



# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department

### Delivering the Youth Strategy

## Headlines

<b>Participation and Football For All</b>	<p>FIFA 'Live Your Goals'. A massive 1,165 girls have attended the programme.</p> <p>NIBFA Finals Day held at Meadowbank Sports Arena Monday 2nd May.</p> <p>The National League Knock Out League Cup &amp; Plate Finals are scheduled for 13th &amp; 14th May at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown.</p> <p>The IFA Disability League. 16 teams from across Northern Ireland. Lisburn 2gether won the Premiership and Bangor Castle won the Championship.</p> <p>Disability Development Manager Alan Crooks received recognition from Disability Sports NI for his role as Director 2004 – 2015</p> <p>Denamona Primary School in Fintona, County Tyrone hosted a "Healthy Families Event" for over 50 people.</p> <p>NISFA hosted the Inspiresport Finals Football Festival Day. Spectators were treated to 21 exciting and competitive matches across 8 different competitions, with 42 teams and over 600 talented players involved.</p>
<b>Club and Volunteer Development</b>	<p>Female Football Leadership Programme 2016 began on Friday 6 May engaging with 12 women who are involved with football on a variety of different levels.</p> <p>3 volunteers achieved Volunteer Recognition level awards in April. 3 new Irish FA Match - Monitors recruited and undertook role specific training.</p>
<b>Youth Football Coach Education</b>	<p>Futsal Introductory Award delivered to sixty students at the NRC Campuses at Ballymena, Coleraine &amp; Magherafelt. Also at UUJ.</p> <p>Coaches from Portadown Youth and Portadown Women's FC will engage in a Show Racism the Red Card workshop on Thursday 12 May at Shamrock Park.</p> <p>Disability Module delivered as part of the IFA C Certificate at University of Ulster at Coleraine to 25 candidates.</p> <p>At the end of the month a group of staff including the Football Development Director attended a UEFA Study Group Visit to Austria to study Elite football.</p>
<b>Elite Player Pathways</b>	<p>The Junior Cerebral Palsy Squad drew 3-3 away in Dublin against the Republic of Ireland. The Senior Cerebral Palsy team beat Denmark 10 – 0.</p> <p>The players and parents from the Excellence Girls Programme will have the opportunity to engage in a Nutrition and Hydration for Football workshop.</p> <p>At Under-18 boys level Northern Ireland regained the Lynn Nicholson Trophy with a 8-2 victory against Jersey and 4-1 victory against Guernsey.</p> <p>The U19 girl's took part in the UEFA Elite U19 round in Denmark losing to Spain , Denmark and Italy in what was a very difficult group .</p> <p>Two Ambassadors for Women's Football appointed.</p> <p>U15 Girls Development squad took part in the Bob Docherty Tournament in Wales.</p>
<b>Refereeing</b>	<p>Safeguarding &amp; Laws of the Game update for all 700 referees – this will be the first mandatory development organised for all referees.</p> <p>Futsal Referee Awards as we start to develop our Futsal referee programme. Powerchair Referee Training in conjunction with the disability team.</p> <p>Recruitment drive for Observers, Tutors and Mentors with a specific Coaching Skills workshop being launched in Autumn 2016.</p>

# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



### Inspiresport NISFA Schools Final Day

The sixth Schools Cup Finals Festival day was held at Ballymena Showgrounds in association with Inspiresport on Wednesday 27th April 2016. This year there were 20 teams involved in 10 exciting Finals. There was a festival of goals throughout the day with Boys Model and Clounagh JHS playing out an 11 goal thriller.

### Inspiresport Schools Cup – 2016 Roll of Honour

- Inspiresport Youth U18 Cup – Grosvenor Grammar
- Inspiresport Youth U18 Plate – Corpus Christie
- Inspiresport Senior U16 Cup – St Columb’s College
- Inspiresport Senior U16 Plate – De La Salle College
- Small Schools Cup (U15) – Colaiste Feirste
- Inspiresport Intermediate U14 Cup – Boys Model
- Inspiresport Intermediate U14 Plate - St Patricks College (Belfast)
- Small Schools Cup (U13) – Devenish College
- Inspiresport Minor U12 Cup – St Columb’s College
- Inspiresport Minor U12 Plate – St Brigid’s Derry



### U15 International

The Northern Ireland U15 team played two home friendlies against Belgium on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th April. In the first game at Queens Belfast the team went down 4-1, with the lone goal scorer Conor Farrelly from the penalty spot. In the second game two days later the team responded and beat the classy Belgian side 3-1, with goals from Calum Ferris and Farrelly securing the win.

