

Introduction

This guide will help you to ensure that your tournament is colour-blind friendly. This is important as one in 12 males and one in 200 females are impacted by colour blindness including players, coaches, spectators and tournament organisers. Colour blindness or Colour Vision Deficiency (CVD), as it is technically called, is one of the world's most common inherited conditions, affecting an estimated 300 million people worldwide. To address and raise awareness of this issue, the "Tackling Colour Blindness In Sport (TACBIS)" programme was created.

What can I find in this guide?

This document highlights the elements of the tournament organisation process which need to be addressed to ensure no participants who are colour blind are excluded. However to become this document is not intended to provide you with information on all the elements needed to organise a successful tournament, it simply highlights areas to consider when organising a tournament to ensure colour blindness accessibility.

For whom?

Focused on football, you can use this document for any type of sport. You will already have a basis for building your basketball, handball, rugby, or hockey tournament, (or for any other type of sport). This document is intended to be generic and adaptable to your own sport and can be used by grassroots clubs as well as professional structures. Please be aware that although the required inputs for tournament organisation will not be the same from one organisation to another, the key aspects where colour blind people can be catered for will be the same for all.

Aims

The aim of this document is to highlight the different barriers colour blind people can encounter in the delivery of an event. Throughout this document you will have the opportunity to assess your normal methods of delivery and to all be on one line to better understand where you might readjust some elements to ensure colour blind people are not excluded.

Registration, consent and accident forms

When setting up your forms ensure you don't use colour-only coding when collecting information. For example, for when recording allergen information don't rely on a notification system such as red denoting 'allergic' and green denoting 'no allergy'. Remember to ask all participants, whether players, coaches or match officials if they are colour blind so that you can provide specific support if necessary. Remember many people aren't aware they are affected and others may not wish to disclose a diagnosis.

Website

Your tournament website will be essential for the communication of your event. Creating a website may appear to be straightforward but you need to make sure it is accessible to all.

Top Tips

To ensure colour blind people can understand all the information on your website remember

- never provide information by colour only
- use light-coloured text/symbols/numbers against dark backgrounds and dark text etc against light backgrounds – always avoid white text on yellow backgrounds and red as a contrast to black
- if you use hover functions or colour changes to help with website navigation, also to add another way for colour blind people to see the change, such as underlining text when a menu tab is hovered over.

Social media channels communication

When you develop your social media channel strategy such as your stylesheet, be aware that some colour combinations can 'clash' meaning some information in colour can be illegible against certain background colours. For example, don't use red or orange text against a photograph of a green pitch. Similarly avoid dark pink as a contrast to blue. You can check whether your designs are clear in greyscale and if you are not sure then change to a better contrasting colour combination.

Media

Consider the tips above for all your communications, including press releases and any subsequent promotion such when adding subtitles to a video of your event.

