

CAFE Help Sheet 1

Setting up a Disabled Supporters Association (DSA)

If you are interested in setting up a Disabled Supporters Association at your club, you might want to consider the following guidelines.

- 1:** Sound out other disabled supporters and try to ensure a pan disability mix of representatives
- 2:** Hold a meeting (ask the club if you can use their facilities)
- 3:** Elect a steering committee (3 or more members) – people who are going to have the time and resources to oversee the creation and ongoing development of the association until it is ready to elect a permanent committee
- 4:** Decide what your main aims are - this will vary, according to existing facilities at your club, the needs of fans and so on
- 5:** Set up a meeting with representatives of the club – make sure you've prepared an agenda which reflects the realistic aims and aspirations of the association
- 6:** Ask the club to recognise the association and arrange for space in the clubs official publications and website
- 7:** Set up a schedule of regular committee meetings to discuss issues affecting disabled supporters – and use this forum to enhance your influence within the club
- 8:** Recruit new members – create a leaflet and membership form for other fans at the club (and maybe a news letter)
- 9:** Set up regular meeting between representatives of your committee, and club officials – put forward your ideas and suggestions
- 10:** Keep local media informed of developments and, when applicable, make sure your football club and your newly formed disabled supporters association are praised for any positive steps they make together – you will find that more people will be willing to join your cause if they see harmony between club and fans
- 11:** Organise regular sociable events – and invite players and other club staff
- 12:** Contact other disabled supporters association and CAFE – being part of a European network will help you at a local level
- 13:** Look at adopting a governing document (constitution) - CAFE can help you with this

For further information please refer to our [website](#)
or contact us at info@cafefootball.eu

