

**SCOTTISH DEAF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**STRATEGIC & DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019-2023**

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**To make Scotland the strong force  
in the world**

• *Vision*

**Leading Opportunities For More  
Deaf People To Participate In Futsal  
and Football Throughout Their  
Lives & More Deaf Players To  
Perform On The World Stage**

• *Mission*

**Diverse, Equal, Accessible and  
Friendly**

• *Values*

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# Introduction

The Scottish Deaf Football Association (SDFA) in partnership with the Scottish Football Association and part of the Para-Football, focus on developing futsal and football opportunities for deaf (hearing impaired) players at all ages, gender and levels.

The SDFA is also a member of UK Deaf Sport, the national governing body for Deaf Sport (UKDS).

UKDS is a member of the European Deaf Sport Organisation (EDSO) and the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

**Note: Any request to play in any of the competitions below must have UKDS's approval and sign all of our forms.**

EDSO is a regional member to the ICSD. EDSO sanctions all competitions for all sports including Futsal and Football in Europe such as: -

- International Friendlies
- European Deaf Futsal Qualifiers & Championships (EC)
- European Deaf Football Qualifiers & Championships (EC)
- European Deaf Under 21s Futsal Championships (EC)
- European Deaf Under 21s Football Championships (EC)

ICSD is recognised by the International Olympic Committee and sanctions all competitions for all sports including Futsal and Football worldwide such as: -

- International Friendlies
- World Deaf Futsal Championships (WC)
- World Deaf Football Championships (WC)
- Summer & Winter Deaflympics (D)

**Note: There is NO qualifying round, but as a guide, top 8 from European Championships will qualify for World Championships.**

ICSD also oversees the athlete's eligibility classification on hearing loss, liaising with National Deaf Sport Federations (UK Deaf Sport representing Great Britain). A fee of £10 per player is required to be paid to UKDS as admin fee.

**Note: Players are required to have a loss of at least 55dB per tone average in their better ear to classify.**

This Plan will include factual information on specific area and a total of 21 actions from each area to be achieved by 2023 alongside with timescales.

## Sanctioned International Competitions 2019-2023

Year	Region	Sport	Type	Location	Status
2019	EC	Football	Championship	Greece	Did not enter
2019	EC	Futsal	U21 Championship	TBC	No plans
19/20	D	Football	Qualifiers	Various	GBR only
2020	EC	Football	U21 Championship	TBC	No plans
2021	D	Football	Championship	TBC	GBR only
2021	EC	Futsal	U21 Championship	TBC	Awaiting forms
21/22	EC	Football	Qualifiers	Various	Awaiting forms
21/22	EC	Futsal	Qualifiers	One location	Awaiting forms
2022	EC	Futsal	Championship	TBC	Need to qualify
2022	EC	Football	U21 Championship	TBC	Awaiting forms
2023	WC	Futsal	Championship	TBC	Need to qualify
2023	EC	Football	Championship	Turkey	Need to qualify
2023	EC	Futsal	U21 Championship	TBC	Awaiting forms

**Note: To fill in and submit forms to request to participate in any of Championships listed, the deadline will be 2 years before the date of the actual Championships (to enable the draw for the qualifiers and the groups). Pulling out after commitment will lead to significant fines ranging from 2,500 to 5,000 Euros per Championship application.**

International Friendlies can take place at any time. Match sheet can be obtained from the EDSO a week before International Friendly match in order to be sanctioned.

It is possible to make a request via UKDS to bid to host any of the competitions above. This would require a lot of partnership with the SFA and Visit Scotland. For bidding/hosting procedure, there are relevant sections which can be found in [EDSO General Regulations](#).

## Futsal and Football Rankings

EDSO and ICSD have their own Rankings for Futsal and Football which are updated with results from above sanctioned competitions AND International Friendlies.

[View here for EDSO Futsal Ranking](#)

[View here for EDSO Football Ranking](#)

[View here for ICSD Futsal Ranking](#)

[View here for ICSD Football Ranking](#)

**Note: At the time of writing this Development Plan, the President of SDFA is liaising closely with UKDS, EDSO and ICSD to fine-tune the Ranking systems to ensure that Home Nations have the share of ranked points from GBR matches and via versa.**

# Clubs (Domestic & International)

## Domestic

We have 4 Deaf Futsal Clubs and players registering with mainstream Football Clubs in both Scotland and North of England.

- Edinburgh Deaf F.C.
- Glasgow Deaf Athletic F.C.
- Lanarkshire Deaf F.C.
- St. Vincent Deaf F.C.

Those 4 clubs are run by players themselves with limited understanding of written English, impacting their governance and understanding of responsibility to run the Club and seek new and young players.

## International

There is a Deaf Champions League (DCL) which is sanctioned by the EDSO, runs on annual basis on both Futsal and Football in separate location and time. For the first time, the season 2018/2019, UKDS sanctioned the SDFFA National League as the official qualification for the following DCL. At this stage, with 4 Clubs entered, the Winner will be invited to attend the DCL 2020.

The DCL also have the [Futsal Club Rankings](#). They also have the Football Club Rankings, as well Under 21s for both sport.

[Visit the DCL website.](#)

## **Coaches & Referees**

We have limited number of individuals who are deaf and have up to date qualifications for coaches and referees.

