

# INFO PACK





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"IF WE WERE TO START SPORT AGAIN, WE WOULD PROBABLY USE THE

**MIXED ABILITY MODEL** 

TO RESHAPE IT."

CATHERINE CARTY, UNESCO CHAIR IN INCLUSIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORT, FITNESS AND RECREATION, MTU.

#### **IMART GROWTH**

	BRADFORD 2015	VITORIA-GASTEIZ 2017	CORK 2022
<b>TEAMS</b>	12	16	28
iii PLAYERS	450	600	1,100
<b>NATIONS</b>	10	12	15
<b>&amp; VOLUNTEERS</b>	40	150	650
<b>♦</b> SPECTATORS	4,000	10,000	25,000

PAMPLONA 2025 FACTS AND FIGURES (EXPECTED)































8 Womens and 24 Mens

























Macro









## A BRIEF **HISTORY**

The International Mixed Ability Rugby Tournament (IMART) is a celebration of rugby, diversity and inclusion.

During a week of games, educational and social events, men's and women's Mixed Ability rugby teams from all over the world battle for the 2 trophies: the Winners' Cup and the Spirit of Mixed Ability Rugby Trophy. The whole tournament is played abiding by World Rugby Laws and has grown to attract a alobal audience.

So, how did it start? England's first Mixed Ability rugby team, the Bradford Bumble Bees, was founded in 2009. Shortly afterwards it was discovered that other teams in the UK and Europe, such as the Llanelli Warriors in Wales and Chivasso Rugby in Italy, were already playing a similar format. Therefore, IMAS established and grew a network of clubs sharing experience and asserting the right of everyone to participate in mainstream community rugby through the flagship IMART tournament.

The first ever IMART was held in Bradford (UK) in August 2015 and lined up more than 400 participating players from 10 different countries over five days of completely free and accessible events. Coinciding with the Rugby World Cup, and with the spotlight on England as the host country, the Tournament was an unmissable opportunity to promote

and expand the Mixed Ability Model. It showed a wider audience that not only is it possible to break down the traditional divide of non-disabled and disabled sport, but that doing so results in a whole host of benefits for everyone involved. The Sunday's Well Rebels, Ireland's first Mixed Ability team, were the champions of IMART 2015, defeating the hosts, the Bumble Bees, in a thrilling final! Gaztedi Rugby Taldea, from the Basque Country, were awarded the Spirit of Mixed Ability Rugby Trophy as the team who best embodied rugby's values of integrity, respect, solidarity. passion and discipline.

Shortly after the success of IMART 2015, the Basque capital Vitoria-Gasteiz was chosen to host the second edition of the tournament, IMART 2017 saw the Rebels narrowly losing the final to the Argentinian Pumpas XV who came as part of an 80+ contingent, and the Bumble Bees bringing the Spirit of Mixed Ability Rugby Trophy back to where it was conceived. Mixed Ability Rugby teams kept growing across Europe and rapidly developing in Argentina and other South American countries, with the first Mixed Ability teams also evolving in Canada and New Zealand!

IMART 2022, celebrated in Cork after a 2-year delay (due to Covid) was a staggering event including more than 840 players and 1000 participants and up to 28 teams from 15 countries! The event included the first-ever women's IMART with Spanish teams claiming both the inaugural winners' cup (El Salvador) and the Spirit of Mixed Ability Rugby Trophy (Union Rugby Almeria and Incluindus). In the men's tournament, the host Sundays Well Rebels became the first ever team to win 2 Mixed Ability world cups, after defeating a surprising Canadian side, the Oshawa Vikings, Spain, once again, won the Spirit of Trophy with Incluindus. The week also saw also many exhibition sports, such as a Mixed Ability rowing regatta, and an international conference, and was cofunded by the European Commission. receiving UNESCO endorsement.

So, the road will now take us to Pamplona for another amazing experience! Please, join us there and help us celebrate Mixed Ability sport at its finest. Rugby is leading the way in inclusion... let society follow!



