

**IBSA**  
World Games  
Birmingham  
**2023**

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# Official Spectator Guide 2023



A VISIBLE DIFFERENCE THROUGH SPORT



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# Welcome



On behalf of British Blind Sport, Birmingham City Council, University of Birmingham, UK Sport, and MLS Contracts Ltd, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 IBSA World Games.

Whilst Birmingham is the major centre for the Games, we are delighted to have the support of Coventry (Goalball) and University of Wolverhampton (Walsall Campus) for Partially Sighted Football. Together, the partners aim to deliver a world class and successful World Games, providing the very best environment for the athletes in which to compete.

We are honoured to have been entrusted with this responsibility by the International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA) and we will endeavour to repay the trust placed in us. Staged every four years, the World Games are the pinnacle of the international calendar for eight of the sports in the programme as well as being one of the qualification events for athletes aspiring to compete in three sports at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Birmingham is a global city that needs no introduction. As the host of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, the city put on a great festival of sport. In hosting the IBSA World Games, Birmingham and the West Midlands will again aim to show that it can provide the best possible stage for the world's best blind and partially sighted athletes to showcase their talents.

We hope that all spectators will be impressed by these amazing athletes, and hopefully will inspire you to take up an activity or support blind and partially sighted sports in the future.

Sallie Barker MBE, Chair British Blind Sport

# What You Need to Know

## A UK First

This is the country's largest ever blind and partially sighted sporting event with over 1100 athletes, nearly 800 sports technical officials, and 400 volunteers coming together to compete in 10 sports. The Games are normally held every four years, and is a relatively modern project for IBSA, and these Games in the West Midlands includes both IBSA official sports and an expansion into non-IBSA sports, such as cricket and tennis.

IBSA (The International Blind Sports Association/Federation), is a body that works to represent blind sport globally and three of its sports, Judo, Goalball and Blind Football (men only), are in the Paralympic Games. Therefore, nations competing in these Games in these three sports, can qualify through to Paris 2024 by winning their respective tournaments.

## The Games Stakeholders

The Stakeholders are the organisations that came together to Bid to stage the Games, and through significant efforts, have pulled together a multi-sport Games, which is the largest to date in the world. The Host Federation is British Blind Sport, supported by UK Sport and the National Lottery, bolstered by the expertise and support of the University of Birmingham, Birmingham City Council, Sport Birmingham, and MLS Contracts Ltd., who are the appointed Event Management Company.

## What You Need to Know (Continued)

### Games Venues – Take a Walk

The area of Edgbaston in Birmingham, which includes the University campus and King Edward's School, provides a walkable zone for many of the Games sports, though Ten Pin Bowling and Tennis are at nearby facilities in Birmingham. The map on the back page of the Guide provides you with directions and postcodes for all our venues.

Because of the scale of the Games, we are pleased to involve our neighbouring cities and institutions, including Aston University for Athlete Classification, University of Wolverhampton (Walsall Campus), for the Partially Sighted Football Tournament, and Coventry Building Society Indoor Arena, Coventry for Goalball. University of Warwick will host all 350 Goalball competitors and officials to minimize travel and create a mini-Games village.

### Live streaming of the Games

The official Games livestreams can be viewed at IBSA's official youtube channel or go to the IBSA website [www.ibsasport.org](http://www.ibsasport.org)

Sports that will be livestreamed with live commentary include Judo, Goalball, Blind Football and partially Sighted Football, and other sports may follow. In addition, Channel 4 will also live stream to their youtube channel.

### Commentary at the Games

We welcome everyone to enjoy the IBSA World Games. If you are coming to spectate Games, we will have a live sports presenter at ticketed sporting events. The sports presenter will make introductions, announce teams and will commentate on key elements of the sport unfolding in front of you.

This will not be a running commentary of what is continually happening, as blind and partially sighted athletes need to play in relative silence, as they are often listening to the sound of the ball (if a ball is involved) and their team mates/coaches for instruction and guidance in the field of play. Therefore commentary happens when there are breaks in play.

We hope that for blind and partially sighted spectators, this system can

help everyone have an understanding of each match and competition and how each sport is being played.

In addition, the sports of Judo, Football and Goalball are being live streamed to the IBSA YouTube Channel which will have live audio commentary. You could access this via your phone whilst watching the sport live. Please note, if using this service, there will likely be a time delay in receiving the stream, which can be up to 30 seconds.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide audio description ear sets at the IBSA World Games as the facilities are not available at the majority of venues, however we hope these measures we have put in place will provide spectators with an enjoyable experience.

