

# Young Officials Project Case Studies



The purpose of the Young Officials Project, supported by United Utilities, v (the implementation body of the Russell Commission) and national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport, is to create a step change in the demographic profile of officiating and initiate a pathway and structure to enable young people to take up these roles.

Competitive sport cannot exist without match officials; they are the people who make it happen but are often forgotten about. The Young Officials project invests time in recruiting and developing the next generation of officials across all sports and promotes their use in schools and local competitions to build confidence, skills and knowledge to officiate at higher levels in the community setting.

Below are two case studies demonstrating the outstanding work of Young Officials.

## Active Surrey Sports Partnership Developing and deploying Boccia Young Officials

*"We at the Active Surrey Sports Partnership are passionate about removing barriers to sport, whether people choose to be involved as a participant or as a volunteer. We were therefore delighted to play our part in giving special school students the opportunity to attend a Boccia Young Officials award last year."*

**John Woodroffe**

**Sports Leadership & Volunteering Development Officer, Active Surrey Sports Partnership**

To support the Boccia Cerebral Palsy (CP) Sport regional competition calendar, ever increasing numbers of Boccia Young Officials are needed. Raheem, Jason and Edward attended the Boccia Young Officials award organised by Active Surrey Sports Partnership in March 2008. The boys were selected as '**Superstars**' having shown great enthusiasm and eagerness to develop and learn new skills. As 'Superstars' the boys were invited to attend the CP Sport South East Regional Competition as Young Officials:

*"This experience was all new to Jason and Raheem but they were made very welcome by the experienced officials and quickly progressed from time keeping to assisting as match referees. They were totally involved throughout the day and gained invaluable experience and self-confidence as Boccia officials, a great deal of respect for the skill and determination of the competitors and an insight into the considerable effort and expertise that goes into organising a major sports event."*

**Liz Morley**

**Jason and Raheem's teacher**

The boys supported the officiating team at the competition and left with a great sense of pride in what they had achieved. As a direct result of their involvement as Boccia Young Official Superstars, Jason and Raheem were invited to take part in the North West Surrey School Sport Partnership leadership day at a PGL centre, participating in exciting outdoor adventurous activities and team building exercises. They have also been offered the opportunity to take part as officials at the Surrey Youth Games Boccia tournament.



*"The Boccia training for Edward was an invaluable and rewarding experience. It gave his self-esteem and confidence a boost and an opportunity to show some independence and responsibility when overseeing others. He has supported younger pupils in the main school in a tournament following his training and attended the South East regional competition as an official. Any such experience can only be advantageous, particularly for students with a learning difficulty as the opportunities are not so readily available."*

**Diane Calder**

**Edward's teacher**

## Mansfield School Sport Partnership Young Officials Superstar!

In April 2008 Mansfield School Sport Partnership hosted a Boccia Young Officials award. Sian was selected as a Boccia Young Officials 'Superstar' in 2008 having shown great enthusiasm, eagerness to learn and passion towards the role. Through the 'Superstars' programme she was invited to attend the Midlands Regional Competition. Sian's commitment, enthusiasm and motivation during the event impressed and she was selected to attend the Boccia National Championships in an officiating capacity. The National Championships were held in Sheffield on the 28 and 29 of March 2009. Sian was a valued member of the officiating team that supported the event:

*"Sian was yet again a 'Superstar' this weekend. She stayed for both days and did tremendously well. She started off doing some timekeeping then was let loose refereeing and she did not disappoint. Everyone was very impressed, and we've already asked her along to some future events. We're really keen to keep Sian involved and hope she is as keen to stay involved!"*

### **Cerebral Palsy Sport**

Following the National Championships, Sian was asked what she had made of her journey so far:

#### **What inspired you to get involved with the Boccia Young Officials project?**

*With two students at my school having cerebral palsy I have always had a curiosity about the game. When the course was offered I jumped at the chance to be involved. I felt there was a need for young people to help out as there is a lack of that in Boccia at the moment and taking this course could be the first step to helping.*

#### **What's the best experience you have had so far through your involvement with the project?**

*Definitely the Nationals, everything is so exciting. You can feel the atmosphere and to be a part of it was great. Also I refereed my first BC4 match which was an amazing experience and I met some of the most wonderful people including silver medallist Nigel Murray, I couldn't have asked for a better weekend.*

#### **How does being an official at regional and national events make you feel?**

*It feels great, with all the bad press that teenagers get at the moment to stand up and show everyone that a teenager, that only a year ago hardly knew a thing about Boccia, is refereeing at Regional and National level, it's immense.*

#### **In five years time do you think you will still be officiating at Boccia events?**

*I've got my sights set high; I hope to keep getting involved with larger events. I would definitely say an ambition of mine is to be part of the 2012 Paralympic Games, which would be amazing.*

#### **What would you say to other young people thinking about becoming an official?**

*I would say just get involved, not only is it a qualification it's an excellent opportunity to meet new and amazing people with different opinions and backgrounds, learn a lot about yourself and others, it's just great. If you get the opportunity, take it, it'll be the best thing you do.*



If you would like to find out more about the Boccia Young Officials Award and how to get involved, please follow this link:

<http://www.cpsport.org/boccia/YoungOfficialsAward.shtml>