



Lincolnshire Sports Partnership

Wheelchair Rounders

Summary



Contents

Wheelchair Rounders	3
Executive Summary	3
How did it come about?	3
Why we felt it was valuable?	3
What were the key outcomes?	3
Set Up:	4
The Process	4
Equipment:	5
Rules:	6
What were the key outcomes?	7
Offering a new opportunity to those young people with a disability	7
To broaden the scope that rounders offers in the county	7
Excellent partnership working with local schools through the project	7
Creating a sense of achievement and enjoyment for the schools and young people taking part	7



Wheelchair Rounders

Executive Summary

How did it come about?

Rounders is an extremely popular sport within Lincolnshire and we really wanted to ensure the sport could be accessible to all. With the support of Rounders England we knew we had both the financial resources and the experience necessary to succeed with this pilot.

Why we felt it was valuable?

Lincolnshire is very fortunate to have many wheelchairs to use within schools and clubs across the county. Wheelchair Rounders seemed to be a great way to use the resources already available within schools to offer something new and different. The Wheelchair Rounders project is now a highly valued and thought after scheme. Support has come from local media sources, school staff and parents and other partner organisations. The sport is so valuable because it offers further opportunity to those young people who may have to overcome huge barriers to access quality sports activity.

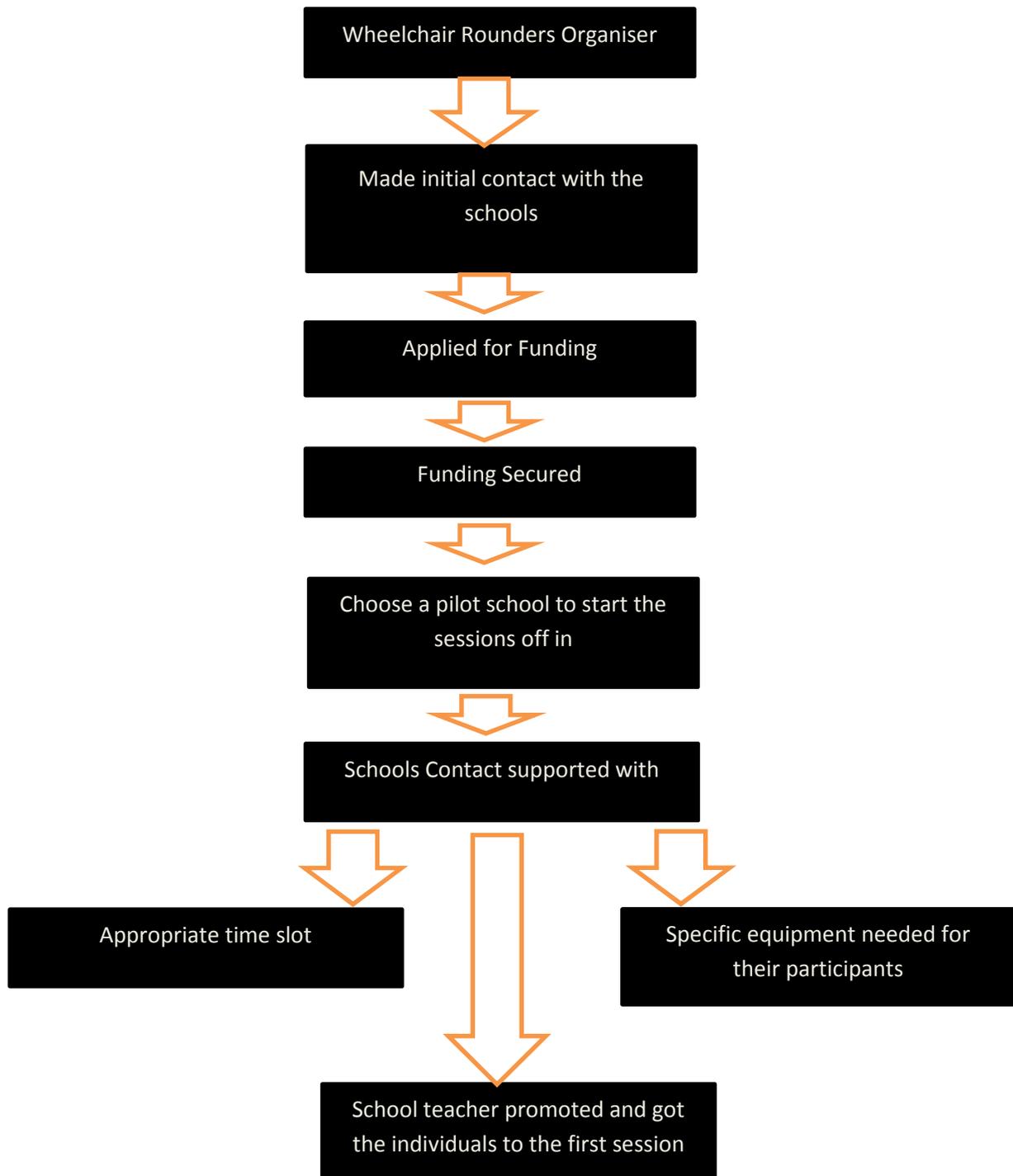
What were the key outcomes?

