Move the Goal Posts

Improving access to spectator sports for young disabled people
**ABOUT TRAILBLAZERS**

*Trailblazers* is a group of disabled campaigners from across the UK who tackle the social issues affecting young disabled people, such as access to higher education, employment and social and leisure opportunities. We aim to fight these social injustices to ensure young disabled people can gain access to the services they require.

We are part of Muscular Dystrophy UK, the charity for individuals and families living with muscle-wasting conditions.

**About Muscular Dystrophy UK**

Muscular Dystrophy UK is the charity bringing individuals, families and professionals together to beat muscle-wasting conditions.

- We support high quality research to find effective treatments and cures, and lead the drive for faster access to emerging treatments for UK families.
- We ensure everyone has the specialist NHS care and support they need, with the right help at the right time, wherever they live.
- We provide a range of services and opportunities to help individuals and their families live as independently as possible.

**Thank you**

This report has been researched and compiled by the Trailblazers team and members of the Trailblazers network. Special thanks to Dave Gale, Jo McNicol and Chloe Ball-Hopkins for their contributions.
**Foreword**

David Gale, Trailblazer from Lockerbie

I was heavily involved in both reports so it’s always good to revisit the findings and hopefully see what has changed for the better!

*Calling Time*, published in 2009, looked at access to leisure activities. *Game On*, published in 2013, looked at grassroots sports but also investigated (briefly) spectator sports. Both reports found that many Trailblazers felt sports grounds had poor access and issues with seating and accessible toilets. I am pleased to see the release of this report, which will reveal what improvements have happened during this time, but also where the barriers still exist.

For the 2009 report, I visited numerous stadiums to look into their disabled facilities, the most accommodating of which were Wembley Stadium, Hull City, Newcastle United and Glasgow Celtic. This gave me a little insight into how football clubs and stadiums accommodate disabled supporters. (You can read my blogs about it on the Trailblazers website.) These visits, coupled with the fact that for over 20 years I have been going to watch live sport (particularly supporting my hometown football team, Carlisle United, week in week out), show how aware I am of disabled people’s access to spectator sports.

I have visited around 70 different stadiums in England, Scotland and Wales, and have been to other sporting events such as Wimbledon, Rugby Union, the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games, among others. The experience of going to these venues as a disabled person has differed significantly over this 20 year period; some venues are good, some are bad and some are just plain ugly!

Numerous brand new stadiums have been built over this period, with greatly improved facilities and attitudes. The proof that things are improving is visible, as significantly more disabled supporters go to sporting events than they did when I started going to football in the early ’90s.

While there have been improvements to facilities over the years, some of the age-old problems still arise. Wheelchair users are still getting poor vantage points, ambulant supporters can still be allocated unsuitable seats, stewards’ attitudes can still be poor at times, and insufficient toilet and refreshment facilities can be a problem. Hopefully, as a result of this new report and investigation, we will bring about some positive change from all sporting organisations to improve the spectator sport experience for everyone.

Dave Gale

“I think the main barrier is being afraid of the crowd. Some people find making their way through, and saying ‘excuse me’ difficult. I used to be like this, but I realised that I have as much right as anyone to be there to see the event, so I just plan it well in advance and risk it.”

Chloe Ball-Hopkins, South West
Executive Summary

“For too long in this country disabled sports fans have been treated like second-class citizens at many sporting venues. And yet one in five of us have an impairment, and disabled people and their households have a spending power of over £200 billion.”

Mark Harper, Minister of State for Disabled People (July 2007 to May 2010)

Since the implementation of the Equality Act 2010, and legislation dating back to 1995, it has been illegal for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably than any other customers. Service providers, including sports venues, must make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can enjoy the same services and facilities as non-disabled people.

However, the problem lies in the fact the legislation uses the term ‘reasonable’. What exactly is reasonable? It is a subjective term; what is considered ‘reasonable’ will vary from one situation to another, how practical the adjustment is, along with the cost.

