

RAINBOW LACES 2024

TOOLKIT FOR CLUBS AND LEAGUES

29 JUNE – 7 JULY 2024



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INTRODUCTION

Rainbow Laces is an annual event in the cricketing calendar that invites players, officials, fans, employees and volunteers to celebrate inclusion with the UK's LGBTQ+ community.

Started by the charity Stonewall in 2013, it began with asking players to lace their boots with rainbow-coloured laces to heighten LGBTQ+ awareness, and has since grown into an annual national event across many sports.

In cricket, it is taking place from Saturday 29 June to Sunday 7 July 2024. A number of elite games are taking place across the week, including England Women against New Zealand at New Road on Sunday 30 June.

But it's not just about the elite games. We want every club to have an opportunity to celebrate. This toolkit includes a number of ways for clubs to get involved, from sharing content on social media, to hosting your own Rainbow Laces match. We hope you'll join us!



**RAISING
THE
GAME**

KEY DATES

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN CRICKET MARCH AT PRIDE IN LONDON

SUNDAY 30 JUNE

ENGLAND WOMEN VS NEW ZEALAND WOMEN, NEW ROAD

FRIDAY 5 JULY

SURREY CCC v MIDDLESEX CCC, THE KIA OVAL

FRIDAY 5 JULY

YORKSHIRE VIKINGS v BIRMINGHAM BEARS, HEADINGLEY

AT A GLANCE: CHECKLIST

Whether you are a county board, a first-class county, a local club, or friend of the game, our toolkit suggests many ways you can get involved.

- Show your support on social media
- Reach out to your local LGBTQ+ community
- Host your own Rainbow Laces match and give rainbow laces to your playing squads
- Share photos/videos of your Rainbow Laces match with the ECB
- Hold an LGBTQ+ educational event for your players and supporters
- Fundraise for Stonewall by holding events

EDUCATION: HOW YOUR CLUB CAN BE MORE LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY

GIVE THE SAME WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

- The welcome to the club should be judgement-free. Regardless of playing ability, the focus should be on what the club can do to ensure everyone feels a valued part of the club's community and ultimately enjoys playing the game with likeminded individuals.
- When joining a club, that first moment of interaction can be daunting. Make sure they have a named person to contact and commit to meeting them at their first training session or social event to introduce them to others.

THINK ABOUT YOUR CHANGING FACILITIES

- Many clubs provide separate facilities for women and girls, but have you also given space to trans and non-binary members? They may not need them, but having different options allows them to choose. If you are unsure what someone wants don't be afraid to ask an individual what would make them most comfortable.



RUN ADULT TASTER SESSIONS

- If possible, run taster sessions for adults as well as juniors. A large proportion of LGBTQ+ community members come to cricket later in life so turning up to an adult training session can be an intimidating experience. A taster session can provide a reassuring glimpse into the culture and environment of the club. Try and have mixed friendly teams. This takes the pressure off everyone, especially those new to the sport.

USE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

- The use of language is important both on external club websites and social media as well as within the club itself. Be clear about the club's LGBTQ+ inclusion commitment and educate all members on how they can play a role in fostering a welcoming environment. Talking to club members about discrimination and inclusion is essential, especially for captains and coaches at all levels. Share copies of the ECB's [Inclusive Language Guide](#) with all of your club members.

These tips were provided by Leo Skyner chairperson of [Graces Cricket Club](#), and Lachlan Smith, chairperson of [Birmingham Unicorns Cricket Club](#), two cricket clubs founded by the LGBTQ+ community for the LGBTQ+ community.



RAINBOW LACES: EXPLAINED

This year, the ECB has supported clubs by giving them the opportunity to receive a mixed set of laces. Here's what the different colours mean.



ACE LACES: Ace is a term to describe a variation in levels of romantic and/or sexual attraction, including a lack of attraction



NON-BINARY LACES: Non-binary is a term for people whose gender identity doesn't sit comfortably with 'man' or 'woman'



BI LACES: Bi is a term to describe a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender



PAN LACES: Pan refers to a person whose romantic or sexual orientation towards others is not limited by sex or gender



LESBIAN LACES: Lesbian refers to a woman who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women.



RAINBOW LACES: Representing the entire LGBTQ+ community



MEN LOVING MEN (MLM) LACES: MLM describes anyone who identifies as a man and is attracted to men.



TRANS LACES: Trans is a term to describe people whose gender is not the same as the sex they were assigned at birth

GET INVOLVED: SOCIAL MEDIA

A selection of pre-made and editable social media graphics are available on the [ECB Resource Hub](#) for you to use on your own channels during Rainbow Laces (PSD files available).

INSTAGRAM STORY



INSTAGRAM GRID



TWITTER/FACEBOOK



Stonewall can also provide materials, infographics, and Rainbow Laces logos that cricket clubs are welcome to use. To request materials contact: sport@stonewall.org.uk

REPORTING DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination of any kind is unacceptable. If you experience or witness discrimination at any level of cricket in England and Wales, we want to hear from you. Whatever discrimination you are aware of or have witnessed, your report will be assessed by the Cricket Regulator. Reporting discrimination helps to ensure cricket is a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse game for everyone.

HOW TO REPORT DISCRIMINATION

You can choose whether to report discrimination anonymously or alongside your name and contact details. Only by working together with players, spectators, coaches, officials, and clubs can we make the progress cricket deserves.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MAKE A REPORT?

The ECB encourages the reporting of all discrimination, which will then be assessed by the Cricket Regulator in order to determine the best course of action.

[CLICK TO SUBMIT A REPORT](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

EDI CONTENT HUB

Our dedicated EDI platform with videos and resources sharing stories and guidance across various themes, including the LGBTQ+ community.

[LINK](#)

ECB BLOG

Check out our blog where we share news and first-person accounts from across the cricket network

[LINK](#)

RAISING THE GAME BULLETIN

If not already, sign up to our monthly bulletin where we share news, events and resources across a wide range of topics. Email raisingthegame@ecb.co.uk to join the mailing list

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN CRICKET EMPLOYEE NETWORK

If you want to hear more about the work of the network or are keen to get involved, find out more [here](#) or send an email to lgbtq@ecb.co.uk

LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH GAME LIVE

Watch back our February 2024 Game Live session with people from across the cricket network

[LINK](#)

INTERVIEWS

There have been a number of cricketers speaking on the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the game. Check out some examples:

- Katherine and Nat Sciver-Brunt on Cbeebies [here](#)
- Jess Grimson and Maia Bouchier's story [here](#)
 - Georgia Adams' story [here](#)
 - LGBTQ+ success in cricket [here](#)
- Cricket on the LGBT Sport podcast [here](#).



GET IN TOUCH

For any further information please contact:

raisingthegame@ecb.co.uk

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THANK YOU



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LGBTQ+ 
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