

KENT KORFBALL ASSOCIATION

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Introduction

The KKA's only previous Development Plan was agreed in 1996 and has been the foundation upon which the sport has developed so well since then. The fact that Kent Korfball is pre-eminent is very satisfying from an insular point of view but is less than satisfactory from the country's perspective. Naturally, the EKA is responsible for the national development of the sport but, within the national framework, whatever that may be, Kent must continue to build upon its success over the last decade or so.

To do so requires a common vision within Kent, clear aims and objectives and leadership from the Executive Committee. This has been lacking in recent years and so Kent Korfball has been coasting, which is unsatisfactory if you have any positive feeling for the sport – which quite a few people have. So, this coasting cannot be allowed to continue.

The Reality

The view of the KKA ExCo is that the national aspirations and expectations for Korfball are exaggerated. Despite its credentials, it will remain very much a minority sport for the foreseeable future and the KKA recognises this. Nevertheless, Korfball has very much to offer as a sport, and particularly but not exclusively, for juniors. Over the years, we have seen many youngsters develop their korfballing and social skills, which have stood them in good stead in the “big wide world” – and much pleasure and satisfaction can be, and has been, drawn from this by those - across clubs - who have played pivotal roles in their development.

The Future

So to the future. Recognising where Korfball stands, and is likely to remain, in the sporting pecking order, what should the KKA be doing to ensure that the quality and participation in Korfball in Kent is maintained and, hopefully, improved?

Fundamentally, we must (i) continue to publicise Korfball to attract newcomers, (ii) provide all the encouragement we can to those taking part, particularly the youngsters, (iii) encourage fair play (iv) ensure that Korfball provides an enjoyable experience, (v) ensure that those taking part are able to develop their skills to their respective potential, and (vi) ensure there is effective leadership and co-ordination.

The potential aims and specific objectives, therefore, could be the following:

Aims

Objectives

Publicising Korfball

Ensuring that there is ongoing coverage in local papers;

Appoint a person to co-ordinate publicity and promotion

Establish and maintain contact with local sports editors

Providing handouts for parents and carers explaining about Korfball and the clubs in the county;

Update existing material, as necessary, and produce additional material to meet specific needs

Maintaining ongoing links with the Kent and Medway Sports Development Units (these are important to keep up to date with information and initiatives and obtain support on occasions);

Take advantage of any national or local initiatives to encourage greater participation in sport

Providing existing adult korfballers with the encouragement, skills and information needed to approach individual schools with a view to organising Korfball sessions;

Arrange seminars from time-to-time to discuss how to best approach schools and to construct training sessions

Provide a focal point for advice

Publicise and encourage the use of the "Teaching Children Korfball" manual

Developing a user-friendly KKA website to provide details of all policies and practices referred to below;

Make full use of the website for information dissemination so that all relevant and current information is available to clubs and players

Providing Encouragement

Ensuring that clubs and coaches adopt the correct approaches to players during training sessions and Matches;

Provide advice on best practice from time-to-time

Abiding by national standards relating to the interface with junior;

Ensure an effective system remains in place to process CRB checks

Ensure all relevant adults within clubs remain CRB-checked

Ensure all clubs secure and retain Club Mark Accreditation and abide by the principles of the scheme

Encouraging Fair Play

Updating the competition rules to eliminate, as far as possible, the opportunity for varying interpretations of the rules for personal or club advantage;

Developing a Fair Play Policy that clubs and individual players must respect and adhere to;

Provide a formal channel of communication to deal with legitimate complaints about behaviour and non-compliance with the Fair Play policy for the Kent competitions

Appoint a committee to deal with complaints

Agree sanctions at the outset and impose immediate sanctions, as previously agreed, when a complaint is upheld

Encouraging mutual respect;

This would be included in the Fair Play policy

Refereeing

Improving the standard of refereeing which will be a fundamental element towards improving playing standards;

Organise coaching courses every year

Provide mentoring for newly qualified referees until they are sufficiently competent

Arrange for qualified referees to obtain higher qualifications

Promoting Enjoyment

Encouraging parents and carers to become more involved with a club's activities;

Encouraging coaches, other club officials, parents and carers to be role models in terms of behaviour for the youngsters;

Skills' Development

Improving the coaching skills of individuals, which will also contribute towards improving playing standards;

Provide courses each year for aspiring coaches

Provide encouragement and opportunities for coaches to progress to higher standards of performance

Continue to make the "Teaching Children Korfball" manual available to clubs and individual coaches

Continue to develop the county squads for the junior a groups

Recognition

Continuing to recognise achievement;

Encourage the continued implementation of the nationally-recognised Skills' Award Scheme by clubs

Reward players for representing the county at junior levels

Present trophies and medals to competition winners etc

Recognise and reward county coaches

Recognise and reward referees

Leadership

The KKA Executive Committee must provide the leadership, support and encouragement to clubs and individual players to conform to the various policies and provide co-ordination as appropriate;

Meet regularly and encourage all clubs to attend the meetings

Review the Rules and Constitution as soon as possible

Common Threads

There need to be a number of common threads running through Kent Korfball and these include:

- Working within the policies and standards of the IKF and EKA;
- Supporting the EKA with its initiatives;
- Ensuring the playing rules etc applied in Kent are consistent with the national and regional ones;
- Ensuring the KKA has sufficient resources to implement its Development Plan, and
- Sharing experiences with, and supporting, other Areas