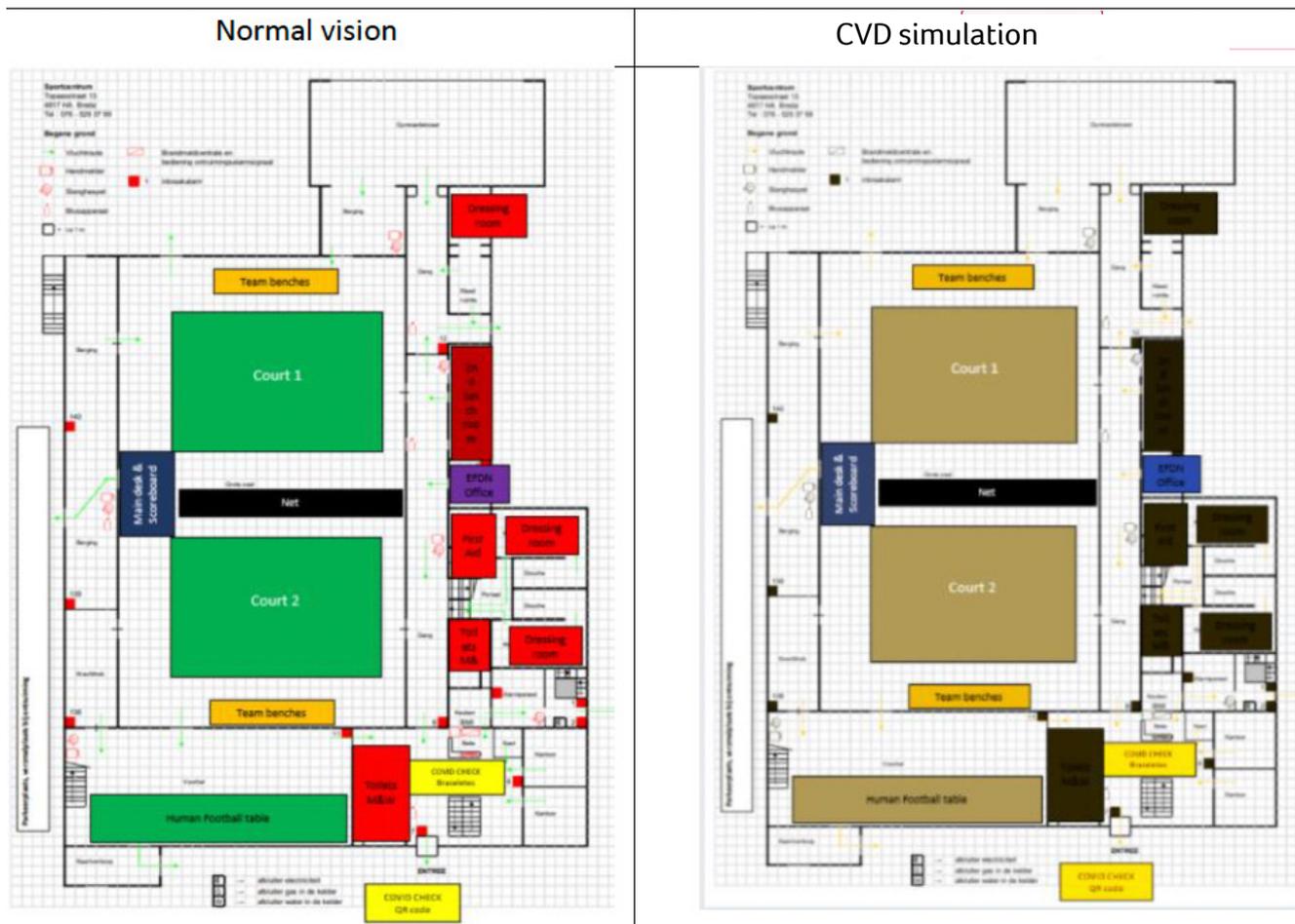


Tournament guide

When assembling your tournament guide there are some elements which will need extra consideration because they be challenging for people with colour blindness to understand. For the overall design remember the Top Tips on the previous page and consider carefully how you might apply your chosen tournament colour scheme. For example, your guide will include a tournament plan and may also include a 'How to find us' location map. Ensure all information on maps and plans is provided by text or symbols in addition to colour. For example, in the 'How to find us' map you could show different coloured roads/cycle routes etc with lines of different patterns rather than just by solid lines of different colours. Remember to add the patterns to any keys.

Signage

Your event signage directing your participants and giving information about the different locations such as lunchroom, dressing room, volunteer point, or score table will also need to be considered. If you create a site plan ensure that it is inclusive for colour blind people. As above, don't forget to use colour blindness simulation tools and apply the Top Tips from page 1. You will also need to review your facilities to ensure that physical venue signs for changing rooms, toilets etc can easily be seen by colour blind people. It is important that you also consider whether emergency exit signs and emergency exit plans/procedures and emergency equipment can easily be seen and understood. Refer to the images on page And in doubt over whether signs will be prominent find some yellow tape to edge the signs/equipment so that they will be easily visible during the course of your event.



Maps are useful tools to direct your tournament in order to direct your attendees to the right place. However, use of some colour combinations can generate challenges for colour blind attendees. If you compare both images, above, some of the text and detail in the key is illegible in the colour blind simulation.

ORGANISATION

Venue

When choosing a suitable venue to host your event a football field, sports hall or other location, there are some factors you will need to think about which you may not have considered before.

Sports centres can be really challenging due to the challenges of finding line markings which will not confuse to colour blind people.

- Check line markings can be clearly distinguished from the surface colour using the mono function on your smartphone camera.
- In the same way also check line marking colours for your sport can easily be distinguished from those for other sports.

If you need to split a football field into four fields, ensure you select suitable equipment to achieve the separation. Refer to the images below which demonstrate that orange, as well as red and green cones. Select white, yellow, or blue cones as first choice.

