allow mixed gender football to take place in the same formats as open age football, the FA has agreed to continue the piloting of such matches in the following formats:

- Small Sided Football
- Flexi Football (inc 11v11)
- College and University Intramural Football (inc 11v11)
- Charity Matches (inc 11v11)
- LGBT+ Leagues
- Business Leagues

The FA will consider applications within these criteria, but the RAF FA have overall sanction as the responsible County Football Association. A selection of the mixed gender pilots will be monitored, and some events may receive a visit from the FA's mixed football research partner, Brunel University.

The ethos behind this pilot is the importance of respect for all players. Embracing this opportunity, the RAF FA have now sanctioned two competitions, with a summary of each below.



Brize Norton Inter-Section Football League (BZN ISFL) – 11 v 11 League

- September 2022 to May 2023
- 12 teams with approximately 150 players

The BZN ISFL is held between sections at RAF Brize Norton. The aim of the league is to play football, with a focus on participation and enjoying the game with an element of competition.

As there are a large number of female footballers at RAF Brize Norton and efforts are actively being made to increase this number, the League Committee agreed that applying a mixed gender league would be a good way of helping to produce a female Station team by encouraging more females to get involved in football.

As the league encourages participation, several teams had already previously made requests for female players to be involved but the launch of this FA Pilot scheme has unlocked the issue.

It is anticipated that in the initial stages of the league 10-15 females will be involved, but once word spreads across the Station the numbers are expected to increase significantly.



RAF Medical Services 5-a-Side Football Tournament.

20 Aug 22 – 0800 to 1600

There will be approximately 40 females and 72 male players who will play in mixed sex teams (with the option of single sex male/female teams) to play against each other in a mixed sex 5-a-side tournament over one day. The format of the tournament will run as per below:

- 14 teams (5 players and 3 reserves per team)
- 2 leagues with 7 teams per league.
- Top teams playing for the trophy.
- Bottom teams playing for a plate.
- Min 6 games per team.
- Max 8 games per team.
- 6 min halves, total 12 min games.
- Qualified referees per game.



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