

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS OFFICIALS WORLDWIDE



Source: <https://soccafederation.com/first-6-a-side-world-cup-draws-audience-of-millions/>

First 6-a-side world cup draws audience of millions

The inaugural 6-a-side Socca World Cup, hosted by the International Socca Federation, finished with a glittering display of fireworks in Lisbon's old harbour overlooking the stunning picturesque specially constructed 4,000 seater stadium in the Praça do Comércio. The event featured 32 nations from all over the world and ended with Germany being crowned the inaugural World Champions, beating Poland 1-0 in a breath-taking final watched by a full house. The multi-million dollar event marked the first stage in the ISF's goal to be small-sided football's equivalent to FIFA, who control the 11-a-side game, and marked a turning point for small-sided football, or socca as it will now be known, throughout the world. In the tournament itself, France, the pre-event favourites, lost 2-0 to hosts Portugal in the quarterfinals following referee Mark Clattenburg's decision to send off French defender Belbachir for misconduct. Poland were the surprise package reaching the final by overcoming teams such as England in the quarterfinals, who themselves had knocked out Brazil following a penalty shootout in the last 16. Viewing figures for the event, which was

streamed across the world, and shown on state broadcasting channels in a number of countries, have been recorded as 23 million viewers which is a record for any small-sided football competition anywhere in the world. Tim Ollerenshaw, Vice-President of the ISF, commented "this was an extraordinary spectacle in one of Europe's great major cities, and already we have seen an influx of interest and members from countries around the world after the event wishing to join the ISF. For our 2019 World Cup our aim is to get as many of these countries participating with their national teams as possible, as well as offering those countries extra benefits both via entrance to club competitions and business opportunities through our partners."

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WHAT'S NEW...



PLAY ON REF REVAMPED

Our play on ref website has been revamped, it is easy to use, bright and up to date. It is jammed full of activities for our members. Fancy running your own Play on Ref course? Contact us on kim@playonref.co.uk and to see our new website please visit www.playonref.co.uk

SOC Online Shop

This issues feature product is our tutor resource for the Play on Ref course. It is a complete set of full colour, laminated A5 resource cards presented together in a high quality ring binder. This has proven popular with various premier league and championship clubs who run this programme. Each folder costs £14.99 and can be bought from www.sportsofficialsconsultancy.co.uk



ON-SIDE PROJECT

"Innovative education to enhance the skills of sport officials in EU"

On the 26th and 27th of July 2018 a committed group of experts from the area of sport officiating came together for the 2nd full partner meeting of the ON-SIDE project. The meeting was held in the inspirational surroundings of the Papendal Sport Training Centre in the Netherlands.

Funding through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme of the European Union, the ON-SIDE project will, for the first time, explore the generic skills (meaning non sport specific skills) and competences of sport officials and develop new education courses relevant across all nations and sports in Europe.

Following a successful kick-off meeting in Vienna in April 2018, the partnership continued with the overall work programme which involves the implementation of an innovative 7 step approach to workforce and skills development in sport officiating.

Research of the sector is vital to underpin any skills development and training initiative and this was the first step considered by the partners. The next six months will see an intense period of both desk research in to all relevant aspects of sport officiating, and the launch of an online survey for national sport federations to gather views on skills issues and tendencies for the first time at the European level.

The next step of developing Occupational Descriptors for sport officiating was also introduced with the partners working in groups to list various sport official positions across sports and classify them based on tasks and responsibilities. A first draft of an overall framework for sport officials was proposed which will be further developed and tested. Patrick Vajda, representing AFCAM, took the opportunity to present the emerging International Sport Officials Federation to the group.



After the meeting, Ben Gittus, EOSE Director of Standards said "EOSE is delighted with the commitment, expertise and professionalism of the partnership, the close cooperation between partners will help to achieve quality results throughout the project"

Janie Frampton, CEO of Sports Officials UK said: "the partners have quickly formed a fantastic team and it is a pleasure to work together on this project, it is great to see the project taking shape". Jean Gracia, representing European Athletics also commended the cooperation between the partners at the meeting and is sure the project will result in a good outcome for the whole sport sector.

The meeting was excellently hosted by the NOC*NSF from the Netherlands. The next meeting will be hosted by European Athletics in Lausanne, Switzerland, in November 2018.



FULL LIST OF PARTNERS:

European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE), Sports Officials UK (SOUK), Association Francaise du Corps Arbitral Multisports (AFCAM), European Handball Federation (EHF), European Table Tennis Union (ETTU), European Athletics, SportMalta, Dutch Olympic Committee * Dutch Sports Federation (NOC*NSF), Romanian Football Federation (FRF), British Wheelchair Basketball and National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski".

Ref Support Update

It has been three years since Janie and the other directors launched Ref Support. It has become a charity in its own right – the first of its kind for referees in the world – however over this time the same issues keep arising with our grass roots officials. This is an ongoing battle but we are implementing some changes and lobbying other referee groups to do the same that will stop the weekly abuse that referees face.