### U18 international

The U18 international team finished their centenary shield campaign with a home win against Wales at Comber Rec FC. The home side dominated the game and went in front early in the second half when David Parkhouse finished from close range. The U18s secured the win late in the second half when Nathaniel Ferris headed into the corner of the net from a Reece Neale Cross.





# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



### Healthy Families Event

Denamona Primary School in Fintona, County Tyrone hosted a “Healthy Families Event”. Pupils attending from P1&2 and the Nursery Class brought along family members ranging from younger siblings to parents, aunts and uncles.



Pupils, adults and young siblings gathered to comprise over 50 people taking part in the event, moving through a variety of stations which challenged them both physically and mentally.

The purpose of the event was to highlight how families could use simple ideas at home to allow them to become more active, and give the families time to play together in a fun and informative environment. The parents found the activities of the shared session with their children both interesting and enjoyable.



Primary 1&2 pupils also had the opportunity to show off some of the Physical Literacy skills they have been working on during the Irish FA / DENI Curriculum Sports Programme.



The Curriculum Sports Programme is aimed at P1-P4 pupils. It seeks to improve their health and wellbeing and encourage them to embrace a healthy lifestyle from a young age.

The programme helps teachers gain confidence in physical education and in turn help the children become more active. But an unexpected benefit is family cohesion as children and parents enjoy activities together which benefit their health and wellbeing, creating a positive memory or moment to carry with them for the rest of their lives.

P6/7 pupils also acted as fantastic buddies for the Nursery Class to help in their participation and enjoyment of the event.

The event was organised by IFA Primary School Coach John Molloy in conjunction with School Principal Geraldine Beattie and P1/2 Teacher Tracy Smith with support from classroom assistants and Nursery staff.



# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



### Football Social Responsibility Unit

Female Football Leadership Programme 2016 began on Friday 6 May and workshops will take place every month. It will engage with 12 women who are involved with football on a variety of different levels, with female Irish FA staff leading the sessions, and providing ongoing mentoring to the participants. Over the course of the programme, the participants will complete the OCN Level 2 in Football Administration, as well as engage in a dynamic personal development course. Any queries can be forwarded to Claire Adams or Sarah Keys.

The players and parents from the Excellence Girls Programme will have the opportunity to engage in a Nutrition and Hydration for Football workshop, tailored to their age and training schedule.

FD Team members will participate in a study visit to Leicester City FC on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, to learn from their impressive community cohesion programme in continuation of the Reducing Offending Partnership work with the PSNI, Prison Service, Probation Board and Youth Justice Agency.

Coaches from Portadown Youth and Portadown Women's FC will engage in a Show Racism the Red Card workshop on Thursday 12 May at Shamrock Park.

Plans are in place for development of Fan Zones at the Titanic Slip Ways as part of the Euro Fan Zone at Belsonic. The Irish FA will be providing family friendly activities during the NI matches.

The pilot delivery of the OCN Level 2 in Football Administration has been completed at the National Football Stadium. 18 voluntary personnel from clubs across NI completed this course, and initial feedback is very positive.

### Disability Football – April 2016

#### Cerebral Palsy

2 April 2016 the Junior Cerebral Palsy Squad (ages 7 – 14) drew 3-3 away in Dublin against the Republic of Ireland. On the same day, at the same venue in Dublin, the Senior Cerebral Palsy team beat Denmark 10 – 0.

23 April 2016 Senior Cerebral Palsy Squad lost 4-1 to Scotland away in Kilwinning Sports Centre, Irvine Scotland.

24 April 2016 Senior Cerebral Palsy Squad lost 6-2 to Scotland away in Kilwinning Sports Centre, Irvine Scotland.

#### Disability League

The IFA Disability League concluded at Valley Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey. This involved 16 teams from across Northern Ireland. Lisburn 2gether won the Premiership and Bangor Castle won the Championship.

#### Award

Development Manager Alan Crooks received recognition from Disability Sports NI for his role as Director 2004 – 2015.

#### Learning Disability

The Northern Ireland Under 19 Learning Disability Squad finished in a disappointing 4th position in the 2016 Home Nations Championships, held in Irvine, Scotland. Northern Ireland lost the opening fixture 0-2 against the hosts, Scotland. We then lost 0-2 against the Republic of Ireland in a very even game. The closing game finished in a 2-2 draw against Wales.