The law that requires services to make reasonable adjustments has existed for over 20 years. Those venues that have been built or re-developed in this time have the biggest duty to make the changes needed because they should anticipate the needs of disabled spectators. However, this does not mean older venues are free from obligation to make adjustments.

Another relevant legislation is Part M of the Building Regulations. For example, Part M specifies that venues with between 600 and 10,000 seats need at least one percent of their seating to be wheelchair accessible. It also states ‘where more than two wheelchair spaces are provided, they are located to give a range of views of the event at each side, as well as at the front and back of the seating area’.

In addition, the Government brought out their own report in September 2015 on disabled people’s access to spectator sports. The Inclusive and Accessible Stadia Report presents findings from a small study undertaken by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). It provides details of disabled people’s experiences and the barriers they face. It also gives recommendations of how stadia can improve access for disabled spectators.

The Accessible Sports Bill and the Government’s Sporting Future strategy was introduced in 2015. In the House of Lords debate on the Bill, several Peers referenced Trailblazers’ concerns. Adding to these developments, we look forward to swift progress being made by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority in assisting sport venues to reach the required accessibility standards.

We welcome the news that the Premier League has agreed to improve their facilities for disabled supporters and increase the numbers of wheelchair spaces by August 2017.

Trailblazers have previously produced two reports that briefly touched on spectator sports: leisure (Calling time) and sports (Game on). Both reported that young disabled people faced substantial barriers in accessing spectator sports.

In 2016, Trailblazers surveyed more than 100 young disabled people to find out their views on accessing spectator sports. The investigation found that sports venues were failing in their duty to disabled people. Overall, the findings show that many young disabled people:

- experience poor seating, where they are often separated from their family and friends
- have to buy tickets over the phone, which takes much longer than booking online
- have to attend events with questionable facilities, including inadequate toilets, and a lack of Changing Place’s toilets.

All young disabled people should have full and equal access to society, including recreational activities. Sport is important to many young people. Trailblazers are concerned that many sport venues are failing to make reasonable adjustments for disabled spectators. This means that a lot of young disabled people have an inferior experience of watching sport, compared with that of their non-disabled counterparts.
Why spectator sports are so important to many young disabled people

“Visiting the venues makes a day of the whole thing, rather than just watching a game, you’re taking in the whole occasion: the atmosphere inside the stadiums, as well as the rest of the day (where in cricket there will be lunches, breaks etc). For the players it’s a team sport, but it’s the same for the spectators; better enjoyed together.”
Joe Richardson, London

“I like to show support for my home team as I feel part of something regardless of my disability. I also enjoy getting out and about travelling to different venues.”
Harriet Butler, Midlands

“It’s something that I can get involved in and feel ‘normal’ as everyone is there for the one thing.”
Conor O’Kane, Northern Ireland

“You can’t beat the atmosphere of live sports.”
Richard, Midlands

“I love the competition and pushing the human body as much as possible. I also love the social aspect of following the team and seeing the same people at each game. I’ve made a lot of friends. Although I haven’t been to an international event yet I would love to someday see the Olympics and Paralympics too. Being a spectator is a lot of fun.”
Sara Tipping, Northern Ireland

“It’s important to support your local team and feel part of your local community. I’m a massive sports fan and would see most events if/when offered the opportunity.”
Johnathon Byrne, East of England

Key findings:

► 85 percent agree that disabled people are at a substantial disadvantage over non-disabled people when booking tickets to sporting events

► more than half have had to sit in an unsheltered seating area at a sporting event

► more than half say attending events in groups is the most difficult part of accessing live sporting events.

We are calling on sports venues, clubs and teams and the Government to:

► put accessibility into the heart of any future venue designs throughout the UK, by working with groups such as Trailblazers to discuss best practice

► ensure all front-facing staff have adequate disability equality training and to nominate a member of staff as an accessibility champion

► set up a sports fan access group with Trailblazers and meet regularly to discuss issues and improvements needed

► create an access card (similar to the Cinema Exhibitor Association card) to enable online ticket booking for disabled spectators, including carers, and to have a Freephone number as an alternative to online booking

► carry out access audits to see where accessible seating can be installed, including in both home and away areas

► work with young disabled people to overcome socially isolating situations where sports fans are separated from friends and family

► support improvements by backing good practice like ‘Level Playing Field’ guidelines.
VENUE DESIGN AND ACCESSIBILITY

“I’ve had to give up tickets before because of bad seating placements.”
Rosie Hodgson, East of England

No-one should have to give up going to a game because of access. Trailblazers found that physical access to the venues is the biggest challenge facing some young disabled people and this is the reason they do not go to more events.