Ref Support have put in place a helpline that officials can use to report abuse, to ask for advice or to ask for help. This phonenumber seems to have become more relied upon in this season than ever before. Is this because abuse is happening more often? Is it because the tolerance level has reduced? Because anti-abuse awareness has been raised? Or because the incidents are being listened too and taken seriously? Whatever the reason – this is clearly a

major issue that is infesting the sport at every level. Ref Supports clear vision is to completely eradicate this behaviour.

One suggestion that will reduce anti-referee behaviour is allowing referees to wear body cameras – this will act as a deterrent as well as recording anything negative that does happen that can be used as evidence. Ref Support have developed a body strap and an app that will allow the referee to use their phone as a camera and record their match. The data will be encrypted to keep it safe. They are hoping to roll this system out soon – however the IFAB rule book 2018/19 has been edited to include that wearing such devices are banned. This is an ongoing issue and we will keep you informed on any updates in our next newsletter and on our social media platforms.

Hoping you had a merry Christmas!



From all the team at Sports Officials Consultancy and on behalf of our partners, we hope you had a merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Janie's Recovery Update

As some of you will know, Janie was struck down with a debilitating illness at the beginning of August. This turned out to be Guillian Barre Syndrome which is extreme muscle weakness caused by the immune system damaging the peripheral nervous system. This left her in hospital for a long time.

However, after months of hard work, excruciating pain and sheer determination, I'm pleased to be welcoming Janie back into the working world. She has gradually eased herself back into her various roles and is back in the swing of things.

Thank you to everyone for your support and patience in this difficult time.

We are ready to face a busy and (hopefully) successful 2019.



PLAY ON REF!

A FUN INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING...



PLAY ON REF PROGRAMME

- The programme delivers a fun introduction to refereeing as the first step of the development pathway
- This course is designed to be delivered practically by PE teachers, coaches, parents and referee tutors
- The advantage of this module is that it has a strong leaning to the development of positive behaviours
- Delivery through a range of target audiences, such as playground activities, curriculum time sessions, after school clubs, school-clubs links and tournaments.

We can tailor each course to suit your needs. This course has a simple strategy for growth and development as a franchise but can also be a one-off course. Get in contact to begin your training at info@playonref.co.uk

For more information go to www.playonref.co.uk



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E-Learning Update

A large part of what we do at SOC headquarters is our E-Learning platform. We have spent a long time this year in giving the platform a brand new look and feel but in 2019 we are going to be writing some new modules and updating our content. We currently have a good range of generic modules, but we are wondering if there are any topics that you'd like to see that aren't already there? Send your ideas to kim@sportofficialsconsultancy.co.uk and we will be in touch with our development team on your behalf. Sport and officiating are ever changing and we aim to be ahead of the game by speaking directly to officials themselves to see how we can help them.



Quote Corner

"I may not be there yet, but I'm closer than I was yesterday."

Fitness Trends 2019

As we get closer to 2019 we have decided to bring you the fitness trends that we think are going to be massively popular in the new year.

- **Hiit Training** – back for another year at the top of the fitness charts – we predict that hiit workouts (high intensity interval training) are going to be huge... well ... short. The general idea of working at your body's full potential for a short burst of time will give you the best results. As your body goes from stillness to full potential you are forcing your body to work harder. There are plenty of ways to get involved with this – get a stop watch and run on the spot as fast as you can for 20 seconds, then rest for 10 seconds. Either repeat this for a few minutes or change it up with different moves such as burpees, mountain climbers, squats etc. Perhaps try to do this for 10 minutes to begin with and the build more moves or longer periods of movement as you improve.
- **Move over YouTube videos** – Streaming is the new kid on the block – Streaming live workouts from the comfort of your own home may be the answer to many – if you don't have the time to travel to the gym then you don't have to! You can still take part in live action classes without the travelling time. This will help you fit exercise into a busy schedule. YouTube is crammed with exercise videos too – but as this is live you can receive the usual

encouragement from the trainer that you'd get in a class and you still get comfort in the knowledge that you aren't working out alone. You could potentially have hundreds of workout buddies. I definitely think there is a space in the ever growing market for this!

- **Mindfulness** – More and more people are seeing the benefits of mindfulness and meditation. It has lost the 'hippy-like' connotations and scientific results are beginning to show that it has a vast array of benefits including reduced stress, sleeping better, awareness – as well as higher productivity. Top athletes are accrediting mindfulness for helping to maintain focus in competition as it teaches them to 'be present' and awareness of each moment. If this is something that you would like to try then there are various apps and websites that are recommended.
- **Wearable technology** – It seems like every man and his dog now have a fitness tracker of some sort. They can measure steps, elevation, exercise, sleep, heart rate, hydration – the list goes on. These are more accessible now and there is such a huge range of choice. Think about what of these things you'd like to track and begin your search there. Having something with you at all times that keeps you thinking about being fit and healthy has got to be good.