### Classification of Athletes

All athletes in the Games have a classification, which provides an analysis of an athlete's ability to see and for each sport, there is a range of classification between B1 (total blind) to B4 (partially sighted), but not all are the same in every sport. However, as with all Para Sports, the classification process is to ensure parity amongst competitors within each sport and within each category. In some sports, such as Goalball, you'll see athletes wearing goggles so that any light is also excluded.



# Competition Schedule & Ticketing



## Competition Schedules

The Games competition schedule can be found by going to [www.ibsagames.co.uk](http://www.ibsagames.co.uk)

As schedules can change, it's best to check a couple of days before to see the detailed breakdowns of competitions, and in some sports, the draws for individual sports can be done the day before. If you're specifically wanting to follow an athlete, then check the IBSA website.

Start and Finish times are listed in the guide with each sport.

## Ticketed Events – How to buy your ticket

Games tickets are available from the on-line platform See Tickets.

Search for Sport and type in International Blind Sports Federation Games.

Please note whilst you can purchase tickets on the day at your venue, subject to availability, all tickets will need to be purchased via the See Tickets website. Cash or card payments cannot be taken for tickets on the day by our staff or volunteers. The Games ticketed events comprise Blind Football, Partially Sighted Football, Goalball and Judo.

All tickets provide you with an unreserved seat, and they are "all-day tickets". Within the seating area, you will find other accredited athletes and volunteers, who will also have access to seating by means of their accreditation pass.

## Non-ticketed events – How you can spectate

Many sports, including Archery, Chess, Showdown, Ten Pin Bowling, Powerlifting, Tennis and Cricket, are free to watch for spectators, subject to space and availability. We are keen to encourage people to witness these sports and potentially promote them to friends with sight loss, or to sporting clubs who do not include blind and partially sighted athletes. There is no mechanism for reserving areas at these events, and please note that many sports will not have seating but will have a designated space for you to witness the sport. (e.g. cricket – grass areas great for bring your own picnics.)

Please show consideration for competitors in the venues where noise can be distracting, and please respect the officials and volunteer requests to not encroach the field of play or remain quiet whilst athletes are performing. Please use the rubbish bins provided.

## Edgbaston Cricket Stadium – Cricket Finals

The women's and men's cricket finals on Saturday 26th August have up to 2000 tickets available for spectators, and these can be accessed using the following link: [tickets.edgbaston.com/selection/event/date?productId=10228663194717&gtmStepTracking=true](https://tickets.edgbaston.com/selection/event/date?productId=10228663194717&gtmStepTracking=true)

## Opening and Closing Ceremonies

These events are not open to the public.



Image of the Edgbaston Cricket Stadium  
Image credit: edgbaston.com

## Facilities and Amenities

- All venues in the Games will have accessible toilets
- There is limited cover or protection when at outside venues at the Games, so be prepared for all weathers and if you need water, please bring a bottle with you.
- Food and Beverage

There are several locations on the main University of Birmingham campus that have food and drink outlets including:

Starbucks at Blind Football, Costa Coffee at Sport and Fitness (Judo), Starbucks at the Bramall Theatre Café (Sport Activation Zone), Staff House (Chess/Showdown), but no retail outlets at King Edward's School for cricket and powerlifting. Do bring your own snacks!

- Dog Pens for Your Guide Dog – Courtesy of Guide Dogs

We have created several spending pens around the University of Birmingham Campus for your guide dog, where they can safely get a drink and be let off the lead, whilst going about their business!



# Things to Watch Out For at the Games



## Games Merchandising

Official games merchandise can be purchased in advance by visiting: [www.fbteurope.com/ibsa-world-2023](http://www.fbteurope.com/ibsa-world-2023) and can then be collected at the Games outlets at the following locations and dates:

Mon 21st Aug  
Football at Bournbrook,  
University of Birmingham

Tues 22nd Aug  
Football at Bournbrook,  
University of Birmingham

Wed 23rd Aug  
The Activation Zone,  
Chancellors Court,  
University of Birmingham

Thurs 24th Aug  
Goalball at Coventry Building  
Society Indoor Arena, Coventry

Fri 25th Aug  
Judo at Sport and Fitness,  
University of Birmingham

## British Blind Sport Activation Zone – Come and Try a Sport

The Activation Zone will be open Mon 21st – Fri 25th August at Chancellor's Court, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.

