

Title - Teaching the Implications of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) for Sport and Leisure Facilities

Keywords - Employability, Curriculum Development

Name - Marc Keech

School / Dept - Chelsea School

Subject - Sport

Institution - University of Brighton

Activity - Risk assessment of local sport and leisure facility

Group - Level 2 Leisure and Sports Studies/Management, up to 20 students

Aim - To provide students with an introduction to the DDA and its practical implications

Context / Background - The DDA means that all sport and leisure facilities are required to have full access for participants with disabilities. Disability awareness training is built into a level 2 module which introduces students to a range of issues concerning the provision of sport and recreation to participants with disabilities. Sport and leisure managers are required to have sufficient levels of knowledge concerning the implications of the DDA for the provision of activities at their facilities.

Example

Students are introduced to the DDA in class based situations and debate the various issues arising from the Act. The follow-up practical activity is arranged in partnership with the University's Sport and Recreation Service and local authority leisure centres. Students are provided with risk assessment sheets by the tutor, who is trained in these areas. Students then conduct a 'mystery customer' type exercise, when they visit the facility unannounced and conduct the risk assessment. Information is then discussed in class and the results are fed back to the facilities, demonstrating the close working relationship between the school and its industrial partners.

Results / Feedback - Students enjoyed the activity and found that it enhanced their awareness of the pertinent issues. The practical nature of the activity benefited those students who were struggling to understand the legislation. Industrial partners are more than happy to have the exercise take place, citing lack of time for them to carry out regular checks and that the activity is providing students with an opportunity to develop skills which makes students more employable.

Other comments - Staff are trained in these areas to ensure appropriate advice and guidance is provided