

SARI/FARE WEEKS ANTI DISCRIMINATION FOOTBALL WORKSHOP 2015

This is an overview of workshops designed by SARI and delivered to 6th form in primary schools, community groups and youth centres around Ireland.

We are Football People Against Discrimination. We are here to play football, develop our football skills and consider what discrimination means.

Ask the participants if they watch the Champions League? Have they seen the “No to Racism” commercials? Make the connection of Champions League > UEFA > FARE > Football Weeks > SARI.

At this point you can start handing out T-shirts: mixture of UEFA “No to Racism” and FARE Football People t-shirts to the participants.

Ask them do they know what discrimination is? Do any of the young people think any of our coaches might have been discriminated against? Why?

Are there different types of discrimination? Discuss them and what they mean. Have any of the young people ever been discriminated against? How?

Explain that there are many types of discrimination. Is discrimination a good thing? Hopefully they all agree it is not.

We have brought three balls with us (lay them out on the ground in front of the participants) that are each labelled with a type of discrimination (in this case the following but you could use any and more than three balls if required: “Racism”, “Homophobia” and “Sexism”):

- Racism. Today in football training session we are going to give racism the boot.
- Sexism: Same thing as above.
- Homophobia: same as above

Talk about each subject in turn. Ask if they understand what the words mean. And if anyone can think of examples of these issues. On the subject of racism can anyone think of an example of racism in football? On homophobia talk about the fact that Ireland was the first country in the world to introduce same sex marriage as a result of a referendum of the people. That the people voted – in May 2015 - by a margin of 2 to 1 in favour of same sex marriage. And hopefully now people who are gay will no longer be discriminated against.

OK before we get down to playing football we need to warm up. This section really needs to be fun. Get the kids running and laughing.

Play chase game with bibs and then into some other fun warm up drills. Everyone is dribbling their own ball trying to protect it while also trying to kick away other people’s ball etc

Followed by skills training.

Then tell young people that we want to play a couple of short five-a-side matches and what we need to make this work is four young people (assuming 20 players; 6 if this increases to 30 etc) who could be really good captains. Ask for volunteers. What we say we are after is four really good players.

Take the captains aside and discuss the qualities that make a good captain: To be able to lead by example, positive attitude on the pitch, supportive of other players on the team, good communication skills. And whatever else people can think of. So the captains are under instructions to be good captains throughout the match. Give each captain an armband.

Meanwhile the other players are split up into four teams. Explain to them that what they have to do is play to win but that they are not to pass the ball to their captain. This is a secret. We want to see how long we can play without the captain realising that something is going on. We will have to see what happens here. Maybe the captains will start to get frustrated. Maybe remind them that they need to be a good captain. After maybe five or six minutes if it lasts that long, stop the game and bring everyone together. Then ask the captains to stand in front of the other players and ask them what they noticed about the game. Did they get much of the ball? Hopefully they will complain that people weren't passing the ball to them and that it was annoying. This is the end result we are after so as the workshops progress you might get quite skilful at engineering this outcome.

Now have a discussion about the game. Explain that what was happening was the captain's were being discriminated against on the pitch. Ask them what did it feel like? Was it fair? Also what did it feel like to discriminate against someone? Was it fun? Was it easy to score goals when discriminating against the captains? Would it have been much easier just to play normally? To be inclusive of everyone? This discussion will depend very much on what the young people say but a set of similar responses will probably evolve that can be used to discuss the negative impacts of discrimination.

At this point it will be useful to discuss how the captains were discriminated against. People kept a secret from them. They were ignored or excluded. As well as different types of discrimination there are different ways of discriminating against other people. Ask the young people what other ways they think people are discriminated against and discuss in what ways they are wrong.

Then introduce Football 3/Fair Play football which is the opposite of all the things you hopefully have discussed. Football 3 is based on the principle that the basic values of fair play, gender equality, teamwork and respect are just as important as football skill.

Keeping the players in the same teams explain how football3 works – no refs etc. Get the teams to play another team from the previous discrimination game and then bring two teams together on each pitch. Get them to agree on the rules and write these down on the Fair Play Football score sheets we have printed out. Once they are agreed start the games and let them run for 15-20 minutes. At the end of the games bring the two teams together again and get them to award points based on: i) did the opposition team play by the rules ii.) did the opposition team play fair? Iii.) did the opposition score? (see score sheets) 1 point can be given for each.

When the Football 3 is over explain how having played fair we are now going to have a penalty shootout competition to give all forms of discrimination the boot.

Invite the young people to choose the ball with whatever word on it they would most like to give the boot.

Take a photo at the end of all the young people around the Football People Against Discrimination van with the coaches in it that can be e-mailed back to the group leader and forwarded onto the young people.

END.

