



**Indian Blind Football
Federation**

 www.blindfootball.in

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Executive Summary

During 2025–26, the Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) delivered an exceptionally impactful year marked by nationwide grassroots expansion, high-performance training, and historic international achievements. IBFF conducted multiple training camps and selection programs across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh, strengthening state teams and preparing national squads for global competition, while also providing international exposure through tournaments in Japan and Thailand. The year saw the successful organization of major domestic competitions, including zonal championships, the first National Partially Sighted Championship, and the inaugural Indian Blind Football Premier League, alongside strong outreach and inclusion initiatives with corporate and civil society partners. On the international stage, IBFF made history by hosting three major IBSA events in Kochi—the Men’s Nations Cup, Asia–Oceania Division 2 Championship (where India won its first-ever IBSA title and qualified for Division 1), and the Women’s Blind Football World Championship, the first world championship ever hosted by India for blind football. The year concluded with the successful hosting of the 9th Men’s and 5th Women’s IBFF National Championships in Dehradun, firmly establishing 2025–26 as a landmark year for the growth, visibility, and global recognition of blind football in India.

Currently, the Indian Men’s Blind Football Team is ranked 5th in Asia and 14th in the world, while the Indian Women’s Blind Football Team holds an impressive 2nd position in the World Blind Football Ranking.



MAJOR IBSA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HOSTED IN 2025



2025 IBSA MEN'S
BLIND FOOTBALL
NATIONS CUP

2025 IBSA MEN'S
BLIND FOOTBALL
Asia Oceania Championship
Division-2

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) reached a historic high point in 2025 by successfully hosting three prestigious IBSA international tournaments at the Kakkanad United Sports Centre, Kochi, Kerala, firmly positioning India as a global hub for blind football. The IBSA Men's Blind Football Nations Cup 2025, held from 22nd September to 1st October 2025, featured six international teams and was conducted with high standards of competition and organization; England emerged as champions, Iran finished as runners-up, Italy secured third place, and India achieved a commendable fourth-place finish. Immediately following this, IBFF hosted the IBSA Men's Blind Football Asia-Oceania Division 2 Championship 2025 from 1st to 5th October 2025, a crucial qualifying event in which India defeated Uzbekistan in a two-match series to win the championship and secure qualification for the Asia-Oceania Division 1 Championship—marking India's first-ever IBSA championship title and a landmark achievement in the nation's blind football history. Additionally, the IBSA Women's Blind Football World Championship 2025, held from 2nd to 12th October 2025, marked the first time India hosted a Blind Football World Championship, bringing together the world's top eight women's teams; Argentina claimed the title, England finished as runners-up, Japan secured third place, and host nation India finished fifth. Collectively, these tournaments represent the most significant international blind football events ever hosted in India and reflect IBFF's growing capacity, credibility, and commitment to excellence and inclusion on the global stage.



NATIONAL BLIND FOOTBALL TRAINING AND SELECTION CAMPS



The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) successfully conducted national training and selection camps in Kochi, Kerala, during 2025 to prepare the men's and women's national blind football teams for major international tournaments. The women's team underwent selection and intensive training from 27 January to 12 February 2025 ahead of an international tournament in Japan, while the men's team held selection trials from 11 to 13 August 2025 followed by extended training until 22 September 2025 in preparation for the IBSA Nations Cup and IBSA Asia Oceania Division 2 Championship. In parallel, the women's national team selection camp was conducted from 14 to 16 August 2025 for the IBSA Women's Blind Football World Championship. These camps played a vital role in strengthening team performance and readiness for international competition.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY TOURNAMENTS

The Indian Blind Football Teams participated in important international friendly tournaments in early 2025, gaining valuable match exposure and competitive experience. The Indian Women's Blind Football Team competed in the Blind Football Normalisation Cup 2025 in Japan from 14th to 16th February 2025 at Saiden Chemical Arena and Marui Burasaka Park, playing two friendly matches and one official match; although the team could not secure a win, the tournament significantly contributed to their preparation for IBSA events, including the IBSA World Championship (India, October 2025). Additionally, the Indian Men's Blind Football Team took part in a two-match international friendly series in Bangkok, Thailand, against the World No. 4 Thailand team, where they showed strong fighting spirit and notable improvement—losing 1–4 in the first match and narrowly 0–1 in the second. Overall, these international friendlies provided crucial learning, confidence, and motivation, strengthening the teams' readiness for future international competitions.



