

Design & Management Guidelines and Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) Accreditation

**4th National Adapted Physical Activity Conference
Institute of Technology, Tralee**

Saturday 7th May 2011



Disability Sports NI (DSNI) (1)

Northern Ireland's unified disability sports organisation recognised by Sport Northern Ireland, with over 100 member groups made up of disability sports groups, schools and adult centres.

Lead body responsible for the development of sports and physical recreation opportunities for people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities. Runs programmes that benefited 14,000 people last year.



Disability Sports NI (DSNI) (2)

The organisation is a member of the British Paralympic Association, the UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities, Disability Action and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA).

Disability Sports NI also maintains close links with the Paralympics Ireland.



Disability Sports NI (DSNI) (3)

The organisation works to achieve equality of opportunity for people with disabilities to take part in sport and physical recreation at a level of their choice, through:

- A range of participation programmes and events throughout NI which last year benefited over **4,000 children and adults** with disabilities.
- A range of inclusion and sports leadership courses which are completed by over **700 coaches, teachers, sports leaders each year.**



Disability Sports NI (DSNI) (4)

- In partnership with governing bodies of sport develop performance pathways and squads which annually benefit **250 talented sports people**, 18 of whom are currently funded by Sport NI as elite athletes in their own right.
- Provide information to **2,000 people** with disabilities, their families and carers on how to access sport and physical recreation.



Disability Sports NI (DSNI) (5)

- Deliver the '5 Star Challenge' education programme to **7,500 children** each year. The programme is designed to challenge negative attitudes about people with disabilities and to encourage disabled and non-disabled children to get involved in sport.
- Provide a sports facility access audit, advice and accreditation service.



'Design & Management Guidelines' background

An accreditation scheme developed in England by the **English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS)** called the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) was designed to develop a network of fitness suites which were fully inclusive of people with disabilities.

The scheme piloted by DSNI in 2006 at the Lakeland Forum through the introduction of the Inclusive Leisure Project, **Sport NI Lottery funded**.



Why is there a need for the guidelines and ISF?

- Physical access to sports facilities has improved (DDA)
- However majority of facilities do not fully meet the needs of people with disabilities:
 - Wheelchair sports, teams of disabled sports people, accessible fitness equipment, signage etc
 - Policies & procedures
 - Sports programmes & services
- Low participation:
 - Only 10% regularly participate



Access to sports facilities for people with disabilities

Design & Management Guidelines (1)

The guidelines are the culmination of over three years collaboration between Disability Sports NI and Sport Northern Ireland.

The guidelines encourage the design and management of sports facilities which are **truly inclusive**, not just in terms of basic physical access but in terms of access to every part of the facility; access to fitness equipment and access to all of the programmes and services provided by facilities.



Launch of Disability Sports NI & Sport NI Guidelines



Thursday 27th January 2011 @ House of Sport, Upper Malone Rd, Belfast

Design & Management Guidelines (3)

The guidelines provide detailed guidance and advice on **four key areas** of facility design and management:

1. Design and technical issues, including standards for car parking, signage and changing areas;
2. Sports specific technical guidelines for 14 Paralympic sports;
3. Guidance on putting in place relevant policies and procedures;
4. Guidance on developing inclusive sports development plans.



Design & Management Guidelines (4)

Section 1. **Design & Technical Guidelines** draws from the following documents : -

- BSI (2009); British Standard BS8300: Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people – Code of practice.
- The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000. Technical Booklet R, Access to and use of buildings.
- Sport England (2010) Accessible Sports Facilities



Design & Management Guidelines (5)

Section 2. Sports specific technical guidelines



Athletics; Boccia; Cycling;
Equestrian; Goalball;
Gymnastics; Rowing; Sailing;
Swimming; Table Tennis;
Volleyball; Wheelchair
Basketball; Wheelchair Rugby
and Wheelchair Tennis.



