

The NDCS Deaf Friendly Football Club project will help your club achieve these commitments in the following ways:

- Offer club coaches and officials the opportunity to take part in our unique *Coaching Deaf Footballers* course, produced in partnership with the FA
- Provide club with resources, including the *DFFC Coaching Deaf Footballers* DVD
- Add club details to our database of Deaf Friendly clubs. This will be accessible to all through our website
- Provide opportunities for the club to access NDCS volunteers, including communicators
- Help support and advertise any Deaf Friendly activities the club may organise
- Find possible links and partnerships to local deaf organisations and clubs
- Offer support and guidance from the NDCS Football Development Officer

Signed (club representative):

..... Date .....

On behalf of ..... Football Club

Signed (NDCS representative):

..... Date .....



# Deaf Friendly Football Club Pledge

..... Football Club

NDCS Sample Copy





It is estimated that one in seven people in the UK have some form of permanent deafness. Over 35,000 of these are children aged 16 or under.

Deafness in itself should not stop people playing football. Rules do not need to be adapted, as might be necessary for people with other disabilities. This means that there should be no barriers to stop deaf people from playing football for mainstream football clubs and fulfilling their sporting and personal potential within such an environment.

The DFFC Pledge has been developed to ensure football clubs are Deaf Friendly and are committed to creating equal playing and coaching opportunities for deaf people. By becoming deaf aware, the club is fulfilling part of its FA Charter Standard Club requirements and becoming more inclusive for the whole community to participate in and enjoy.



## The Deaf Friendly Football Club Pledge requires the following commitments:

### To ensure that the whole club is Deaf Friendly

- The club must have the ability to adapt training and playing situations to ensure deaf footballers enjoy full access

Ensure club officials undertake training opportunities to ensure they are deaf aware

Make every effort to ensure players are also deaf aware

- Club policies including Child Protection, Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety should recognise and reflect the needs of deaf footballers and deaf club officials
- Establish a named Deaf Friendly club contact who has up to date email addresses, fax numbers and mobile phone numbers (for text messages) available for deaf footballers

### To promote effective communication

- Understand different communication options for deaf people

Ensure that all relevant club officials and coaches receive training in communicating effectively with deaf footballers

- Be aware of the various strategies which promote good communication
- Relevant club officials and coaches to undertake basic sign language training

To ensure that the club and officials recognise the abilities of all deaf footballers and develop their game to help them reach their full potential

- Have consistently high expectations of deaf footballers' performance, whatever their ability
- Have an understanding of how to support a deaf footballer and meet their needs whilst involved in club activities
- Recognise deaf footballers as individuals
- Understand the player pathways open to deaf footballers
- Value their contribution to the club and their individual teams

### To create equal playing and social opportunities for deaf footballers

- Deaf footballers to be fully included in match, training and social situations
- Ensure deaf players develop their confidence and positive self-esteem
- Ensure they conform to the same standards of discipline and behaviour as the rest of their team

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