There have been many positive outcomes that have developed from the pilot Wheelchair Rounders project:

- Offering a new opportunity to those young people with a disability
- To broaden the scope that rounders offers in the county
- Excellent partnership working with local schools through the project
- Creating a sense of achievement and enjoyment for the schools and young people taking part

Set Up:

The Process



Equipment:

The equipment that was found to work really well was:

Junior Rounders kit that has:



- 4 Posts
- Batting Tee
- 2 Flatty Bats
- 2 Blaze Bats
- 2 Sponge Bats
- 2 Soft Balls
- 2 Play Balls

Other equipment that was bought in to help the participants were



- 1 Velcro pad



- The ball that was used was a yellow and orange soft medium size ball. It can just be seen in the picture this helped the partially sighted. The school already had this ball as it has been very difficult to find a ball of this type and colour.

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Other equipment that might be needed:

- A medium size soft ball with a bell
- Big throw down sports to go under the bases. This will allow the participants in there wheelchairs to put a wheel on the base instead of holding the base as some athletes struggled

Rules:

Each school was given the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership Wheelchair Rounders Induction pack plus the Rounders England Rules pack.

There was however some adaptations that were needed for the game to run smoothly.

1. First base was moved closer to the batting this was due to the time it took for the participant to let go of the bat.
2. Added instead of a backstop or as well as a back stop a person to take the bat off the hitter. This person was a teacher
3. Ball hits the chair without bouncing was classed as a catch
4. If the participants put there wheel onto the ball this froze the game and the player who had hit could only carry on to the next post same as when the bowler has the ball.
5. If a pusher is needed then the pusher has to walk round
6. Powerchair users if on post if they catch the ball from a pass from another fielder before the runner gets to the post this is out. Some users find it hard to move their arms any distance from their body so stumping the post was difficult.

All these rules were adapted to the individuals playing.



What were the key outcomes?

Offering a new opportunity to those young people with a disability

The project achieved this outcome by offering Wheelchair Rounders to over 30 participants in just one school. The project is now going to get rolled out across Lincolnshire.

To broaden the scope that rounders offers in the county

This outcome was achieved. Wheelchair Rounders in Lincolnshire was not something that had ever been thought about and it wasn't until this event that people have become aware of a new sport. The pilot project received promotion from both Newspapers and ITV Calendar.

Excellent partnership working with local schools through the project

This is still in its infancy but it has created an excellent partnership with the pilot school and we are hoping for the same across the other schools we will be targeting.

Creating a sense of achievement and enjoyment for the schools and young people taking part

In the one school we have been in at present this is defiantly the case the young individuals have really enjoyed learning a new skill. Please see some quotes that were in the local papers and on ITV calendar

Lesley Hedley from St. Francis Special School said:

“When Lincolnshire Sports Partnership first approached us about Wheelchair Rounders we were thrilled with the idea. Now we have over 30 children taking part every week and they're really enjoying it. They've improved a lot since their first session four weeks ago, but they're really getting the hang of it, and it's great that all the children can take part, regardless of their disability.”

Stephanie Perkins a student and Wheelchair Rounders player at St Francis School said:

“I like batting and fielding at the same time”

Gabrielle Cook a student and Wheelchair Rounders player at St Francis School said:

“I'm good at batting, fielding, bowling, going around the post and trying to be in all the time”

Josh Clifton a student and Wheelchair Rounders player at St Francis School said:

“It's good I'm sweating all over”