The event will feature a fantastic line-up of sporting activity taster sessions for blind and partially sighted people of all ages and abilities to participate in and learn

more about the opportunities available to them in their local areas. In addition, family, and friends along with any spectator of the Games, can join in the fun to learn and appreciate how sport is adapted for people with sight loss. Confirmed activities include judo, tennis, blind football, goalball, archery and more.

For more information and future updates on the event, please visit: [www.britishblindsport.org.uk/activation-zone-at-the-ibsa-world-games/](http://www.britishblindsport.org.uk/activation-zone-at-the-ibsa-world-games/)

## Key Stands to Visit at the Bramall Theatre Café

Our lead sponsor, the RNIB will have a lively interactive stand at the Bramall Café from Monday 21st to Friday 25th August. Learn about all the things they do to support blind and partially sighted people in the UK.

Alongside the RNIB will be British Blind Sport, the host federation for these IBSA Games and the organisation that has the delivery and growth of sporting opportunities for blind and partially sighted people in the UK at heart and centre of their ethos.

The Bramall Theatre Café is located near the huge brick clock tower (you can't miss it) at the heart of the University of Birmingham Campus, next to the Activation Zone, in Chancellor's Court.

## See Sport Differently Stands

Around the campus and throughout the Games, a series of small pop-up stands will appear labeled "See Sport Differently". This project is a collaboration between the RNIB and British Blind Sport to encourage more blind and partially sighted people to become physically active. They'll be pleased to chat with you and hopefully guide you to a place where you can start or rekindle a more active lifestyle!

# A Quick Guide to the Sports

For the detailed daily schedules for each sport please check out the Games website as start times and lists can be subject to change, due to the nature of the competition:  
[www.ibsaworldgames2023.co.uk](http://www.ibsaworldgames2023.co.uk)





# ► Archery

## Schedule

24th 9:00 – 18:00

25th 10:00 – 15:00

**Thursday 24th and Friday  
25th August at the University  
of Birmingham Athletics  
Track.**

Visually impaired archers use tactile sights to touch the back of their hand to aim and can receive feedback from a spotter on where their arrow fell.

Depending on the extent of an archer's vision, some wear blindfolds or eye guards to level the playing field.

There are 24 competitors and GB will be represented.

On Sunday the 27th August the venue will also host the British Blind Sport Open Archery Championships.



## ► Chess

### Schedule

15:00 – 19:30

Every day of competition

**Sun 20th – Sat 26th August, in the Staff House Building, on the University of Birmingham Campus.**

Whilst there is no classification in chess. Adaptive boards have a hole in the centre of each square that the pieces fit into. They have raised and lowered squares so the player can

determine where they are on the board. Black playing pieces have a pin fixed on the top helping the player distinguish between white and black playing pieces. Each player announces out loud the move that they have made. There are 21 participants from 7 nations.



# ► Cricket

**Schedule** (Please Click)  
WBG Fixture Schedule 2023

**Saturday 19th – Sat 26th August and staged at the King Edwards School for Boys, (South Fields x 2 pitches & Eastern Road), plus Tally Ho West Midlands Police Conference, with the Men’s and Women’s Finals at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium on Saturday 26th.**

International Blind Cricket is based on the sighted laws of cricket, with a few notable adaptations. The ball is the same size as is used in sighted cricket but is made from hard plastic and contains bells to make it audible. The ball is bowled underarm.

Teams comprise of four B1 players, with the other seven split between B2 and B3.

Participating teams comprise: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Australia and England in the Men and in the Women: India, Australia and England.



Blind Football being played in Tokyo,  
Image credit: International Blind Sports Federation

# ► Football

## Schedule

[tournifyapp.com/live/ibsaworldcup/schedule](https://tournifyapp.com/live/ibsaworldcup/schedule)

**Split into two sports: Blind Football for those with a B1 classification and Partially Sighted Football for B2 and B3 classification players.**

**Blind Women's and Men's Football is played at Bournbrook, University of Birmingham, with the women competing from Monday 14th – Monday 21st August, and the Men Tuesday 15th to Friday 25th August. All three tournaments are official World Championships.**

Blind Football: Each team has 5 players including the goalkeeper on the pitch at any one time, outfield players wear eyeshades. A kickboard surrounds the smooth pitch to determine the boundary

and players use an audible ball. Partially Sighted Football: Played according to FIFA Futsal rules, with some adaptations, including playing with a ball that is contrasting in colour to the lines on the pitch. This will be a tournament just for the men comprising 7 teams and including England.

This will be the inaugural women's world football championships in Blind Football and there are 8 teams, whilst in the Men's competition there are 16 teams. England are fielding a team in both competitions.



# ► Goalball

## Schedule

[ibsa.org/ibsa-sport.org/goalball-schedules-for-the-ibsa-world-games/#content-section](https://ibsa.org/ibsa-sport.org/goalball-schedules-for-the-ibsa-world-games/#content-section)

**Staged at the Coventry Building Society Indoor Arena, Coventry, the competition dates are from Sunday 20th August to Sunday 27th August.**

3-a-side game played over two halves of 12 minutes on an indoor volleyball court without the central net and with goals at either end 9m long and 1.5m tall.

The attacking team fire the ball along the ground towards the opposing team's goal and the opposing team defend the goal using their bodies.

Players use an audible ball and the arena is silent during play to allow the players to hear the position of the ball.

Players wear eyeshades during play.

The Goalball competition comprises 13 women's teams and 14 men's teams, with the winner of each tournament having the right to qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games.



# ▶ Judo

## Schedule

23rd, 24th August,  
09:00 - 17:00  
25th August,  
10:00 - end of day

**A three-day competition from Wednesday 23rd August to Friday 25th August at the University of Birmingham includes both men's and women's competitors.**

VI Judo is very similar to the sighted version of the sport, with the main adaptations being to the start and restart of each match.

B1 athletes have a red circle sewn onto their sleeve so that the referee can identify they are blind. No penalties are awarded

to blind competitors if they step outside of the mat unless it is an intentional move.

The referee will indicate when a competitor is nearing the edge of the mat by calling out 'Jogai', helping them to navigate where the centre of the mat is. Judo has an amazing 258 competitors at the Games across both men and women's competitions, across a range of weight categories, and over three sight categories from B1 to B3. GB are strongly represented but so are China and Brazil.



# ► Powerlifting

## Schedule

23rd 10:00 – 19:00

24th 10:00 – 15:00

25th 10:00 – 16:00

**Wed 23rd – Friday 25th  
August at King Edward's  
School for Boys, Indoor  
Sports Centre.**

Distinct from Weightlifting, Powerlifting is comprised of three different types of lifts: the squat, the bench press and the deadlift.

Athletes are categorized by sex, age and bodyweight. Each competitor is allowed three attempts at a lift, with the best lift in each discipline being

added to their overall total. The lifter with the highest total in their category wins. In the event of a draw, the win will be awarded to the lightest competitor.

Powerlifting follows the same rules as the sighted version of the sport. This event has attracted 58 participants comprising men and women competing in a range of categories. Ukraine and Iran are strongly represented.



# ► Showdown

## Schedule

<https://gameresultsonline.com/ibsa-world-games-2023/ibsa-world-games-2023>

**Wednesday 23rd August to Friday 25th August at the University of Birmingham, Learning Centre, Edgbaston Campus.**

The game is played on a specifically designed table by two players from opposing sides using flat, paddle-type bats. The aim of the game is to bat the ball off the side wall, along

the table, under the centre screen, and into the opponent's goal. The first player to reach eleven points, leading by two or more points, is the winner. Players use an audible ball. Whilst not a sport played in the UK, Showdown is popular in Europe and beyond, and circa 60 competitors from 15 nations will compete, with athletes from GB making their international debut.





## ► Tennis

### Schedule

23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th 09:00 – 18:00

27th 09:00 – 15:30

**Tuesday 22nd August to  
Sunday 27th August staged at  
the Billesley Tennis Centre  
and the adjoining Swanshurst  
School, in Birmingham.**

The format of the game is different to non-VI tennis, it is played on a smaller court with a lower net. Players with a B1 classification will have tactile court lines and will wear eye patches and mask.

Different classifications will allow different number of bounces of a ball before a return is made. Players use an audible yellow ball.

Tennis is growing in popularity amongst blind and partially sighted people, and circa 68 competitors from 12 nations will descend on Birmingham, with strong British entries.