Young disabled people we surveyed told us that manoeuvring around the venue, including within the concourse, caused major problems. Equally, the limited number of lifts, or in some places, no lifts. Accessibility around concession stands also caused problems either with no lowered counters or difficulty being served at peak times.

Our investigation showed that many young disabled people had to put up with poor visibility and seating, and difficulty parking.

Toilets were a particular issue – there were either not enough accessible toilets or they were not suitable (including lack of hoist and/or adult changing table). For some, the inability to use the toilet at sports venues prevents spectators from attending, or means they may have to cut their experience short.

For many young disabled people, the access barriers put them off attending live sport all together. For others, their experience is much diminished by the poor facilities.

**Trailblazers say**

“Obstructed views really frustrate me as you can’t see what you paid to see.”
Alan Pockley, North East

“Parking is quite difficult; some places are closed off, and there isn’t a lot of information about where to go for parking.”
Catherine Gillies, Scotland

Changing Places toilets are a fairly new phenomenon in the UK, celebrating 10 years of existence in July 2016. Changing Places toilets are essential for those with higher access needs, particularly those who cannot transfer independently or without the use of a hoist. The toilets all have a bigger floor space, with centrally placed toilets. They all have ceiling or portable hoists, and adult-sized changing beds.

We are campaigning for all sports venues to include a Changing Places toilet for their spectators with higher access needs.

Leroy Binns, Campaigns Assistant at Mencap, has worked on the Changing Places campaign for the past 10 years and has focused on accessibility at sports grounds across the UK. Leroy worked with other campaigners to get the first Premier League Changing Places toilet at Arsenal FC.

Leroy said:

“It is very important to have Changing Places toilets in all sporting venues because they should be accessible for everyone.

“People with profound and multiple learning disabilities and others who may need extra assistance can then go and support their team. Without Changing Places, some people would have to go home at half-time, be changed on a dirty floor or stay at home and not go out at all.

“People need Changing Places to access sporting venues so that they can be part of their community just like everybody else.”
Key findings:

- over a quarter state physical access into the venues, including parking, is the number one reason many young disabled people don’t attend live sporting events
- over half have had to sit in an unsheltered seating area
- over half have had to sit with an obstructed view of the pitch
- two-thirds call for more accessible parking at sports venues
- almost half call for better accessible toilets, including more Changing Places toilets.

Trailblazers are calling on sports venues, clubs and teams to:

- ensure accessibility is integrated into all aspects of venue design from entering the stadium to access within
- ensure venues liaise with disability groups like Trailblazers to enable consultation on best practice for access
- set up a sports club fan access group with Trailblazers and meet regularly to discuss issues and improvements needed
- increase the number of accessible parking spaces around the venue and ensure there are accessible drop off/pick up points
- install Changing Places toilets and improve the facilities of current accessible toilets
- locate accessible toilets and low-level bars near wheelchair accessible platforms and seating areas
- ensure there is a choice of accessible seating which has a clear view of the pitch.
In 2005, The British Standards Institute defined inclusive design as ‘products, services and environments that include the needs of the widest number of consumers’.

Within sports venues, this will include making sure that the environment is accessible to as many attendees as possible, including disabled people.

The main areas that benefit from inclusive design are booking areas, food and drink facilities and seating.

One of the main issues felt by the young disabled people surveyed is the poor choice of seating. Many are forced to sit with just one person, meaning they can’t go to a sports game with a group of friends. Watching sport is a social activity and many young disabled people are instead faced with socially isolating situations.