# **EQUALITY** IN ACTION

International Mixed Ability Sports (IMAS), the driving force behind IMART, is championing the Mixed Ability Model using it to break down barriers to participation in sport, promote social inclusion and generate long-term positive change in our communities.



#### **OUR MISSION**

Bringing people of all abilities together to play sports and learn from each other, giving everyone the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

#### **OUR VISION**

To radically change the way we think of, join in and enjoy sports, leading to a fairer and more equal society.

#### **OUR VALUES**

Underpin our work. We believe that everyone can experience a form of disability or other barriers at some point in life. That is why we focus on what people can do. We believe that categories and classification perpetuate stigma and lack of understanding, while education and shared involvement are paramount in changing perceptions, attitudes and behaviours. Mixed Ability is not a special sport, it is sport for all.



Mixed Ability stemmed from the lack of opportunity for disabled people to take part in mainstream community sport, as equal members, without being separated, classified, or identified.

Just like disabled people, too many individuals and groups are still excluded or segregated because of stigma, prejudice, or personal perceptions of their capability. This needs to change.

Mixed Ability recognises the right of everyone to participate in community sport and benefit from its transformational power.

Mixed Ability includes people facing a whole range of barriers to participation, including physical and learning disabilities, mental and physical health conditions, age-related impairments, low confidence, or other personal circumstances alongside people that don't experience any of these barriers.

Mixed Ability has grown into a social movement within sports, actively promoting inclusion and equality through a sense of belonging and membership to a group, team, or club. To know more please visit: **www.mixedabilitysports.org** 



# IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC

### MIXED ABILITY GAMES, INCLUSION AND CO-PRODUCTION

The Mixed Ability Games, Inclusion and Co-production 2025 (MAGIC) event is a series of prestigious and influential international activities that will bring together the Mixed Ability network during the IMART week in Pamplona. MAGIC will be celebrated in June 2025, with the support of the European Commission through its Erasmus+Sport programme and under the patronage of UNESCO.

The event is not-for-profit, free, and fully accessible, and is supported by IMAS España, Ayuntamiento de Pamplona, Gobierno de Navarra, Instituto Navarro del Deporte, Fundación Miguel Indurain, Universidad Pública de Navarra, INICO de la Universidad de Salamanca and many other partners.

Besides IMART 2025, MAGIC will include Mixed Ability sport

competitions in rowing, football, basketball, golf, kinball and a floor curl tournament supported by World Curling, as well as a series of educational conferences, presentations, clinics and open-mic sessions.

international conference named
'Identities and Representation
for an Inclusive Sporting Culture',
which will take place on June 27,
2025 in the Institute for Sport of
Navarre. This conference will bring
together academics, professionals,

The week will culminate with an

political leaders, clubs and sports organisations, as well as Sports Governing Bodies, to interact together with representatives from the disability, education, health and social care, civil society and the private sectors.





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"The synergy between sporting competitions, educational conferences and policy discussions offers a holistic approach to advancing inclusion and equality, both within the sport sector and in society at large. As such, this event aligns with UNESCO's wider mandate, and specially with our Fit for Life Global Sport Alliance, which seeks to create inclusive, equitable, and safe spaces for all in sport." **UNESCO** 

# FRINGE **FESTIVAL**

23-26 JUNE 2025

We are committed to harness the power of lived experience of all our champions and participants. Whether you are a delegate, a partner organisation, or an ally, we want to offer our platform to enable you to explain how your work contributes to creating a fairer and more equitable society.

During the MAGIC 2025 week, we are looking at organising a 'MAGIC Open Space' where the floor is yours and your voice is centre stage. No big stage or arena, just a tent or a room where likeminded people are keen to hear your story! This is an opportunity for participants, delegates and the wider society to know more about Mixed Ability, transfer learning, create meaningful connections and show how real inclusion works.

