

Show Racism the Red Card

Task 1 – Sports brainstorm

List as many sports as possible that might be played in the UK. How many of them were devised by the British?

- What are the most popular sports in your country or area? Do you play any of them?
- Which sport do you associate with a red card? What does it mean? When is it used?

Task 2 – Read and find out

You are going to read a text about racism in football. Before you read, look at the questions – what do you think the answers might be?

- Why might black football players not be accepted in UK football teams?
- Were black players accepted by football crowds twenty years ago?
- Who is working against racism in UK football?
- What event happens all over Europe every year?

Show Racism the Red Card

Football, the largest spectator sport in the UK, has changed a great deal in the last twenty years. Not so long ago black footballers frequently faced racist chants from the crowds. Premiership players from countries outside the UK have said that this is a cultural thing. "A Dad acts in a certain way with his son right beside him". Another player agrees, "If everyday you hear something like your father saying 'I hate blacks' then one day the kid will say the same thing". Premiership clubs now have top players from many countries and ethnic minorities born and brought up in Britain. The racism experienced by these players has decreased thanks to campaigns in schools and at football grounds.

'Show Racism the Red Card' and 'Kick Racism Out of Football' are two organisations working to end the racism in football crowds. More recently, there have been a number of racist chants and taunts at European football matches where black players from British clubs were playing. Racism in football is still a European problem.

Every year British and European football clubs, top players and organisations are making a stand against racism, celebrating action weeks, where there are many activities all over Europe to explore ways of dealing with discrimination in football. The aim is to celebrate the contribution that ethnic minorities and foreign players make to our national game. Schools, community groups and football crowds will all be involved in making posters, speaking out against intolerance and learning how to give everyone in British society a chance to play football.

Glossary:

- **racial taunts:** bad and insulting words
- **chants:** songs and phrases repeated again and again by crowds
- **campaign:** an organised protest over a long period of time
- **make a stand against:** protest/refuse to accept or tolerate
- **kick out of:** remove
- **football ground:** the place where a game is played/stadium
- **football pitch:** the field where the game is played

Task 3 – Interpretation and discussion

- What is the main reason for racist behaviour given by the players?
- Think of 2 other possible reasons for racist taunts at football matches?
- Give one example of action that campaigners in the UK use to combat racism?
- Think of 3 ways to campaign in your school.

Task 4 – Sport in your country

- Are there any foreign players in your local teams? How are they accepted or welcomed by the public?
- Do all members of your society get an equal chance to participate in sport? Give examples: young people; old people; women; ethnic minorities...
- What sort of image does football have? Is it a family activity or an all-male activity?

Task 5 – interview your friends

Make as many questions as you can, using the words below:

- Favourite sport/ spectator or participant?
- Favourite team/ player?
- Often/ watch games/ matches? Often / play / do sport?

Task 6 – Sporting terms

- Are any English sporting terms used in your language? Find examples in your country's media.