#### Coach Education

Disability Module delivered as part of the IFA C Certificate at University of Ulster at Coleraine to 25 candidates.

Disability Module delivered to pupils of St. Colms High School, Twinbrook as part of their Sports Course to 15 pupils.



# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



### NIBFA

NIBFA are experiencing the annual end of year explosion of activity. The NIBFA Finals Day held at Meadowbank Sports Arena in Magherafelt on Monday 2nd May drew large crowds to all of the finals. Despite spells of wind and rain, the day was a successful conclusion to the Boys' FA Cup competitions with the results as follows;

U11 Plate Ballymena 3 v 2 Tristar  
 U11 Cup Linfield 2 v 1 Carrick Rangers  
 U12 Plate Warrenpoint 3 v 0 Castle Juniors Colts  
 U12 Cup Ballymoor 1 v 1 Lisburn Youth,  
 Ballymoor win 3 - 1 on pens

U12 Glentoran 2 v 0 Portadown Youth  
 U13 Dungannon Youth 4 v 0 Ridgeway Rovers  
 U14 Linfield 2 v 1 Portadown Youth  
 U15 Glentoran 2 v 0 Crusaders  
 U17 Crusaders 3 v 2 Linfield

Above games are 9 a side

The National League season is also reaching a conclusion and the various leagues are being decided. A full breakdown on those will follow in the next report, however the Knock Out League Cup & Plate Finals are scheduled for 13th & 14th May at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown. The programme of games is shown below and members of the football committee are welcome to attend as guests of NIBFA.



Friday 13th May				Kick Off
U12 Cup	Cookstown Youth	v	Portadown Youth	6.45pm
U17 Plate	Portadown FC Youth	v	Dungannon Swifts	7.30pm
U17 Cup	Glendowan	v	Linfield	8.15pm
Saturday 14th May				
U14 Plate	Derry Colts	v	Lisburn Rangers	10.45am
U13 Plate	Glentoran	v	Greenisland	12.45pm
U12 Plate	Magherafelt SB	v	Ardoyne or St. Oliver Plunkett	2.45pm
U13 Cup	Linfield	v	Ridgeway Rovers	11.15pm
U15 Cup	Ridgeway Rovers	v	Crusaders	1.15pm
U14 Cup	Dungannon Youth	v	Portadown Youth	3.15pm
U16 Cup	Maiden City	v	Ridgeway Rovers	11am
U15 Plate	Ballinamallard	v	Linfield	1pm
U16 Plate	Ballinamallard	v	Crusaders	3pm



# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



### Women's Domestic

The popular FIFA 'Live Your Goals' Roadshows returned in April for their third consecutive year. They were held nationally across Northern Ireland in eight different venues. The roadshows in 2016 cater for primary 6 & 7 girls and run from 10am-12pm. The girls get the opportunity to participate in numerous enjoyable stations, where they receive coaching and play games aimed to develop their fundamental skills, like dribbling and shooting. A massive 1,165 girls have passed through the programme so far this year, with another 8 roadshows taking place across the country in May.



FIFA 'Live Your Goals'



Harry Gregg Foundation

On Monday 25th April, the Women's Domestic team travelled to Coleraine to give assistance at the Harry Gregg Foundation Girls 7 aside Tournament. This was the inaugural girls only section, which even in its primary year was extremely popular, with an excellent 16 teams competing on the day, coming from 13 different schools. It was a fantastic day and a great demonstration of the increasing interest in girls'/women's football in Northern Ireland.

### Futsal

As part of the new Youth Strategy at the Irish Football Association the introduction of the game of Futsal is to be implemented right across Northern Ireland. Three new Football For All Schools Officers have been tasked to introduce a culture of Futsal to Primary, Post Primary, Universities and Colleges.

This exciting fast paced five-a-side indoor game has been played across the globe for many years and was instrumental in the early years development of some of the worlds great players.

Arguably the three top players in the world at present Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar, all played the game as they made the journey from school children to playing at some of the greatest teams in the world.



In the past month the new 'Futsal Introductory Award' has been delivered to students at the Northern Regional College Campuses at Ballymena, Coleraine, Magherafelt and also at the Ulster University at Jordanstown. The award which consists of one hour theory and a two hour practical, has been embraced by the students that participated on the course.