**Trailblazers say:**

“I usually feel guilty for the one person that sits with me while the rest of our group are all together. Sometimes we switch over during a match so each person sits with me for a while, that can be quite embarrassing but I think my friends do that genuinely to spend time with me not because it’s seen as some sort of ‘shift’ pattern.”

Joe Richardson, London

“I can only usually attend supporting events with one companion, as my family or friends have to sit away from me.”

Harriet Butler, Midlands

“The fact that I am limited to sitting with one companion means that I am unable to enjoy live sporting events with a group of friends. This type of policy makes the assumption that people with disabilities only ever have one person with them and that person is a carer/PA there solely to attend to their needs. What about family, groups of friends, etc? I also don’t appreciate the lack of seating choice at my venues. The atmosphere at live sporting events relies heavily on fans being seated together; unfortunately this is often not a choice for those requiring accessible seats.”

Shauna Yabsley, Northern Ireland

“It can be intimidating at football matches when you have to sit with the other team’s fans at away matches.”

Matthew Adams, South West

“Although we often get a carer ticket included, there aren’t many sporting events where you can actually sit next to a friend and enjoy a sporting event. Many stadiums or arenas have the wheelchair user at the front and the carer directly behind. When I go to sporting events, I want to share the experience with friends, sitting together like everyone else.”

Chris Gordon, Midlands

“I won’t go anywhere where you have to sit with the home fans. This is the case at Portsmouth and Ipswich.”

Matthew Francis, South East

“The obstructing view was the most frustrating for me, particularly when we had paid large sums of money for the rugby tickets. We had our views obscured by television personnel and large camera equipment.”

Raquel Siganporia, London
Key findings:

- over half say attending events in groups is the most difficult part of accessing live sporting events
- over a third have had to sit with the opposing team
- over half have had to sit away from friends and family
- more than 20 percent have had to sit alone
- 75 percent want more wheelchair accessible seating, including in the away area
- almost half want more accessible seating for ambulant disabled people
- over a quarter want more audio commentary at stadiums.

Trailblazers are calling on sports venues, clubs and teams to:

- carry out access audits to identify where accessible seating can be installed
- ensure there is a variety of wheelchair accessible seating in all areas, including in away area
- ensure wheelchair users have the option to sit in larger groups, if they choose, instead of pairs
- ensure there is a range of seating options for ambulant disabled people
- ensure all major venues have audio commentary for games.
INTERVIEW WITH JO MCNICOL, TRAILBLAZER

Can you tell us about your passion for sport?
I have always loved watching sport, especially football. It started when I was about five years old, my dad took me to football and I was hooked. I love the atmosphere and the feeling I get; it’s like one big family. I’ve met loads of lovely fellow Spurs’ supporters over the years and look forward to meeting up with them at games. Everyone looks out for me and I enjoy the whole experience of travelling to the game, drinks in the pub before and the game itself. For those 90 minutes, nothing else matters apart from me watching my team play, and I feel just like all the other fans.

What is your involvement with Level Playing Field and how long have you been involved?
I’ve been a Trustee of Level Playing Field for a year and before that I was a member. Level Playing Field campaigns for access for all to attend sporting venues throughout England and Wales.

What do you think is the biggest barrier for young disabled people accessing spectator sports?
I think the biggest barrier is obtaining tickets, as many clubs have very few wheelchair accessible seats at grounds. This is slowly changing though, with new stadiums being built.

Can you tell us a particularly good experience you’ve had at a sports venue?
Manchester City v Spurs was my favourite game this season. I was invited into the legends lounge for the away experience. My journey started out on the short tram journey from Piccadilly, which is fully accessible – it was a no-hassle trip to the Etihad Stadium. We were checked into the lounge and escorted in a fairly big lift to our table, where we had a lovely pre-match meal and there was plenty of room for me to get about without knocking into people. The disabled access toilet was opened by a Radar key and access was great.

