



Disability Football Inclusion at the University of Lincoln

'Football for All'

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Background

Football is arguably the most popular sport in the world, with several formats including amateur leagues or a small sided games which can be played on either a social or competitive level. (Giulianotti - 1999)

Participation within disability football is not what it should be (The FA 2010). With Lincolnshire F.A identifying participation rates within the county are among the lowest in the UK (Lincolnshire FA 2012)

Participants with impairments are under-represented in participation in football, and can be stigmatised in wider society (Fitzgerald 2008)

Study Aims

Working with the Lincolnshire FA, the aims of this study was to examine the barriers that face students with cerebral palsy, who are blind or partially sighted and to also evaluate implementation of a taster session

Method

Using an online questionnaire in order to gauge interest, awareness, barriers and previous participation.

After implantation of the session attendance figures were taken and participants asked to fill a questionnaire relating to enjoyment, barriers and future preference to format

Methodology

A programme evaluation was employed which looked to assess increased awareness of disability football within the University, How appropriate the project was, Needs analysis and to assess the effectiveness of a taster event. The project using a reverse integration approach as it can create an equitable platform for socialisation and competition in order to assess the previous areas (Spencer-Cavaliere and Peers, 2011)

Results & discussion

Increased awareness— from questionnaires conducted at the taster event, most participants agreed that the sport had a greater awareness with able and disabled students. Those who attended stated that they were not aware of the opportunities outside of university before the event

Programme evaluation— disability football awareness was increased through social media and taster event though more needs to be done to continue to increase awareness and target other disabilities to attend

Some expectation that were added to the logic model were unfeasible meaning that were left incomplete.

Needs Analysis— The needs analysis showed that only 1.6% of the student body played sport with 15.2% wanting to take part in disability football in future
Taster Event—the event was ran at a convenient time and location, giving as many students as possible to take part.

60% of those that wanted to take part in disability football were disabled with an impairment with available football resources

Conclusion

The project can be seen as a success as both awareness in disability football and the lack of disability sport at the university was raised in both disabled and abled student body.

Short term the project delivered by increasing awareness and hosting a taster day though long term disability needs the continued support of the Lincolnshire FA with the long term goal of becoming a University BUCS team