A total of sixty students have undertaken the award so far, with the prospect of other colleges and universities to embrace the programme, which will also include Inter College Leagues and Festivals.





# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



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**April was a busy month for the Regional Girls Excellence squad and the various International squads.**

### Regional Girls Excellence Squads

The Girls Regional Excellence programme resumed after their Easter break, with not only the regular Tuesday night sessions but Monday and Wednesday nights for the Development squads. Four squads were being prepared for the Friendship Cup in Greenisland; 02, 03, 04 and 05s. The extra sessions focused on technical skills, passing, receiving etc., leading into team shape with the older ages in a 9 @ side competition. Over the first weekend of April, the U15 Development squad took part in the Bob Docherty Tournament in Wales. This competition offers the first opportunity for the girls, all of whom are in the Regional Excellence Programme, to play against other countries. From this, feedback is given to the Regional coaches on areas in which we can improve and also, where we have done well. This year we lost to the ROI and Wales and beat Wales 2s.

At the end of the month all four regions came together to take part in the monthly Excellence Day, where inter-regional games are played at all of the age groups. The day is very well attended and the coaches, players and parents all get a chance to see where they are in comparison to other regions. The day also helps the coaches learn in which areas they need to focus their sessions.

### Women's International

The Senior Women's team reported into camp for two games in their UEFA European Championship Qualifiers. Preparations went really well but unfortunately the game against the Czech Rep at Mourneview on the Friday night was cancelled due to a tragic accident on the motorway, which had delayed kick off. However they then travelled to Italy, the second seed in our group, unfortunately losing to two late goals, having lead 1 – 0. A lot of positives could be taken from this game and it was good to get an almost full squad for the games.

The U19s took part in the UEFA Elite U19 round in Denmark, losing to Spain, Denmark and Italy in what was a very difficult group.

At the end of the month a group of staff including the Football Development Director attended a UEFA Study Group Visit to Austria to study Elite football. This was of great benefit as we were able to see and learn about the Austrian Girls Academy, where U17 and U19 players are based full-time. The girls have an education and training seven times a week before playing for their clubs at the weekend. A number of things were learned which will be of benefit in establishing our Girls Performance Academy at the Ulster University.

Two ambassadors began working full-time in the Department. Two Senior International players, Marissa Callaghan and Julie Nelson, will work in the Elite and International programme as well as promoting Women's football at various school and club events. This again reflects the Associations' commitment to girls and women's football at the highest level

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### Referee Development

As the end of the season approaches, the referee team are preparing for pre-season activities. Over the summer we are preparing the run the following courses;

- Safeguarding & Laws of the Game update for all 700 referees – this will be the first mandatory development organised for all referees
- Futsal Referee Awards as we start to develop our Futsal referee programme
- Powerchair Referee Training in conjunction with the disability team
- Recruitment drive for Observers, Tutors and Mentors with a specific Coaching Skills workshop being launched in Autumn 2016.

We also welcome Ruth Anne Wright and Andrew Davey to the team as Regional Referee Development Officers who will be working with Grassroots Referees and launching Regional Centres of Excellence in every area.

# Irish Football Association

## Football Development Department



### Volunteer Development

- 3 volunteers achieved Volunteer Recognition level awards in April.
- 3 new Irish FA Match Monitors recruited and undertook role specific training.
- Volunteers supported the NISFA Finals Day at Ballymena as well as the Women's Schools Finals Day at Moyola.
- Irish FA Club and Volunteer Recognition Dinner held on 13<sup>th</sup> April at Merchant Hotel. 17 Volunteers and 16 clubs recognised on the night. (photo attached)
- VDPO has begun working on the IFAQ Quality Standard in Volunteer Management.
- VDPO has been working with Belfast City Council as delivery partner in the Maritime Festival. This will include a football village at the Odyssey Arena (28-30 May)



### Club Development

The Irish FA Club and Community Development Officer (CCDO) has continued to roll out the Club Excellence scheme to clubs throughout the country with a number of clubs submitting folders for assessment in April. The CCDO has set clear targets to be achieved in 2016 across all levels of the game.

The CCDO, with support from the Football Development Manager and the Female Domestic Officer, has been working closely with NIFL on the design of the upcoming joint Club Development conference to be held at the National Football Stadium in May. The conference will look to upskill clubs and volunteers across all levels of the game in Northern Ireland.