



England Korfball welcomes Sport England's recent research¹, which has highlighted enjoyment as the most important factor in determining children's activity levels and calls for a rethink of how youngsters can be engaged in sport at school.

WHY KORFBALL?

Perfect for schools

Korfball provides the perfect solution to the challenges that schools face in getting children more active; as a mixed sex gender team sport it enables teachers to coach boys and girls together at both primary and secondary level, and as a collaborative team sport it develops strong social bonds and encourages inclusion and resilience. It requires minimal equipment and players don't require any specialist kit.

Inclusive

Invented by a Dutch PE teacher in 1902, korfball is specifically designed to be played in mixed gender teams. Cooperation and teamwork is essential for success; all players have a chance to play all roles, including attacking and defending. Korfball shares its roots with basketball (korf is the Dutch word for basket) but is designed to be more inclusive, for example by minimizing the advantage that tall players might have.

Something different

As activity levels in young people reach an all-time low, "we can't keep offering the same things to the same people" [quote from Tim Hollingsworth, CEO, Sport England]. We need creative strategies which include new sports in which children can participate and excel. Not only does korfball tick the "something different" box, it also brings boys and girls together to see sport and physical activity as something they can build into their social life, particularly as they enter the teenage years when so many children drop out of sport.

Keeps teenagers engaged

Teenagers don't have to choose between sport and social life – korfball can be both sport AND social life. "We look forward to our school korfball sessions, as we get to play a fun sport alongside the boys. It creates a great social environment and allows us girls to show we are as competitive as the boys...and sometimes better!" said Tiggy Warner, a pupil at King's School Rochester. "Korfball is a great sport which makes you work with boys and girls in the same team. It's amazing how much fun it is to play. I have met loads of friends through korfball and would recommend it to anybody wanting to try a new sport" added Shane Buckland, a sixth former at St Simon Stock School, Maidstone.

Essential life skills – mixed gender teamwork

Korfball naturally encourages girls and boys to work together to achieve their goals, preparing them for the workplaces of tomorrow. Recognising how important these life skills are, Legal & General has partnered with England Korfball to promote korfball at schools, universities and workplaces.

¹ Sport England: Active Lives Children and Young People Survey: Attitudes Towards Sport and Physical Activity (published March 2019)



“Learning how to work effectively in mixed gender teams is an absolutely essential life skill and it’s great if children have the opportunity to do this through such a collaborative and inclusive sport such as korfball. It’s wonderful that so many schools are considering or already offering their pupils the chance to play; I’d love to see more get involved.” said Dame Helena Morrissey, Head of Personal Investing at Legal & General.

Meets National Curriculum requirements

Jess Squires, a teacher at Bolton Le Sands Primary School and Senior Associate Teaching and Learning Consultant for PE at Lancashire Learning Excellence said: “Korfball has become part of our school curriculum, and we love it! Not only is Korfball great fun to play and exciting for spectators to watch, it is a great game to get children to understand the basic principles of attacking and defending in any invasion type game. If children can play Korfball they can transfer those skills to many games e.g. netball, basketball, football, hockey, rugby. It teaches children how to pass and move into space and how to attack and defend. Children enjoy playing as there aren’t lots of rules to follow and they can go anywhere on the pitch.”

“The National Curriculum states that children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 must play Games and use basic principles for attacking and defending, and they must play a range of modified small sided games. Korfball is perfect for curriculum time PE as the children only play 4 v 4, which means all players are involved in the game, all get the chance to attack and defend, all can shoot and all have to make tactical decisions which will improve them as a games player.”

Community engagement

Local sports officer Andy Barnes said “We’ve seen over 1000 children introduced to korfball over the last year, across 25 schools in the Lancaster area. The regular local tournaments have been really popular, and the children love the fact that the regional winners will get to compete at the Legal & General National Schools Championship Finals at the Copper Box, in the Olympic Park in London.”

Perfect for families

It works for parents too. Not only does it make life easier for parents if their boys and girls are all playing the same sport in the same place, but parents can join in as well. “My brother Jack and I played at school, and after seeing us play, Dad decided to take it up too,” said Jo-Anne Wilson, a former pupil at Graveney School in Tooting, South London and current England international. “He’s a builder, so it keeps him fit for work, and it’s something we can all talk about and enjoy together.”

England Korfball

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