



~Building an Inclusive Society~

**Santen Decides to Offer Special Sponsorship for Continued Activities of
Men's and Women's National Blind Football Teams**

Osaka and Tokyo, Japan (September 10, 2020) - Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (headquartered in Osaka City; hereinafter, "Santen") and the Japan Blind Football Association (headquartered in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter, "JBFA") have reached an agreement on Santen's special sponsorship for JBFA, aimed at maintaining blind football activities under the protracted impact of COVID-19.

Empathizing with the vision and mission of JBFA, Santen signed a partnership agreement with JBFA in March 2017. Since then, as we strive to establish an inclusive society, in which all people can live in harmony irrespective of any visual impairments, we have supported the initiatives that internationally promote sports for the vision impaired through sponsoring both men's and women's national teams for blind football and offering sporting opportunities to children with vision impairments. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, many international events have been forced into postponement or cancellation, which, in turn, has affected those initiatives. Japan national teams for blind football suspended its activities in March 2020, and resumed practice in June, enforcing strict infection-prevention measures. Yet, there are calls for more actions to ensure the safety of athletes.

In view of the given situation, Santen has decided to offer special sponsorship to help JBFA continue its activities. JBFA will allocate sponsorship fund to pay for COVID-19 tests for the members of Japan national teams and their support members. It will also adopt even more stringent safety measures to reinforce and maintain its operations, especially the activities of the national teams.

As Santen celebrates 130th anniversary this year, we have drawn up a new long-term vision and set three long-term strategies for actualizing our "WORLD VISION – Happiness with Vision¹," which is the ideal world Santen aims for. Partnership with JBFA is positioned as an important action for "Inclusion," which is one of these three strategies. By facilitating international proliferation of blind sports and offering opportunities to experience these sports to as many people as possible, we strive to establish an inclusive society.

JBFA is a central sporting organization that manages blind football and low-vision futsal. Its activities include spreading and strengthening these sports, and using the sports' characteristics to provide a diversity education program for sighted people. Under the vision of building a society, through blind

football, where it is nothing special that people with and without visual impairments mix with each other, JBFA strives to help those involved in blind football, with or without vision impairments, live with a sense of fulfillment.

With a shared goal of creating an inclusive society, Santen and JBFA will work together to overcome the current hardship posed by COVID-19, and maintain partnership from the mid- to long-term perspectives to promote a variety of initiatives through blind sports.

1. World in which people enjoy enriched and happy experiences thanks to eye care and “vision,” thus leading a happy life

About Santen

As a specialized company dedicated to ophthalmology, Santen carries out research, development, marketing, and sales of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter products, and medical devices. Santen is the market leader for prescription ophthalmic pharmaceuticals in Japan and its products now reach patients in over 60 countries. With scientific knowledge and organizational capabilities nurtured over a 130-year history, Santen provides products and services to contribute to the well-being of patients, their loved ones and consequently to society. For more information, please visit Santen’s website (www.santen.com).

About Japan Blind Football Association (JBFA)

JBFA is a central sporting organization that manages blind football and low-vision futsal, operating under the vision of “building a society, through blind football, where it is nothing special that people with and without visual impairments mix with each other.” Its activities include spreading and strengthening blind sports, and using the sports’ characteristics to provide a diversity education program for sighted people. JBFA was a winner of the 2018 Asahi Sport Prize. See the JBFA website for details (<http://www.b-soccer.jp>).

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