

Coach Development

The FA has worked to improve and build on the original Coaching Disabled Footballers (CDF) course (published in 2000) to ensure that the current course format reflects the changing needs of players and coaches. Disability Football is embedded in The Football Association's National Game Strategy and as a result the expectations of disabled players have risen accordingly.

England's disability teams sit high in the world rankings and an increasing number of disabled players want the opportunity to play at the highest levels. Good coaching at grassroots level and within the Talent Pathway is essential if players are to maximise their full potential. The CDF Course aims to provide coaches with tips and guidance on how to adapt, where necessary, to include disabled players with a disability in regular coaching sessions at your school or club.

In the context of The FA's Long Term Development Model, attendance at a CDF Course will enable you to:

- Apply and extend your existing coaching skills and experience to meet the needs of players with a range of impairments
- Establish basic communication skills for coaching disabled footballers
- Use appropriate terminology
- Identify appropriate safety and medical considerations
- Ensure that you are working in a safe and enjoyable environment and players are free from poor practice and abuse
- Plan a wide range of coaching sessions for disabled players
- Using the Inclusion Spectrum, plan your coaching sessions to include disabled players or provide alternative appropriate opportunities
- Understand the player pathway available for disabled players including the appropriate structures for competition.

Please note that there are other impairment specific courses available to support the development of disabled players and complement the delivery of the CDF Course.

- FA Coaching Deaf Footballers Course
- FA Coaching Blind Footballers Course