

# There are more than 3 million people with colour blindness in the UK



men/boys  
1 in 12  
are colour blind

8%



women/girls  
1 in 200  
are colour blind

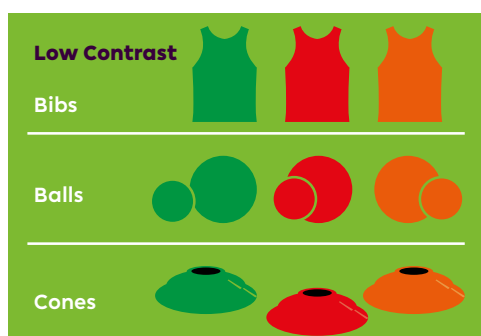
0.5%



**Colour blindness (colour vision deficiency, CVD) is usually inherited and affects a person's ability to distinguish colours.**

**Many colour combinations can be confusing because so many different colours can appear the same.**

Consider training kit for example, low contrasting colours can appear like image 2 below for players with CVD. Image 3 shows highly contrasted colours with CVD simulation.



1 Normal Colour Vision

**Red Greens and Oranges:** Not enough contrast, especially on green grass or 3G - very difficult for players with CVD



2 CVD Simulation



3 CVD Simulation

**Yellows White and Blues:** Offer high contrast against grass or 3G - much easier for players with CVD to differentiate




## How many elite level players are colour blind?

Research by the EU-funded TACBIS project into prevalence of CVD in elite footballers at National and club level, revealed:

- **Over 5% of elite male players have some form of CVD**, that's one player in every elite male squad
- **Most players have never been screened for CVD** and most of those affected were unaware
- **These findings also demonstrate that at least 25% of colour blind players are dropping out through the Academy system due to lack of adequate support**



# What you can do

- **Consider awareness training for coaching and technical staff** – This can help spot potential signs, support player wellbeing and contribute to on pitch performance.
- **Create a suitable and accessible environment** – By doing so will ensure that it isn't necessary to identify individual affected players e.g. via screening. The key to accessibility for all types of CVD is strongly contrasting colours and/or labelling due to the many colour combinations which can cause confusion - See further information for more detail.
- **Providing Support** - It's important to be aware that due to the different types and severities of CVD, a colour blind staff member may not have the same challenges/require the same solutions as others/players. Care should be taken to ensure solutions are effective for all types/severities.
- **Anticipate issues** – Ensure kits, facilities and equipment, such as player analysis info are colour blind accessible. Don't wait for people with colour blindness to identify themselves - players and staff affected are unlikely to speak up.
- **Provide information** – Be clear with your policy on colour blindness and how your Club will support players with CVD. This will instil confidence that a player's condition will be treated confidentially.
- **Further Information** – Please visit the Colour Blind Awareness website, using the QR code below.  
  
Or players can speak to the PFA  
T: (+44) 0330 236 8850  
E: info@thepfa.com
- **Disclosure** – Where a player discloses their colour blindness, clubs must treat this information confidentially, take all reasonable steps to address the issues quickly and treat colour blindness in the same way as any other disability under the Equality Act 2010.

## Youth players

- Young adults with CVD may find it difficult to report problems as they may worry this might affect how their performance is perceived. Also many people are undiagnosed well into adulthood so may be unaware their challenges are due to colour blindness.
- Parents/carers may be unsure on how best to provide support and some may be concerned about possible exclusion/disadvantage by revealing a diagnosis.
- In academies where clubs are responsible for the development of elite players and their academic achievement, clubs will have obligations under the Children and Families act 2014 as CVD is recognised both as a Special Educational Need and a disability.



## FAQs

### What do I do if I suspect a player has CVD?

CVD is a visual impairment and therefore a health condition so you should act in accordance with your Club's policies for health conditions.

### Is a player with CVD obliged to disclose their condition?

No, unless a specific question is asked during recruitment.

### Do clubs have the right to screen players for CVD?

No, see above, screening should not be necessary. However, colour vision screening can be included as part of a player medical where a pre-contract medical is a pre-requisite to signing a new player. The FA has stated it will not consider a diagnosis of colour vision deficiency to be a reasonable ground to fail a medical.

### What support can a player with colour blindness expect?

The FA guidance expects players with CVD to be treated as any other person with a disability. Therefore, clubs must take reasonable steps to ensure all information, training, etc. is accessible.