

September 19, 2018
Keio University

Keio Futsal Adventure 2018 to be held on September 30

- A Venue for Students to Encounter Parasports -

Keio Futsal Adventure (KFA) 2018, a sports event centering around blind soccer (blind football, Football 5-a-side), will be held for the ninth time this year at the Keio University Hiyoshi Campus Athletics Field on Sunday, September 30. Keio Futsal Adventure is an event organized by students under the auspices of the Keio University Institute of Physical Education, and serves as a gateway for creating interest in Paralympic Sports among students with the aim of promoting long-term engagement.

At this event, the third round of matches for teams of blind and partially-sighted players in the 2018 Blind Soccer East Japan League will take place alongside blind soccer trial sessions and the KFA Futsal Tournament, where men, women, young and old can compete regardless of whether or not they have a disability. Additionally, external organizations and other groups such as Yuru Sports Youth and the Keio 2020 Project are set to exhibit at the event.

We kindly request your announcement and coverage of this event at which anyone can participate in and enjoy sports.

1. Event Outline

- (1) Event name: Keio Futsal Adventure 2018
- (2) Date and time: September 30, 2018 (Sun.) 9:30-17:30
*Cancellation in stormy weather only; to be held as scheduled in the event of rain
- (3) Venue: Keio University Hiyoshi Campus Athletics Field
(<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/maps/hiyoshi.html>)
- (4) Eligibility: Anyone can participate regardless of age and gender or whether or not they have a disability
- (5) Host: Keio University Institute of Physical Education
- (6) Event organizer: Keio Futsal Adventure 2018 Executive Committee
- (7) Supporters: NPO Japan Blind Football Association, buen cambio yokohama (blind soccer team), Yuru Sports Youth, Keio 2020 Project, Keio University Faculty of Business and Commerce Ushijima Toshiaki Seminar
- (8) Website: <http://keiokfa.wp.xdomain.jp/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KeioFA/>

2. Event Schedule

- (1) Blind Soccer East Japan League 3rd round matches (attendance free)
Blind classification: 11:00-12:00 buen cambio yokohama vs. Vivansare Tsukuba
12:50-13:50 Avanzare Tsukuba vs. GLAUBEN FREUND TOKYO
14:40-15:40 free bird mejirodai vs. Derroto Saber Ibaraki
Partially-sighted classification: 13:15-14:15 Grande Tokyo vs. FC SFIDA Tsukuba

Blind soccer, which was conceived as a sport for people with visual impairments, started to gain recognition in Japan from 2002. Players wear blindfolds and compete without the use of any visual senses, through which we are said to obtain 80% of our sensory input. The result is a completely new form of teamwork relying solely on sound and communication.

In international matches, only players who are totally blind are permitted to take the field. Under the domestic rules applied in the East Japan League, however, people who are able to see can also play together with players who are blind by wearing the same blindfolds.

A form of futsal referred to in Japan as “low vision futsal” is contested in the partially-sighted classification. The eyesight of players who compete in low vision futsal varies from blurred and cloudy vision to visual field defects. Players who have different visual acuity compete together on the same field. The rules for low vision futsal are roughly the same as those for futsal as players do not wear blindfolds and use regular futsal balls which do not make any noise.

[Scenes from matches]



- (2) KFA Futsal Tournament [pre-registration required]
Preliminaries: 9:30-11:00 Finals: 16:00-17:00

Participation at the KFA Futsal Tournament is open to all regardless of whether or not they are students, members of the public, or have a disability. This year, a deaf soccer team and community soccer club are scheduled to participate. Participation will be limited to the first twelve teams to register. Pre-registration is required to take part. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

- (3) Blind soccer trial sessions and spectator tours [pre-registration required]
First session: Trial session 11:30-12:30, spectator tour 12:50-13:50 (East Japan League 3rd round, 2nd Match)
Second session: Trial session 13:20-14:20, spectator tour 14:40-15:40 (East Japan League 3rd round, 3rd match)

Participants will be able to try out blind soccer with the assistance of the Japan Blind Football Association and the blind soccer team buen cambio yokohama. Participants can experience a world of complete darkness while wearing blindfolds to undertake various exercises using actual blind soccer match balls. The content of the trial sessions is not strenuous and people disinclined toward

sports are able to participate.

After experiencing the challenges of playing blind soccer, the participants can then take in an actual match on the spectator tour. Participants in the spectator tour will watch the match together with members of the Keio Futsal Adventure Executive Committee and persons involved in blind soccer from a special area of the ground where they can get a genuine sense of the intensity of blind soccer from up close. Various aids, including radios and the blind soccer rule book will be employed to enhance tour participants enjoyment of the game.

[Scenes from previous trial sessions]



Photograph on left courtesy of the Japan Blind Football Association

(4) Blind Soccer Booth

This booth proposes various ways of getting involved in blind soccer as occasioned by the Keio Futsal Adventure so as to increase the number of people actively engaged in the sport. In addition to offering an overview of the rules and equipment used in blind soccer, the booth will introduce numerous teams from across Japan, details of the work carried out by match volunteers, and the rewards of getting involved. Visitors to the booth can hear from match volunteers and university students who play for blind soccer teams in person.

(5) Yuru Youth Sport's (external organization) exhibit of a new sport

Yuru Sports Youth is a creative team centered around university students that creates "gentle" sports which can be enjoyed by everyone, win or lose, based on the motto of "Enjoy Difference." The theme for this year's exhibit is a "sport to get students buzzing," and it is due to present a leisurely version of "seven ball" as a warm up before exercise.

(6) Keio 2020 Project Booth

Hiyoshi Campus at Keio University has been chosen as the venue for the Tokyo 2020 pre-Games preparation camps of the British Olympic (Team GB) and Paralympic (ParalympicsGB) teams. The Keio 2020 Project, which is centered on students, was established to provide volunteer support for the British teams and conducts activities related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The project is due to host a "blind walk" at which participants can familiarize themselves with guides for people with visual impairments using braille, the game "guess what I am" where participants attempt to guess what objects are through touch alone, a "quiz rally" at which participants find and answer quizzes located around the venue, and face painting.

*We have sent this press release to the MEXT Press Club and the sports news sections, city news sections, and Yokohama branch offices of other media outlets.

* Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contact information provided below.

Inquiries regarding the event (Please direct all inquiries to both of the contacts provided below.)

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