



Inclusion of Athlete's with Disabilities Implementation

This official document is DFC Academy's Inclusion with Athlete's for Disabilities Act. This document follows guidelines to Canada and Ontario Soccer on Inclusion and Accessibility.



ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES

There are a number of reasons as to why few people with a disabilities have participated in the world's most populated sport called soccer. This pertaining to all those involved, such as; players, coaches and managerial staff. This is a global concern and one that has neglected the focus needed as an international sport for quite some time. Issues of education, management, and accessibility and are typical tasks for a soccer academy, but there are some related specifically to participants with a disability.

The issues:

- General public's lack of knowledge of people with a physical or learning disability
- Lack of awareness of the activities, opportunities and options available to people with a disability (FIFA has improved greatly in this spectrum over the last 10 years)
- Isolation sometimes experienced by people with a disability
- Lack of confidence in a skill area
- Lack of access within the community
- Lack of activities including sport is sometimes difficult, resulting from lack of physical access

Strategies to overcome barriers:

- Focus on what the person with a disability can do.
- Coaches and Managerial staff can educate themselves by taking more online courses. This will not only benefit in their coaching, but their ability to connect and develop those with a disability.
- Learn the different strategies that are used when working with a player that has a disability. The more knowledge gained the more support players and those involved with disabilities have within the academy.
- Advertise widely to reach isolated people with a disability
- create more local and community partnerships that will educate people about disabilities, but also bring more awareness in how you can implement soccer and community together when focusing on people with a disability
- DFC Academy adheres to the Ontario Soccer Association and Canadian Soccer Association policies and guidelines for including athletes with a disability in soccer programs. While the academy does not offer an exclusive participant program for these athletes, we support the



- Special Olympics by providing our staff (coaching and sporting even coordinators) for their soccer events and provide Special Olympics volunteers and staff for their events and event planning. We also have a DFC technical team coach who has helped coordinate a number of special events for the Canadian Paralympic Soccer Team.

DFC Academy provides its coaching staff and academy managers with access to the following materials which are posted on the Club website:

Coaching Athletes with a Disability Coaching Association of Ontario

- *Long Term Player Development – Players with Disabilities Canadian Soccer Association*
- *Soccer for Players with a Disability Ontario Soccer Association*
- *Club Based Programs for Players with a Disability Ontario Soccer Association*

DFC Academy will assist athletes and their families with finding the appropriate program to suit their needs if the academy does not have a participant program available for them. Coaching opportunities and academy internal positions are available.