HISTORIC EVENTS INITIATED IN 2025



First IBFF National Partially Sighted Championship 2025 – Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) marked a historic milestone by successfully organizing the First IBFF National Partially Sighted Championship 2025 on 24th and 25th March 2025 at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior, in collaboration with ABVTCDS, Gwalior and the Madhya Pradesh Blind Football Association. The championship witnessed the participation of eight teams with over 50 players, reflecting strong enthusiasm and competitive spirit. Kerala emerged as the champions after defeating Odisha 2-1 in the men's final, making this inaugural event a significant step toward inclusive football development in India.



Indian Blind Football Premier League – Season 1 (2025) – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF), in association with the Blind People's Association Gujarat, successfully launched the Indian Blind Football Premier League – Season 1 from 17th to 19th June 2025 at the Kingstar Turf Ground, Ahmedabad, with Prudent as the title sponsor. The league brought together leading men's and women's blind football teams from across the country, delivering high-quality and closely contested matches. Northeast United claimed the men's title after a 1-0 penalty shootout victory over Three Two One Heroes Kerala, while Glorious Gujarat secured the women's championship with a 1-0 penalty win against Maratha Legion. The inaugural season set a strong foundation for a premier competitive platform in Indian blind football.

IBFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) successfully concluded the 9th Men's and 5th Women's IBFF National Blind Football Championships 2025 at the Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, from 14th to 18th December 2025, in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Blind Sports Association. The prestigious national event brought together leading blind football teams from across the country, celebrating sporting excellence, inclusion, and competitive spirit. In the Women's Championship, Uttarakhand emerged as champions, followed by West Bengal as runners-up and Gujarat in third place, while in the Men's Championship, Meghalaya claimed the title, Uttarakhand finished as runners-up, and Gujarat secured third place, marking the tournament as a major success in the continued growth of blind football in India.



ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) successfully conducted three zonal blind football championships across the country in 2025, strengthening regional competition and talent development. The 4th Men's and 3rd Women's South-West Zonal Championship was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat (29–31 March 2025), with Gujarat emerging as champions in both categories. The 6th Men's and 3rd Women's Northeast Zonal Championship took place in Guwahati, Assam (26–28 May 2025), where Meghalaya won the men's title and Mizoram claimed the women's championship. The 3rd Men's and Women's North Central Zonal Championship was organized in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand (1–3 November 2025), with Uttarakhand securing the championship titles in both the men's and women's categories. These zonal tournaments provided an important competitive platform for blind footballers and contributed significantly to the growth and development of the sport across regions.



TRAINING CAMPS

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) conducted a series of Blind Football Training Camps across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh during January and February 2025 as part of its nationwide development initiatives. An orientation and training camp was held at Netra Vidyalaya, Visakhapatnam, from 5 to 8 January 2025, led by Rashad from IBFF, with around 15 male players participating, and included historic training matches against the Odisha team—the first official blind football event in Andhra Pradesh.



This was followed by a one-day training session on 26 January 2025 at Kingstar Turf Ground, Ahmedabad, organized in collaboration with the Blind People’s Association, Gujarat, under the leadership of National Head Coach Sunil J. Mathew, with 25 athletes taking part. Additionally, a three-day training workshop and selection camp was conducted from 17 to 19 February 2025 at Moti Mahal Ground, Lucknow, in partnership with the Uttar Pradesh Blind Football Association, led by IBFF coaches Diethozo Yhoho and Sandeep Mandal, focusing on skill development and talent identification for the upcoming IBFF Zonal Tournament, thereby strengthening grassroots development and expanding blind football across multiple states.



BLIND FOOTBALL INTERACTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS PROMOTING INCLUSION THROUGH SPORT

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) conducted impactful blind football interaction and awareness sessions through engagements with FICCI FLO Indore and Gartner's Collective Abilities Network, effectively promoting inclusion through sport. At the FICCI FLO Indore interaction and demo session, four women and three men blind football players, along with IBFF officials, shared their inspiring journeys and demonstrated the sport, with a blindfolded penalty shootout allowing over 20 participants to experience the game firsthand and engaging an audience of more than 100 attendees. Similarly, Gartner's workshop titled "The Beautiful Game, Unseen" featured live demonstrations, interactive blindfolded activities, and insights into high-performance team building, with participation from Indian National Team players and coaching staff, concluding with Gartner's meaningful support through the gifting of specialized blind football equipment to the national team players.



PARTNERS

The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) acknowledges and extends heartfelt gratitude to all its partners who provided invaluable support for the successful organization of various events and initiatives throughout the year. These partnerships have played a vital role in promoting, developing, and expanding blind football across India.



Tournaments Hosted by Affiliated Associations



Affiliated to