During the match, we were outside on the top row of the Level 2 stand where we had a perfect view and the away fans were in front of me and above, so we could join in. Plus, my carer had an extra bonus of a padded seat. It was a freezing day, so being able to go back into the lounge at half-time and warm up was perfect, no fighting your way through the concourse for me, plus puddings and warm drinks along with a bar service was available in the restaurant with other fans.

If you could change one thing about sports venues, what would it be?
I’d change two things: to have more wheelchair seats available on demand, and always to offer away supporters wheelchair seats with their own supporters.
PICTURE: Trailblazer Jo McNicol with Spurs legends Ledley King and Ossie Ardiles at a disabled supporters’ party.
BOOKING TICKETS

For non-disabled people, booking tickets is a relatively easy process, which involves little communication with other people. The majority of tickets can be booked simply online and you can choose your preferred seating location. But for disabled spectators, it is rarely this easy: most ‘accessible tickets’ need to be booked over the phone directly with the venue.

Our survey revealed there were a number of issues for disabled spectators when they tried to buy tickets. There were issues over the limited number of wheelchair spaces, not being able to choose where to sit, and not being able to book online.

Overall, disabled people faced limited choices in seating and a longer booking process.

The vast majority of survey respondents believed disabled people were at a substantial disadvantage over non-disabled people when booking tickets.

Trailblazers say:

“It can take a long time on the phone when trying to book accessible tickets and companion tickets. Sometimes I like the idea of going to an event with friends but I know it will be a hassle to book especially if it is through a booking line I haven’t used before.”

Hannah-Lou Blackall, South East

“With popular events, one of the biggest challenges is booking tickets; as a disabled spectator you often have to book over the phone instead of online. This generally makes it a longer process and more complex than you would desire. This is especially true of events that sell out rapidly, although I have been to events where disabled tickets are set aside because of this.”

Joe Richardson, London

“In many cases you are only allowed one companion so cannot go with more than one person... Those without disabilities can just book tickets online. I find it very tiresome having to ring up the venue. I feel I’m more likely to miss out because there are only limited disabled seating areas.”

Harriet Butler, Midlands

“Other than for the Olympics and the Rugby World Cup, obtaining wheelchair space tickets to try and watch a live game has been near impossible for tennis, football and rugby. When I have been able to obtain tickets, the experience is good but this is very rare for these sports.”

Raquel Siganporia, London

Key findings:

► almost 90 percent agree that disabled people are at a substantial disadvantage compared with non-disabled people when booking tickets to sporting events

► over half feel booking accessible tickets is the most difficult part when attempting to access live sporting events

► almost three-quarters would like to see more free PA/carer tickets in sporting venues

► almost half would like to see more concession tickets for disabled sports fans.

Trailblazers are calling on sports venues, clubs and teams to:

► allow online ticket booking for disabled spectators, including carers, by creating an access card similar to the Cinema Exhibitor Association card

► have a Freephone number as an alternative option to online booking

► offer complimentary PA/carer/companion tickets.
Trailblazer Conor O’Kane visiting Wembley Stadium
Staff Training and Awareness

Staff attitudes can sometimes make or break a visitor’s experience. Good attitudes can improve someone’s time at an event, without involving any physical changes to the venues.

Our respondents highlighted that there were still issues over staff’s awareness of disability: not understanding access needs, not having any food and drinks concessions and not having available staff to assist when people are exiting the venue.

It is essential that all front-facing staff go through equality training to ensure disabled spectators receive a high level of customer service. This is especially important when facilities are not as good as they should be in venues.

**Trailblazers say:**

“Staff have asked me to use the stairs, thinking that I didn’t have a physical disability.”
Emma Acheson-Gray, South East

“Getting told I had suitable seats for a cup game at Sunderland and then getting there and realising I was in the back row. This caused real difficulty for me and I could have been a danger to myself and other supporters. Stadium staff need to be more aware of ambulant supporters with additional needs.”
Dave Gale, Scotland

“I often still come across patronising staff.”
Johnathon Byrne, East of England

**Key findings:**

- almost two-thirds want to see more disability awareness training for staff
- almost 20 percent state that staff attitudes are the biggest barrier to getting access to live sporting events.