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These are some examples of activities that we are happy to support:

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY** SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMMES **RESEARCH-BASED PRESENTATIONS INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES** 





imas %

Strength

### **ACTIVITIES**

**COACHING WORKSHOPS** PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS SKILL-BASED WORKSHOPS **PARTICIPATORY GAMES** 





### FROM THE HEART

**PHOTO EXHIBITIONS FILM PREMIERES BOOK SIGNINGS** 





### **GET INVOLVED**

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD. CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE







## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### 'IDENTITIES AND REPRESENTATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE SPORTING CULTURE'

The culmination of the week will be the international conference "Identities and Representation for an Inclusive Sporting Culture", which will take place on Friday, June 27th, 2025. This conference will bring together academics, practitioners, policy makers, sport clubs and organisations, as well as national governing bodies to interact with representatives from the disability, advocacy, healthcare, civil society and private sector.

The event represents an unmissable opportunity to present and discuss the relevance of Mixed Ability for sport and other sectors, the latest research, share good practices and enable effective dialogue between different areas of society that cooperate with the same commitment to achieve full social

inclusion. We expect to host representatives from the European Commission, the Ministery of Inclusion of the Government of Spain as well as from the Spanish UNESCO delegation.

Other organizations represented will be the Government of Navarre, the City Council of Pamplona, the University of Salamanca, the Pontifical University of Salamanca, the Centres for Active Education of Italy and France (CEMEAs), the Miguel Induráin Foundation, the Flutter Foundation, World Rugby, World Rowing, World Curling, the European Olympic Committee, the ILO Educational Centre of the UN from Turin, and delegates from sports clubs participating in the event.



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# **ITINERARY** JUNE 2025\*

#### **SUNDAY 22ND**

Teams and delegations arrival Opening ceremony (7pm)

#### **MONDAY 23RD**

IMART 2025 Pool matches (10am-7pm)
MAGIC 2025 'Fringe' events and activities (11am-5pm)
Social events

#### **TUESDAY 24TH**

IMART 2025 Pool matches (10am-6pm) Mixed Ability Basketball Tournament (10am-8pm) MAGIC 2025 'Fringe' events and activities (11am-5pm) Social events

#### **WEDNESDAY 25TH**

IMART 2025 Quarter-finals (10am-7pm)
Mixed Ability Football Tournament (3-8pm)
MAGIC 2025 'Fringe' events and activities (11am-5pm)
Mixed Ability Rowing practice (Orio 3-8pm)

#### **THURSDAY 26TH**

IMART 2025 Semi-finals (10am-2pm)
Mixed Ability Rowing Regatta (3-8pm)
Mixed Ability multi-sport activities (Golf, Kin-ball, Goalball)
Mixed Ability Floor Curling Tournament (10am-5pm)
Social events

#### **FRIDAY 27TH**

'Identities and Representation for an Inclusive Sporting Culture' International conference (10am-1pm) IMART 2025 Men's and Women's Finals (3-7pm) Award Ceremony and Closing Party



### HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THIS EVENT

- **Sponsorship**
- **Fundraising**
- **Volunteering**
- **Promotion**

For more information, please contact us!











<sup>\*</sup>Times and activities are subject to changes.







# 1,400 PARTICIPANTS WITH AND WITHOUT LEARNING

WITH AND WITHOUT LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.

### 32 MIXED RUGBY

TEAMS - 8 WOMEN'S AND 24 MEN'S.

### 9 MIXED SPORTS

MIXED ABILITY RUGBY, ROWING, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, GOLF, FLOOR CURL, KINBALL, HANDBALL, GOALBALL.

### **24 NATIONS**

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, CHILE, ECUADOR, ENGLAND, FRANCE, GREECE, IRELAND, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SERBIA, SCOTLAND, SPAIN, TURKEY, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED STATES, URUGUAY, WALES.

### 1 WEEK OF INCLUSIVE EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 'FRINGE' PROGRAMME, CO-PRODUCED WORKSHOPS, EXHIBITIONS AND SOCIAL EVENTS.









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