

Guiding Principles

Level Playing Field believe that being a disabled person is a social issue and that an individual only becomes disabled because of the social, attitudinal and environmental barriers that the individual faces (this is known as the social model of disability).

Our efforts are focussed on removing these barriers within football and other sports. LPF and its members will know they have succeeded when:

- all fans can enjoy an equal experience at live football matches and other sports events;
- all stadia and sports venues are fully accessible and inclusive;
- all customer and/or fan services are equal and inclusive;
- disabled people are seen as customers with a commercial value

We are guided by the following principles:

- Anti-discrimination¹ - so that disabled people do not face discrimination arising from poor or misinformed practice.
- Equality² of opportunity or making things fairer - for disabled people in every aspect of their contact with football clubs.
- Increasing the independence and choices that disabled people have.
- Individual needs / Diversity³ - recognising that a disabled person is an individual who, like all others, has his or her own needs, abilities, human rights and responsibilities.
- Integration/inclusion – such that services are made accessible to disabled people and offer choice.

- Involvement in decision-making - so that disabled people, and/or their advocates, are consulted before decisions which affect them are made.
- The social model of disability explains that it is social and physical 'barriers' that cause 'disability' not impairments. NADS is working to remove the barriers that currently exclude disabled people. These barriers can be:
 - prejudice and stereotypes
 - the way things are organised and run
 - little or no access to information, buildings and transport

¹ Discrimination is when people are treated unfairly. It is wrong and against the law. There are different ways people discriminate:

1. Direct Discrimination is when a person or a group of people are treated unfairly by another person or organisation.
2. Indirect Discrimination is when an organisation has unfair rules that mean a person, or group of people, do not get an equal service.
3. Institutional Discrimination is where an organisation has a bad attitude or lack of understanding about a group of people. They do not give this group of people an equal service.

² Equality is about making sure all people are treated fairly. People should have an equal chance to get a service, and have equal opportunities at work.

³ Diversity is about understanding that people are different and seeing this as a good thing.