We are keen to expand the pool of qualified coaches for both our domestic clubs and international teams. The expansion of deaf referees will be encouraged at international level, where EDSO have set up a European Deaf Referee Union, where all referees from all over the Europe share their experiences and devise plans to expand the number of deaf referees with appropriate support in place.

## Governance & Funding

The SDFA have a limited governance resources at this stage. The SDFA aim to become a charitable organisation, thus expanding the opportunity to seek extra funding to support with the governance, developing more policies and training for elected members of the Board.

We will liaise with SCVO and seek support from deaf-related organisation to provide support to the organisation to become a charity ensuring that we have up to date and appropriate Constitution and Annual Accounts.

The SDFA receive funding from the SFA via their Para-Football programme for 2018. We support with their vision through the *PlayAbility... ..our Game is the Same* strategy for 2017-2022. A new funding for 2019 has been submitted to the SFA at this time of writing of this Plan.

We receive some funds from Clubs for entry fees for our annual competitions as well collect penalties and fines.

The SDFA in short term will be seeking sponsorship opportunity with deaf-related organisations to support with some of the actions.

Longer term, the SDFA are keen to explore further with commissioning bid writers to seek bigger and significant funds to carry out our ambitious actions in order to ultimately achieve our vision.



## **Plan (areas coordinated)**

Five areas have been explained in this Plan: –

- Sanctioned International Competitions 2019-2023
- International Futsal and Football Rankings
- Clubs (Domestic and International)
- Coaches and Referees
- Governance & Funding

Under those areas, specific actions have been identified and the SDFA will commit in delivering with support from the SFA and potential partners.

### **Sanctioned International Competitions 2019-2023**

1. To secure a number of International Friendlies
2. To consider expanding to including under 21 team starting with the under 21 EC Futsal 2021 competition. (Application will be received in 2019)
3. To consider submitting bid to host Mini Qualifiers (4 teams) weekend for EC Futsal to take place in 2021/2022. (This is the qualification for the EC Futsal 2022)
4. To secure entries to the EC Football qualifiers in 2021/2022 and the Championship in 2023.
5. Subject to the result from action nos. 3 & 4, secure entry to the WC Futsal and Football Championships.
6. To ensure that a number of Scottish players to be selected for Great Britain by liaising with Home Nations, GB Deaf Football and UKDS.

### **International Futsal and Football Rankings**

7. To liaise with both EDSO and ICSD to fine-tune the Rankings, ensuring a formula is in place for Home Nations and Great Britain.

### **Clubs (Domestic & International)**

8. Recruit a specialist consultant to become a broker between 4 clubs and the SFA to achieve Standard Quality Marks and review 4 years later.
9. Provide 3 annual Futsal competitions for deaf players.
10. Seek funding to support and contribute to the Winner of the SDFA National League to represent Scotland at DCL starting from 2020.

11. Liaise with the National Deaf Children Society to attend their annual 5-a-side football tournament, with a view to recruit younger and talent players.

### **Coaches & Referees**

12. Ensure that our current coaches (x4) have the Introduction to Futsal qualification.

13. Those coaches (from action no. 12) shall attend to the next stage of Futsal qualification.

14. Recruit 2 more coaches to sit on the Introduction to Futsal qualification upon the completion of action no. 13.

15. Set up a survey to seek views and interests from members of the public with deafness to become referee.

16. Upon completing the action no 15., devise a new plan for expanding referees.

### **Governance and Funding**

17. Become a charitable organisation.

18. Strengthen our Governance with series of policies in place.

19. Develop and re-brand SDFA and new website.

20. Seek funding from a potential sponsor in short-term.

21. Seek significant funding from partners to assist with hosting Mini Qualifiers in 2021/2022.

## Plan (timescale)

Below is the timescale to show the plan into timescale each calendar year against no. of actions to be achieved. We expect the actions or further actions to be developed in the next few years.

The SDFA rely on a number of volunteers, the plan and timescale are realistic in terms of delivery and achieve our vision in longer run.

		Year				
Areas	Actions	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
International Competitions 2019-2023	1.	1.	1.	1.		
	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
	3.	3.				
	4.	4.		4.		
	5.			5.	5.	
	6.	6.	6.	6.		
Rankings	7.	7.				
Clubs	8.	8.				8.
	9.	9.	9.	9.	9.	9.
	10.		10.	10.	10.	10.
	11.	11.	11.	11.	11.	11.
Coaches & Referees	12.	12.				
	13.		13.	13.		
	14.				14.	14.
	15.		15.			
	16.			16.		
Governance & Funding	17.	17.				
	18.	18.			18.	
	19.	19.				
	20.	20.				
	21.		21.	21.	21.	
Total actions per year		14	9	11	8	6

## Conclusion

The SDFA is committed to deliver a total of 21 actions from 5 areas in the next 5 years.

Upon completing the Plan, it is acknowledged that the SDFA would need to have a significant support from the SFA in terms of advice and resources for a number of actions such as 2., 3. and 21. with relation to the potential hosting of Mini Qualifiers.

The majority of the 2019 actions will be covered within the funding application to the SFA.

It is noted that the SDFA did not mention the inclusion of Ladies, anywhere in this Plan, there are known little interest from ladies who would be interested in playing futsal and football. The Board will review the inclusion of ladies as part of the governance review and work.