Design & Management Guidelines (6)

Section 3. Facility management policies & procedures, including: -

- Emergency evacuation strategy
- Management of accessible car parking spaces
- Assistance dog policy
- Pricing policy
- Staff training plans
- Management of Changing Places (CP) Facilities



Design & Management Guidelines (7)

Section 4. Inclusive Sports Development Plans: -

- Consultation
- Information/ communication
- Participation initiatives and programmes
- Sports leadership and coach education



What is the Inclusive Sports Facilitation (ISF) Accreditation Scheme?

The ISF Accreditation Scheme has been developed by Disability Sports NI and Sport NI, based on the recommendations set out in the guidelines document and a review of emerging good practice, to encourage and recognise **excellence in the design and management of sports facilities** which meet optimum levels of good practice in terms of access for people with disabilities participating in sport.



Key Elements of the ISF?

- Moves beyond minimum requirements of building regulations
- Focuses on meeting optimum levels of good practice
- Includes management of sports facilities, programmes and services



What will the Scheme achieve?

The ISF Accreditation scheme will help sports & leisure facilities achieve a higher level of **inclusivity** and **accessibility** in sports facility design than that set out in the Building Regulations.

The ISF Accreditation scheme is a mechanism for Disability Sports NI to **encourage** and **validate** the achievements of sports facilities which are fully inclusive of people with disabilities.



Who Can Apply?

All sports & leisure facilities in Northern Ireland should aim for full accessibility, thereby bringing the **benefits of sport** to more people with disabilities in Northern Ireland - and also attracting all potential customers, together with their friends and families, to use sports facilities.

As such, any organisation can seek formal accreditation and we encourage all facilities to do so.



Levels of ISF Accreditation

ISF Excellence - New Facilities & New Extensions

eg Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

ISF Accreditation - Refurbished & Altered Facilities

eg Lakeland Forum, Enniskillen



Implementation & Monitoring

Stage 1: Access Audit & Action Plan: Disability Sports NI will undertake an access audit of the sports facility and prepare an Action Plan outlining a series of recommendations required to achieve ISF accreditation.

Stage 2: Implementation of Recommendations: Disability Sports NI will provide on going advice and expertise to facility operators and their design team during the implementation of the Action Plan.

Stage 3: Sign Off: Once any recommendations have been implemented Disability Sports NI will re-audit the facility against ISF standards.

Stage 4: Accreditation: Once the 'Sign Off' stage has been completed, the facility will be presented with their 'ISF Accreditation Mark'



Duration, Cost & Monitoring

- ISF accreditation is valid for four years from the date of initial accreditation.
- The cost of accreditation will be dependent upon the size of the sports facility.
- Not for profit scheme.



ISF Accreditation Summary (1)

- Based on best practice rather than minimum legislative requirements
- Focuses on design and management of sports facilities and programmes
- Contributes to the London 2012 Disability Legacy Strategy of achieving 1,000 fully inclusive sports facilities across the UK



ISF Accreditation Summary (2)

- Ideal mechanism for District Councils and other facility operators to fully meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- Provides support to design teams and facility managers as they work towards accreditation
- Endorsed and approved by Sport NI, Disability Sports NI and Disability Action



Lakeland Forum – Progress to ISF Accreditation



Accessible Car Parking



Pathways with tactile paving



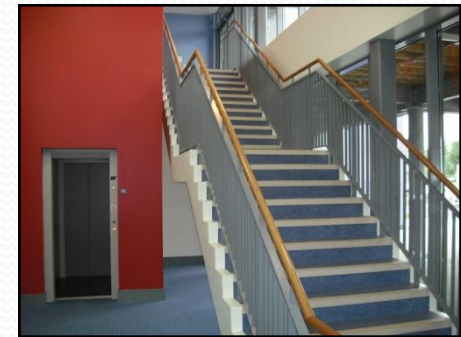
Reception – Upper & Lower Counters



Accessible WC facilities



Signage Provision



Accessible circulation for users



Sports Hall Facility – Boccia



Accessible Fitness Equipment



Facility Management Policies & Procedures