



UK Ultimate Anthony Bailey

ABOUT THE NGB

UK Ultimate employs 5 full time staff, supported by a small team of volunteers.

Ultimate entered into the School Games in September 2018, and it is of key strategic importance to UK Ultimate's growth strategy for youth Ultimate. As a small organisation, the opportunity to work alongside Active Partnerships and School Games Organisers allows us to significantly increase our reach to bring this new sport to even more young people.

THEME OF CASE STUDY

Living out the mission and vision of the School Games.

LEAD CONTACT

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WHY

A central focus of the School Games' Mission and Vision statements is the widening of participation opportunities to a greater number of young people, with the aim of providing a catalyst for their ongoing participation in sports and long-term active lifestyles.

As a new and unique sport, Ultimate is a fantastic way to broaden participation among young people, whilst also allowing for competitive play and the development of pupils' wider social skills via the 'Spirit of the Game'.

As a result, there has been substantial interest in running Ultimate events in our first year with the School Games. However, UK Ultimate recognised that the sport of Ultimate is unfamiliar to many Active Partnerships, School Games Organisers and teachers, and that very few had the equipment required to play. This could present a barrier to those wishing to incorporate Ultimate into their School Games calendar.



ACTION

In the past year, UK Ultimate has trained around 200 SGOs, teachers and Young Leaders across the country in the sport of Ultimate, also matching existing coaches with their local events to provide expert guidance before and during. A number of other promotions have seen us send over £2500 worth of free discs to Active Partnerships, SGOs and schools, so that they can get started.

In these areas, we have seen increased local impact, with fantastic feedback on the benefits delivered by Spirit of the Game. This system, which encourages wider outcomes such as fair play and positive interactions while developing players' communication skills and confidence, is central to the sport of Ultimate at all levels; giving the young people greater ownership of the game as they also act as referees while playing, managing disputes and ensuring correct application of the rules.



COLLABORATION WITH THE SCHOOL GAMES NETWORK

The feedback we gained through consultation with the School Games network demonstrated the benefit of ensuring that those wishing to introduce the sport had sufficient access to suitable coaching/expertise and the opportunity to purchase high-quality resources at an affordable price.

This motivated the numerous coach education and disc provision offers which we have run over the past year, to ensure that those taking their first steps into the sport are well equipped to do so.

SCHOOL GAMES



IMPACT

In our first year, we are very pleased to see that our sport (largely unfamiliar to SGOs just a year ago) has seen close to 4,000 participation opportunities in inter-school events active in inter-school events. It is rewarding to see SGOs embracing the mixed gender nature of the sport, with all competing teams being of mixed gender, leading to a near 50-50 split in male:female participation nationally.

We have also been pleased to see that SGO are embracing the unfamiliar nature of our sport in using it to engage those who typically avoid sporting competition, or who have not previously represented their school in the School Games.

The education we have provided around the importance and role of Spirit of the Game within the sport has been keenly adopted by SGOs and Active Partnerships, with events also celebrating those voted 'Most Spirited' by their opponents. This system not only encourages players to reflect on the impact of their actions and the actions of others, but also gives those 'less sporty' the chance to be rewarded for their sportsmanship and professionalism in their interactions and handling of the self-refereeing process. Regions that have trialed the sport over

the past year have been in contact to discuss plans to make it a much larger part of their offering next year, while individual teachers and players have been highly complimentary of the opportunities that the sport has presented them, and the impact that the positive atmosphere encouraged by Spirit of the Game has had on the confidence levels of players.

"The children have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences playing Ultimate Frisbee. This is an exciting sport that really encourages teamwork and respect. The Spirit of the Game element means that children who might normally be intimidated by competitive sport can represent their school and enjoy it. The children thrived in such a positive sporting atmosphere and it was lovely to see them grow in confidence. They were genuinely delighted to be awarded with gold medals after others scored them highly. They didn't stop smiling all week!" – Rachel Burke, Russel Scott Primary School, Tameside.



NEXT

Following the success of the Ultimate feature in embedding the School Games Values within competition at their Summer School Games, we have recently started working closely with an Active Partnership in the development of a template event structure to be used as an example of good practice to use alongside other sports at future events. We hope that this work will provide opportunities for even more young people to learn valuable life skills while enjoying playing sport.

We are also excited at the prospect of continuing to support further regions to introduce the sport into their calendars. We have announced an extension to our disc and coach education initiatives, and, using the platform of our success as a School Games sport, are actively seeking a commercial partner to ensure their sustainability in the longer term.

With so much interest being shown in regions, from intra-school activities to county-level events, a key next step is to start to connect this school-based excitement to our existing club and national competitive structure. We are already actively working with a number of clubs to equip them with the structures needed to open themselves up as an exit route for young people who have discovered a love for the sport. Further to this, we are seeking to raise awareness of our national-level events (suitable for all levels of experience) among SGOs and Active Partnerships, with the opportunity for schools to follow in the footsteps of this year's England team, who finished 2nd at this summer's World Schools' Ultimate Championships!



YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST