

John Slavin Award 2026 BAFANL Season

BAFRA gives the John Slavin Award in even-numbered years to the team with the best marked field. This includes correct field dimensions, correct line and other markings, correct size goal posts, correct positioning of pylons and the condition of the field surface. The title is awarded to the team that has come out best in an audit carried out by BAFRA members at each game. A perfect facility scores 0.

The award is named after John Slavin. John was a long-serving BAFRA official and sometime director of the Association who sadly died in October 2005. In his memory, BAFRA has dedicated an award made to a team that shows commitment to improving the game experience for players and fans, as well as officials.

The top-performing teams in the BAFANL Senior Season 2026 were as follows:

Colchester Gladiators	2.3	Overall winners and Division 1 winners
Ipswich Cardinals	3.0	Division 2 winners
Wembley Stallions	4.5	Premier Division winners
Somerset Wyverns	13.2	
Staffordshire Surge	15.2	
Plymouth Vanguard	23.2	
Bristol Aztecs	24.6	
Northants Knights	28.3	
Lincolnshire Bombers	30.0	
Cornwall Monarchs	33.5	
Wakefield District Raiders	36.0	
London Blitz	38.8	
Norwich Devils	39.3	
Sussex Thunder	40.3	
Doncaster Mustangs	42.8	

The average for the Premier Division was 64.38, for Division One 75.00 and for Division Two 50.26. The overall average for BAFANL Senior teams was 65.72. Teams are to be congratulated, as, all of these scores better than the last time this criterion was used in 2024, in the case of the Premier and Division 2, (and therefore the overall average), substantially so .

The top-performing teams in the BAFANL Junior 9-a-side Season 2026 were as follows:

Ipswich Cardinals	4.0	Junior winners
Birmingham Lions Academy	37.0	
Edinburgh Napier Knights	42.0	
Manchester Titans	42.0	
Nottingham Caesars	44.0	
Solent Seahawks	44.0	
Kent Exiles	45.0	
Highland Wildcats	67.3	

The overall average amongst all BAFANL Junior teams was 71.92 which is which is, again, a significant improvement on the 2024 average.

This year, for the second time, an award has been given for the 9-a-side women's league. The top three performing teams were:

Manchester Titans	48.7	NWFL winners
Solent Thrashers	64.0	
Teesside Steelers	69.5	

The overall average for this league was 87.08 which was virtually unchanged on the the 2024 average.