

Smile Project

Paralympic Games Supporting School Five-a-side Football (Blind Soccer)



Hamura City
Hamura Dai-ni
Junior High School



Japan Blind Football
Association

Hamura City Hamura Dai-ni Junior High School < Comments from the School >

- Although students had heard of “five-a-side football” because their classmate Ms. Kikushima is in a member of the national women’s blind soccer team, most of them had never seen it played before. Students were surprised and impressed that Ms. Kikushima could run at full-speed and shoot a ball to exactly where she targeted. In comparison, they would not be able to walk straight with a blindfold on.
- Seeing their classmate play changed students’ perceptions of blind soccer from a special sport for people with visual impairments to a sport that everyone can enjoy.
- School staff also went to cheer at a blind soccer competition.
- The blind soccer session where students practiced passing showed them the importance of putting themselves in others’ shoes.

Program Overview

【Cheering for Ms. Sora Kikushima, a National Team Member from Our School】

One of our students, Ms. Sora Kikushima, is a national women's blind soccer team member and has won at the international level before. On June 5, 2017, Ms. Kikushima reported her achievement at the IBSA Women's Blind Football Tournament during the student assembly. In addition, we informed students about the national competitions (on Jul. 23 and Dec. 24) where she would be competing as a member of Saitama T. Wings, **as well as planned and invited the whole school to a party to cheer for her.**

【Blind Soccer Session】

On December 16, 2017 and on January 13, 2018, we invited Mr. Mitsuru Kikushima from the Japan Blind Football Association as a lecturer and conducted a blind soccer session for our Saturday open school. We distributed blindfolds to everyone and students experienced blind soccer from making a team to kicking a soccer ball only relying on sound and the voices of other players. **Through the session, students acquired a better understanding of persons with impairments and acknowledged the importance of putting themselves in others' shoes.**

【Exhibition Corner about Blind Soccer】

We installed an exhibition corner at school where we display newspaper articles about blind soccer and an uniform decorated with messages from the national blind soccer team.