**Trailblazers are calling on sports venues, clubs and teams to:**

- work with groups, such as Trailblazers, to ensure all front-facing staff have adequate disability equality training
- set up a fan access group and meet regularly to discuss issues and improvements needed
- nominate a member of staff as an accessibility champion.
Face-to-Face with Trailblazing Athlete, Chloe

Chloe Ball-Hopkins, GB archery team

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your sporting career? I was diagnosed with nemaline myopathy when I was four years old, but I have also had many operations since I was very young. I was selected for the GB archery squad in December 2013 and competed in Thailand, Czech Republic and Switzerland in 2014, winning a European bronze and breaking a couple of world records.

How did you get into sport? When I was being bullied in Year 8 of secondary school, my teaching assistant took me to a sports event where I did wheelchair tennis. By that night, I was a changed, refreshed person. That got me on to doing basketball, dance and athletics before moving on to archery, which is what I still do (when I’m not injured).

How do you find physical access into venues? Because archery is a Paralympic sport, nine times out of 10 the venues are reasonably accessible. When I go to sporting events in Bristol as part of my Sports Journalism work, I tend to find the stadiums are very well suited to people of all disabilities.

Do you enjoy watching live sport as well as playing? Yes, I definitely do. Not just because I have played a number of sports myself, of course, but also because I am studying Sports Journalism.

What access improvements could be made within venues? Sometimes it’s things like making sure the wheelchair spaces are covered over, that disabled toilets are in suitable, well-located places and that there are ramps and smooth surfaces.

Can you give young disabled people any tips for accessing live sport? Just go for it. Seeing an event live is much better than on the sofa in front of the TV. If the venue isn’t quite suitable, go anyway; I am sure there will be people with you or people there who will help you if necessary.
TRAILBLAZERS TOP TIPS

“Don’t let your disability stop you doing what you love, no matter how awkward it may be or how much of a burden you feel you may be”
James Tremain, South West

- Always find out the date the tickets go on sale and be ready to call the moment lines open
- Ask about different seating positions to see if there would be one that suits you
- If you plan on being a regular attendee somewhere, why not try and arrange a visit to check out facilities?
- Parking is not always easy so research whether you could use public transport to get to the venue
- Lots of sports venues are outdoor so make sure you take lots of clothing layers with you in case you get cold
- Ask staff to help you to get to your seat
- See if staff will go and get food and drinks for you instead of having to go to concession stands
- Ring before you leave to check lifts in venues are working (if you need them)
**Summary**

This report has highlighted significant difficulties many young disabled people have trying to access spectator sports. These include:

- poor seating – often in socially isolating positions
- difficult booking processes – most bookings have to happen over the phone
- inadequate accessible facilities – including poor accessible toilets.

One of the most disappointing facts is that some young disabled people actually decide not to go to events because the facilities are not suitable for them. No-one should be denied the opportunity to watch live sporting events because venues do not see the importance of accessible facilities.

We want to see venues doing more than the bare minimum and ‘tokenistic’ adaptations. We want to see venues use inclusive designs to integrate accessible facilities into stadiums and sports venues.

Legislation is in place requiring venues to make reasonable adjustments for disabled spectators. In addition, reports such as this, *The Inclusive and Accessible Stadia Report* and work done by Level Playing Field all provide practical recommendations of what changes should be made to improve the experience of disabled spectators.

All young disabled people have the right to go to a live sporting event. We are calling on sports venues to make the much-needed changes to ensure all young disabled people who want to experience live sport have the opportunity to, with no access barriers in their way.