# ► Tenpin Bowling

## Schedule

Tues 22nd 09:15 – 15:45

Wed 23rd 09:15 – 15:45

Thurs 24th 09:40 – 15:00

Friday 25th 09:15 – 15:45



**Tuesday 22nd August to Friday 25th August staged at Hollywood Bowl Broadway Plaza, Birmingham.**

Blind and visually impaired athletes can compete in bowling through one of two adaptive methods: sighted guidance or a guide rail.

Sighted Guidance: When using the sighted guidance method, a sighted assistant aligns the blind bowler on the approach before the delivery.

The bowler is aligned on the spot from which they wish to execute the delivery.

Using a Guide Rail: Guide rails can help with both approach and delivery. These lightweight tubular metal rails help guide competitors straight toward the pins.

The event has attracted 28 male and 16 female athletes from 12 nations.

# Travelling to the Games



**Edgbaston Campus Address**  
**University of Birmingham**  
**Edgbaston**  
**Birmingham**  
**B15 2TT**

## By rail to the University of Birmingham

Most cross-country services to Birmingham arrive at New Street Station. Up to six trains an hour departs for the University on the cross-city line (ten minutes to university station, final destination Longbridge or Redditch).

The centre of the main campus is a five-minute walk from University Station, where the Activation Zone, Chess and Showdown can be found. It is a circa 10 minute walk from the station to the football and

judo venues, and 15 minutes to the Powerlifting and Cricket at King Edward's School.

Both West Midlands Rail and Cross-Country Rail, along with the entire rail network in the West Midlands are aware that a higher than average number of blind and partially sighted people may be using the rail network over the two weeks of the Games. Whilst they have geared up, please ensure when booking your ticket to still book assistance required, so rail staff are alerted.

## By bus to Edgbaston Campus, Birmingham

Numbers X61 and 63 travel from the Bus Mall, Moor Street Queensway, and from New Street Station, St Martin's Queensway, to the Bristol Road, at the corner of Edgbaston

Park Road. This is the Sport and Fitness centre at the University and is convenient for Judo, Football, and a short walk to Powerlifting and Cricket, at the adjacent King Edward's School. The services run frequently from the city centre. Online bus timetables for X61 and 63 are available on the National Express West Midlands website. You can also access Network West Midlands' Live Travel Map for current rail and bus information.

## By Bike to Edgbaston and the University of Birmingham

Surrounded by the suburbs of Selly Oak, Edgbaston and Harborne, the campus is easily accessible by bicycle or on foot from any of these locations and as part of our commitment to sustainable living, we encourage the use of local cycle routes.

The canal which runs next to the University of Birmingham is known as the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

The new A38 cycle route is now open offering a safe, segregated route from the city centre right to the gates of the University.

For further details on cycling on the canal towpaths visit our Bicycle Users Group website.

## By Car to the University of Birmingham - Visitor Car Parking - Sat Nav Postcode B15 2SA.

When arriving by the A38, Bristol Road South, visitors to campus are requested to park in the spectator pay and display car park which is designated as the Northeast Multi Storey (access via Pritchatts Road). Payment for car parking is by cash via machines on Floors 1-5 or by the RingGo mobile app, location code is 15677 and the link is: [myringgo.co.uk/register](https://myringgo.co.uk/register)

Charges are applicable 8am – 6pm Mon-Friday, there are no charges at the weekend.

Up to 1 hour £2.50  
1-3 hours £4.00  
3-5 hours £5.50  
5-8 hours £6.20  
Up to 10 hours £7.00

Traveling to the Games (Continued)

## Travelling to Coventry Building Society Indoor Arena, Coventry for Goalball

### By Car

CBS Arena has ample car parking space and Car Park A is designated for Goalball spectators and charges will apply. Note these charges are dynamic depending on the events that are being staged at the arena.

### By Rail

The CBS arena has a rail stop which links with Coventry Central Station and the journey time is about 10 minutes.

## Travelling to University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus for partially Sighted Football

Free parking is available on the Walsall Campus which can be accessed via the University entrance on Broadway.

### NaviLens at Wolverhampton bus station

If you are travelling to any of the games' events from Wolverhampton, you can make use of the wayfinding app NaviLens, which is being trialled at Wolverhampton bus station.

The app gives you access to live travel information and navigation instructions, all you have to do is scan the smart codes that have been placed throughout the station. The colourful codes are detected automatically from long distances and work in all light conditions.

Each code contains information such as how to access and use facilities at the station, and real-time departure information for every bay and bus service. Once a code has been scanned, the relevant details will be read aloud or presented on your phone.

