



High quality competition environments

Creating High Quality Competition for All

Elizabeth Newstead and Claire Smedley

WHICH AREA OF THE SGO TASK LIST DOES THIS IMPACT?

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| 1 | Increasing engagement in School Games |
| 2 | Developing competitive opportunities |
| 3 | Increasing and sustaining participation |
| 4 | Workforce – Broadening the range of participation opportunities |

ABOUT ELIZABETH & CLAIRE

Blacon SGOs Elizabeth Newstead and Claire Smedley job share the SGO role, but both work three days per week. With the extra capacity the SGOs deliver on their additional offer to schools. Together they cover 70 schools, which have varied deprivation levels.

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WHY

- The competition calendar on offer included lots of pathway competitions. The SGOs and schools wanted to offer alternative competition structures to engage more children.
- Some children had never represented their school in a sporting event.
- The SGO's aim is that EVERY child has the opportunity to take part in a competitive environment and represent his/her school.



ACTION

- The SGOs developed an inclusive multi-sport festival.
- The festival was aimed at children in Years 3 to 6 who either have never represented their school or were on the SEN register.
- Four activities were on offer – boccia, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball and tri golf.
- All of the activities involved skill development and fun games. The activities were delivered in a non-competitive environment.
- The children rotated around the activities in groups, spending 40 minutes on each activity. The children were also allowed to have 'time out' when needed and linked to their needs.
- The SGOs had support from local coaches to deliver the activities. The coaches from local sports clubs used the event as a recruitment session for their inclusive clubs.
- A local Paralympic wheelchair basketball player came along to the festival to inspire the children. The children had the opportunity to meet a great sporting role model.

SCHOOL GAMES



IMPACT

- The children had a great first experience of representing their school in a sporting festival. Lots of children had smiley faces and all the children took part in every activity.
- Enjoyment was a major factor at the festival. Comments such as “greatest day of my life” were proof that the event had made an impact on the children’s lives.
- The local wheelchair basketball club has report back to the SGOs that they have had new children join their club since the festival.
- Children and schools have requested more festivals and events.



NEXT

- It is now an annual event on the calendar.
- Plans to host one winter and one summer festival.
- The local club contacts are now offering coaching sessions and assemblies in schools.
- Open pathway from school to the community clubs.



TIPS

- Listen to what the schools and pupils want.
- Make sure the child is at the centre of all of your planning for the event. Even more so with an inclusive event, e.g. some children don’t like to work in large groups, some children find large venues scary; some children prefer individual activities, etc.
- Make sure there is a variety in your competition calendar so that it is attractive to ALL young people.
- Ensure that your leaders, volunteers and coaches understand the children the event is targeted at.

