

# Blind Soccer 5-A-Side

A close-up photograph of a soccer player's lower legs and feet on a green grass field. The player is wearing black socks with a white logo and black cleats. A colorful soccer ball is on the ground near the player's feet. The background is a blurred green field.

By: Katie Atkinson

# Blind Soccer



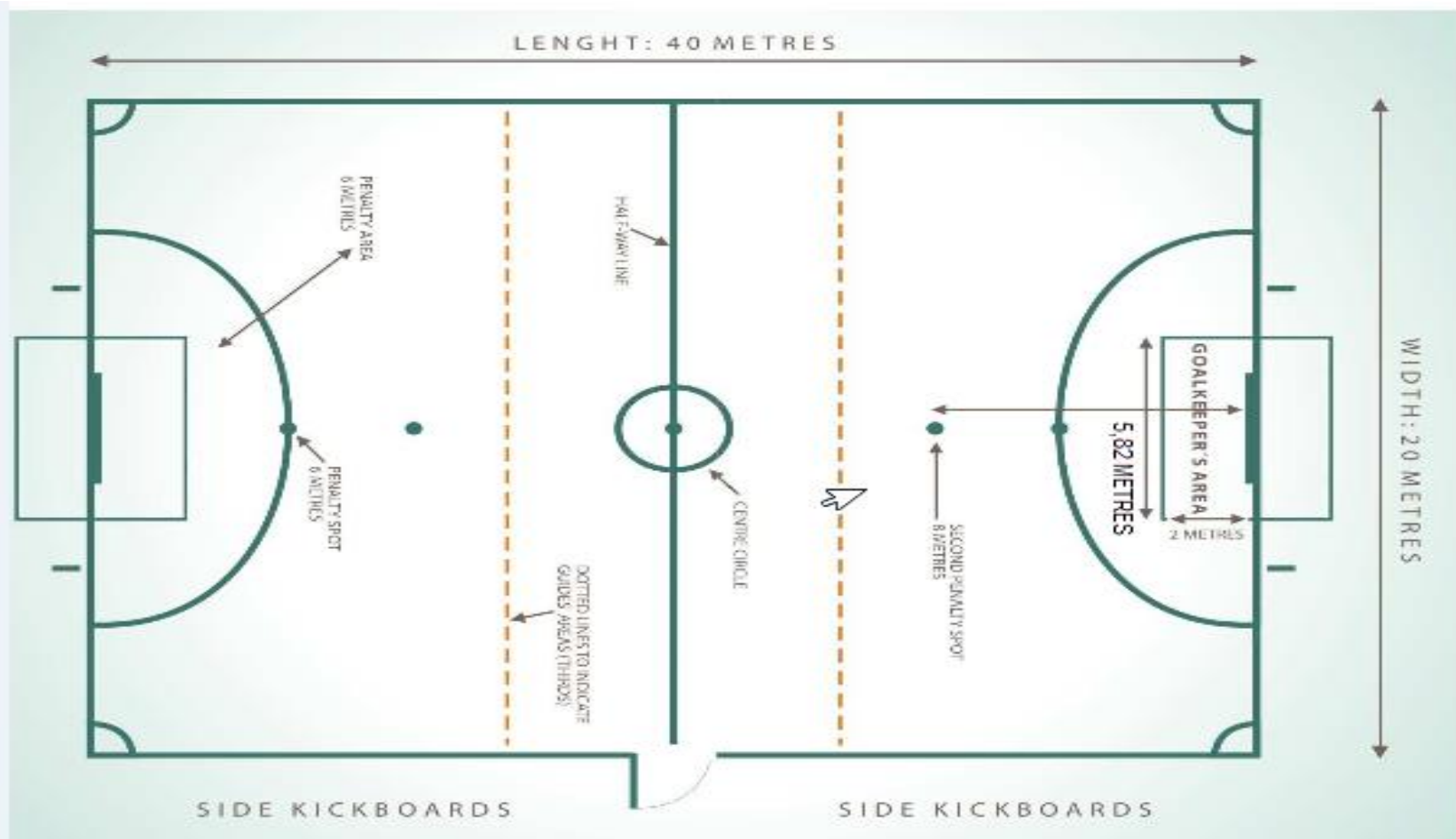
# What is 5-A-Side Soccer

5-A-Side Soccer is Soccer for individuals with visual Impairments. The match is played by two teams, each consisting of no more than five players, four of whom are completely blind (B1 Category) and one goalkeeper who may be fully sighted or partially sighted (B2 or B3 category). There will also be a guide behind the opponents goal.

A Paralympic team is composed of a maximum of fifteen people who shall have the following functions: eight outfield players, two goalkeepers, one guides, one coach, one assistant coach, one doctor.

The game ball contains bells. The game is played on a turf field. Athletes are constantly communicating on the field as well as the coaches and guides behind the goal. [IBSA Football Rules](#)

# THE PITCH



# Equipment



## Soccer Balls

- Handilife soccer balls. \$54
- <https://handilifesport.com/en/product/futsal-ball-with-bells-ibsa-standards/>

## Soccer Goals

- Inexpensive blind soccer goal with correct international dimensions.  
<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Skywalker-Sports-12-x-7-Soccer-Goal-with-Practice-Banners/51677105#read-more>  
(the goals are the same dimensions as field hockey goals)





# 5-A-Side Soccer Statistics

## Top 5 Nations

1. Brazil
2. Argentina
3. China
4. Spain
5. Iran

## Paralympic Games

2016 Brazil won Gold 4th time running

Tokyo 2020 8 teams will compete for the title

Blind football has become one of the leading sports in the paralympic games after its debut Athens 2004





# Why Soccer?



- More opportunities for sport about individuals who are blind and visually impaired
- Constant Activity (Improvement of Gross and Fine Motor Skills)
  - Decrease secondary conditions, Increase QOL etc.
- Safe area for participants to move into space, work on their O&M skills, balance and coordination.
- Inclusion and community for individuals with visual impairments
  - Students can connect with sighted peers in playing a sport that is familiar
- Teamwork, confidence, and empowerment for the athletes

# Ohio Blind Soccer

## Team

- USABA National Blind Sports Day
- Team growth from 1 to 7 athletes with VI and 4 volunteers (3 months)
- Objective to grow the sport/disability awareness
- Team is currently recreational
- U.S. Goal: Paralympic team 2028
- Other teams in Chicago & Utah



## Our Goals

- Grow our team!
- Create youth teams
- Divide in to recreational and competitive teams
- Funding needs
  - Travel (Maryland, Canada, Other schools)
  - Equipment (goals, eyeshades, renting turf field space)
- Provide more overall sport/recreational opportunities to all individuals with visual impairments







# Goals for Youth & ODP



- Offer more organized sport opportunities through U.S. soccer and Ohio Youth Soccer Association
- Olympic Development Program (ODP)
  - Gaining elite athletes looking to head to the paralympics
- Teach coaches and referees the sport
  - Create more teams throughout US with experienced coaches and referees
- Create awareness of disability sport and paralympics throughout the U.S.
  - Bringing the game to local soccer tournaments
  - Offering the sport in your area of ohio
- USABA (United States Association for Blind Sports)
  - now a US soccer member organization and wanting to further the sport

# Contact Information

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## Ohio Blind Soccer Information

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- Social Media
  - Facebook: [Ohio Blind Soccer- Five Aside Football](#)
  - Twitter: [ohioblindsoccer](#)
  - Instagram: [ohioblindsoccer](#)



# Any Questions?