The app can be downloaded on iOS or Android and is completely free of charge. More information on the app is available on the [Transport for West Midlands website](#), where you can also leave feedback.

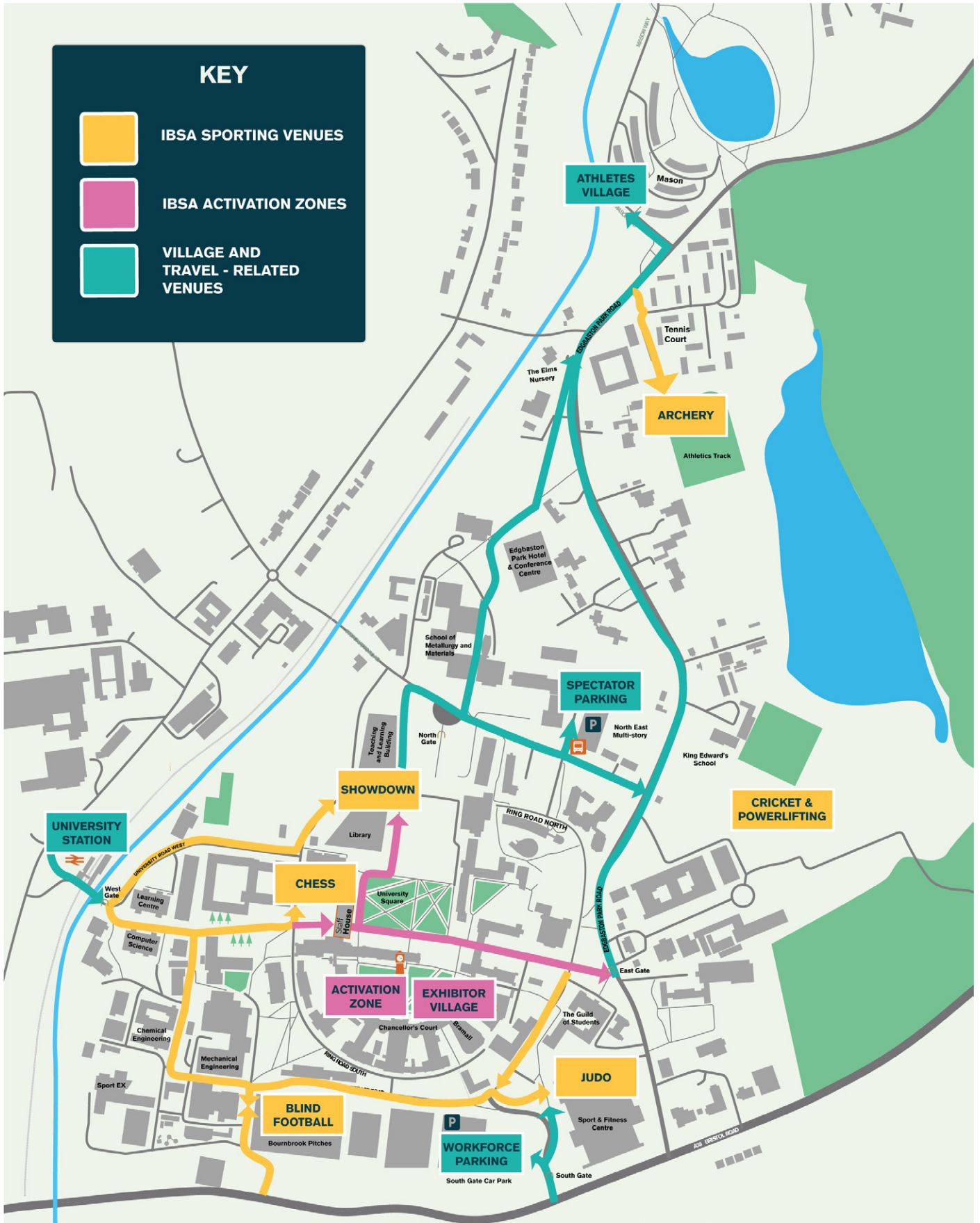
[Download on iOS](#)

[Download on Google Play](#)

You can also access information through the NaviLens GO app, which provides more visual information for passengers who have low vision or are fully sighted, enabling anyone to access the same information.

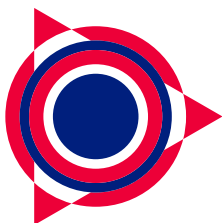


Image of Wolverhampton Bus Station sign



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