



DREAM IT! BELIEVE IT! ACHIEVE IT!

Did you know that The Football Association runs England teams for the following groups of players?

- Amputee players;
- Blind players;
- Players with cerebral palsy;
- Deaf (men and women) players;
- Partially sighted players.

These teams train regularly and represent England in friendly internationals as well as European and World Championships. Many outstanding and talented individuals have won international honors (collecting England caps along the way!). This could be you!!

Working in partnership with British Colleges Sport and the British Universities Sports Association, The FA are to hold a number of talent days at the beginning of June 09. The aim of these talent days is to identify talented disabled players who could progress onto wearing the Three Lions in European or World Championships.

Individuals being invited or nominated to attend may not have previously been aware of the opportunity to represent their country or aware that they classify for one of the representative teams. Players that The FA wishes to identify are possibly already participating in a good level of mainstream football (dependent on their disability). There may even be some individuals who are outstanding athletes in other sports but feel that they can make the switch to football.

The FA is inviting individuals to enroll to attend a talent day directly. However, and most importantly, The FA is calling upon College and University staff to identify (and nominate) individuals that they deem to have the potential to progress at this level. This is an opportunity of a life time that should not be missed.

The Talent days will have particular emphasis on students with sensory or physical disabilities as described over page (**the talent days will not cater for individuals with a learning disability**). The impairment specific information provided is important and will hopefully help college and university staff to identify players to attend a talent day.

Talent Day Details

The following is a list of times, dates and venues of talent days that will be held nationally:

Talent Day 1 - Monday 1st June (10.30am – 1.30pm)

The Nicholls Football Centre, The Manchester College, Hyde Road, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 6BA

Talent Day 2 - Tuesday 2nd June (10.30am – 1.30pm)

Bridgwater College, College Way, Bridgwater, TA6 4PZ

Talent Day 3 - Wednesday 3rd June (10.30am – 1.30pm)

Henley College, Henley Road, Coventry, CV2 1ED

Talent Day 4 - Thursday 4th June (10.30am – 1.30pm)

Hillingdon Athletics Stadium, Gattings Way, Uxbridge, UB8 1ES

Talent Day 5 - Friday 5th June (10.30am – 1.30pm)

Fulham FC Training Ground, Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6PT

Please note that trials will take place on either 3rd Generation or Sand Based Astro Turf Pitches (players will need to bring moulded boots and/or ATP trainers, full playing kit to include shin pads and refreshments to include food and water).

Registering for a Talent Day

If you have disabled athletes or players who show promise and would like to trial for one of the England Squads at a talent day please email the following information to

james@jameswatkinsconsulting.co.uk

- **Player name;**
- **Address;**
- **Date of Birth;**
- **College or University;**
- **Details of disability;**
- **Playing experience (to include current participation in football).**
- **Which talent day you wish to attend?**

Disability Specific Information

The talent days will have a particular emphasis on students with sensory or physical disabilities. The following impairment specific information will hopefully help you identify possible athletes to attend a talent day from your college or university.

Amputees – classification:

- Outfield players are either above or below the knee single leg amputees who play without prostheses on aluminum wrist crutches;
- The goalkeepers are single arm amputees;

Blind and visually impaired – classification:

- Visually impaired players who take part in football are classified according to their level of sight as B1, B2 or B3. Players who have B1 classifications are blind, players who are B2 and B3 are classed as visually impaired;
- B1 players may have been blind from birth or may have lost their sight through an accident or degenerative eye disease;
- Blind football is a Paralympic Sport.

Cerebral Palsy – classification;

- Cerebral Palsy football is available to players who are ambulant and are within the CP classification spectrum of 5 to 8;
- Cerebral Palsy may be congenital (from birth) or acquired (as a result of an accident or stroke for example);
- Cerebral Palsy is a Paralympic Sport.

Deaf (Men's and Women's Teams)

- All players must have a hearing loss of 55% in their better ear to qualify for games specifically for deaf people;
- Players do not wear their hearing aids during game situations.

More information relating to The FA's Disability Programme and England Disability Teams can be found by visiting www.TheFA.com

