Irish Football Association

***The Irish Football Association are committed to developing, fostering and promoting football for all in Northern Ireland***

***Through the Football for All project, and other departments at the Irish FA, we are dedicated to working on issues of equality through our various projects.***

**GENDER**

**IFA GIRL’S AND WOMEN’S FOOTBALL**

The Irish Football Association has invested heavily in the development of girls' and women's football in the last ten years and has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of players participating in the game during this time. With four full-time members of staff (three in development and a National Women’s Coach) the key activities of the department include the following areas:

* Grassroots football
	+ Primary School Coaching
	+ First Kicks Programme
	+ Small Sided Leagues
* Indoor Cup
* School’s Cup: Senior Competition
* Domestic Football
	+ Club football in Northern Ireland is divided into two separate areas, namely, junior and senior and is organised under the auspices of the NIWFA ([www.niwfa.org](http://www.niwfa.org/)).
	+ Senior football is organized into seven leagues
* Centres of Excellence
	+ The Centres of Excellence provide 160 girls aged 11 - 16 years of age with quality coaching on a county basis.
* International Football
	+ There are several teams in this including senior, Under 19, Under 17 and Under 15.