If you would like to get involved in the campaign to improve access to spectator sports or you’d like to find out more about Trailblazers, check out our website [www.musculardystrophyuk.org/trailblazers](http://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/trailblazers).
Access Sport
Access Sport launched its Disability Legacy Project in September 2011, as part of its wider Legacy Programme which is helping to ensure that there is a lasting positive effect from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The aim of the project after two years is to have equipped five mainstream sports clubs with the skills and resources to be inclusive of more disabled young people.
www.accesssport.org.uk/node/134

Aspire Leisure Centre
The Aspire Leisure Centre was the first fully accessible Training Centre in Europe for disabled and non-disabled people. It proactively encourages disabled people to join and take part in all activities by subsidising their membership and activity costs and offers a fully-inclusive Fitness Initiative-approved fitness studio.
www.aspire.org.uk

Boccia England
The National Governing Body (NGB) for Boccia in England is responsible for all aspects of the sport in the UK, from beginner to expert, providing for all levels of participation.
www.bocciaengland.org.uk

British Paralympic Association (BPA)
The BPA selects, prepares, enters, funds and manages the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team at the Paralympic Games. This team is known as ParalympicsGB.
www.paralympics.org.uk

British Wheelchair Archery Association
The British Wheelchair Archery Association helps to promote the sport of para-archery and assists with all aspects of the sport from grassroots information to elite level training.
www.british-wheelchair-archery.org.uk

British Wheelchair Athletics Association (BWAA)
The BWAA was set up in 1982 to promote track and field athletics for people who use wheelchairs, owing to disability.
www.bwaa.co.uk

Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE)
CAFE works with supporters, clubs and governing bodies towards one clear aim – a more accessible and inclusive match day experience for disabled supporters across Europe.
www.cafefootball.eu/en

Disability Sport Northern Ireland (NI)
Disability Sport NI is the main charity working with children, young people and adults with a disability, who would like to get involved and take part in recreational and performance sport.
www.dsni.co.uk

Disability Sport Wales
Disability Sport Wales is committed to creating a more inclusive sports sector where every disabled person is hooked on sport, offering real choice as to where, when and how often people play sport.
www.disabilitysportwales.com

Disabled World
A disability sports community.
www.disabled-world.com/sports

English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)
EFDS is a national charity, dedicated to disabled people in sport and physical activity, that supports a wide range of organisations to include disabled people more effectively. Its vision is that disabled people are active for life.
www.efds.co.uk

International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)
IWAS provides its 65+ international members competition and sporting opportunities to physically impaired athletes in maintaining its vision to "Inspire Worldwide Achievements in Sport".
www.iwasf.com/iwasf
**Level Playing Field (LPF)**
The LPF represents the views, issues and concerns of disabled football supporters to football and government authorities and provides independent advice on disability issues as they affect the football, cricket and rugby communities.
[www.levelplayingfield.org.uk](http://www.levelplayingfield.org.uk)

**The Great Britain Boccia Federation (GBBF)**
The GBBF was formed in 2007 to meet the growing need for Boccia to have a co-ordinated Great Britain-wide approach to the development of the elite level of the sport.
[gb-boccia.org/about-us](http://gb-boccia.org/about-us)

**Scottish Disability Sport (SDS)**
SDS is the Scottish governing and co-coordinating body of all sports for people of all ages and abilities with a physical, sensory or learning disability. SDS has the vision of developing opportunities and improving performance in disability sport for children, athletes and players with a physical, sensory or learning disability in Scotland and contributing to UK and international initiatives.
[www.scottishdisabilitysport.com/sds](http://www.scottishdisabilitysport.com/sds)

**The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA)**
The UKSA supports talented athletes with learning disabilities to excel in national and international competitive sport.
[www.uksportsassociation.org](http://www.uksportsassociation.org)

**Special Olympics Great Britain**
Special Olympics offers a lifetime of learning through sport, and benefits individuals of all ages and ability levels – from those with low motor abilities to highly skilled athletes.
[www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk](http://www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk)
Muscular Dystrophy UK is the charity for 70,000 children and adults living with muscle-wasting conditions. We provide vital information, advice and support to help people live as independently as possible. We accelerate progress in research and drive the campaign for access to emerging treatments.

We know we can beat muscle-wasting conditions more quickly by working together and hope you will join us.

For further information contact Trailblazers:
020 7803 4846 / trailblazers@musculardystrophyuk.org
facebook.com/mduktrailblazers
@MD_Trailblazers
www.musculardystrophyuk.org/trailblazers