Avoiding kit 'clashes'

There are several common combinations of kit colours which will be difficult for colourblind people to distinguish between, especially when play moves very quickly.

Please refer to the images below and the TACBIS factsheet on 'Advice when selecting Kit Colours'.

When putting together the kit regulations for your tournament ensure you provide all teams with some simple kit regulations to avoid colour blind kit clashes.

If one team wears a dark kit and the opposition wears a light kit then colour blind kit clashes can be mostly eliminated from the outset. To achieve this kit regulations could for example, state

- If your home kit is dark (defined as any colour other than white, pastel colours or yellow) then you must also bring to the tournament either
- Light away kit shirts, or
- A set of bibs which are a light colour, ideally yellow or white

2. If your home kit is a light colour (defined as white, a pastel colour or yellow) then you must also bring to the tournament either

- Dark away kit shirts, or
- A set of dark bibs, ideally blue or black

Try to work out possible kit clashes in advance once your draw has taken place. To aid you with this you will need teams to state their home, away (if relevant) and spare bib colours on their registration form.

Where goalkeepers are also involved, firstly your regulations will need to stipulate that each team has a dark home goalkeeper kit if their outfield kit is light (or vice versa) and that each team brings one set of dark goalkeeper kits and one set of light goalkeeper kits.

Ideally request images of all the shirt colours. Once you have checked all the team colours combinations (use the smart phone mono camera function if you are unsure) then you can select a suitable colour for match officials' kits.

Finally ensure your kit regulations state that the final decision on kit colours or whether bibs must be worn rests with the tournament organisers and match officials. Provide with the TACBIS factsheet for Match Officials, Coaches, Players and Advice When Selecting Kit Colours to team managers in advance of the start of the tournament.



The shirts on the **top row** are shown in normal colour vision. Those in the **bottom row** are a colour blind simulation of the **top row**.

Equipment

The choice of equipment is an important element in the delivery of your tournament. In particular, several types of equipment need to be considered such as balls, bibs, cones and lines markings. Some equipment can be difficult to see for players, coaches, and fans. Refer to the TACBIS factsheets for Coaches and Players. The main points to note are

- Use a white ball whenever possible or yellow in winter conditions outside
Avoid red, pink, orange, green balls
- Consider line markings carefully, especially in indoor sports halls. To minimize confusion match officials should point out the lines being used before the start of each match
- Corner flags-use white or yellow as first choice, avoid red, orange and green flags Note: Red or Orange poles can be a trip hazard
- Ensure nets and frames contrast strongly with background colours

Stakeholders and partners

When you include external partners and stakeholders such as sponsors and advertisers, you could consider providing them with information on colour blindness so that they can maximise their exposure.

Your local and national community can help you to finance the tournament and sponsors could be keen to ensure for example that their logo etc is visible against background colours used in your programme or on the clothing of your volunteers. You could consider providing a workshop on colour blindness and circulating the TACBIS 'Marketing, Communications and Commercial Implications of Colour Blindness' factsheet.

Media

Use the opportunity to promote that your event is colour blind friendly in all of your media communications.



Normal vision



Colour blind simulation

First aid and security

First aid provision is extremely important. This is one of the main parts of your tournament you need to schedule for the day of your event. Be aware that paramedics and other medical staff maybe colour blind therefore do not rely on a colour coded triage system. We advise you to have a defibrillator within your tournament and ensure defibrillators permanently hosted at the venue are easily

Listings, notices, scoreboards and tables

When providing notices during the course of your event remember not to give information in colour only. In particular for scoreboards and tables, if you want to use colours such as green for Win, red for Loss you can still use these colours **provided** you also use symbols or letters such as a tick or cross. Remember never to use red as a contrast to black on notices e.g. don't denote prohibited items or important information only in red. If you need to draw attention to a specific piece of information, also highlight in yellow.

Catering

You will need to be aware of the diverse allergies and dietary requirements of your attendees. When collecting this information via your registration form be careful to ensure you record this information without relying only on colours to avoid misinterpretation. Where food is served be careful to ensure all allergen information is provided in text and symbols - do not rely on a colour only code to indicate allergen information.

Highlighting allergies

Do Not highlight allergies based on a colour code.

If you need to refer to colours you must also use text and or symbols.

For further information see the TACBIS factsheets, in particular Supporting Colour Blind Fans, Advice When Selecting Kit Colours and guidance for Clubs and Venues. For formal advice visit www.colourblindawareness.org.

