**Bend it Like Beckham**

[**Bend It Like Beckham**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bend_It_Like_Beckham) is a [2002 British film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_in_film) about two young London women from different backgrounds who share an aptitude for football (soccer) and pressure from their families to conform.

Jesminder "Jess" Bhamra ([Parminder Nagra](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0619406/)) is the 18-year-old daughter of Punjabi Sikhs (from India) living in London. Juliette "Jules" Paxton ([Keira Knightley](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0461136/)) is the same age, and the daughter of a (white) English family. Jess loves football but because she's a woman, her family won't let her play. However, she sometimes plays in the park with her friend Tony and some other boys. Jules discovers Jess’s skills whilst on a jog through the park. She befriends Jess and invites her to try out for the local women's football team, the Hounslow Harriers coached by Joe. Jess is extremely happy and excited about the try-outs. After seeing Jess’s skills, Joe accepts her on the team. Jess lies to Joe about her parents allowing her to play.

Jess falls in love with Joe and, when the team go out clubbing, they're caught about to kiss by Jules (who also had a crush on Joe). This spoils Jess’s and Jules’s friendship. When Jess arrives at Jules’s house to patch up their friendship, Mrs. Paxton is misled and thinks they're hiding a lesbian relationship.

Jess’s parents find out that Jess has been playing football behind their backs; they become stricter and prevent Jess from playing any more matches. But they are busy making wedding plans for Jess’s older sister, Pinky. When Jess tells her best friend Tony that she is not allowed to play he reveals a secret: he is homosexual.

Thanks to Jess’s and Jules’s skills, the Harriers reach the finals of the league tournament. Unfortunately, the final and the wedding are on the same day. Joe pleads with Mr. Bhamra to allow Jess to play but he refuses because he was once thrown out of a cricket club because of his race. Joe accepts that Jess isn't allowed to play and the final begins without her. Halfway through Pinky's wedding, Tony convinces Mr. Bhamra to let Jess go. He agrees and Tony drives Jess to the game where the Harriers are losing 1-0 with half an hour left.

Jess and Jules tie the score, and when Jess is awarded a free kick, she must “bend” the ball around the wall of players to score. Jess succeeds and the Harriers win the tournament. Jess and Jules are offered football scholarships to study at Santa Clara University in California.

Jess hasn't told her parents about the scholarship. Tony decides to lie to the family and tells them he's engaged to Jess as long as she gets to go to any college she wants. Jess reveals the lie. Mr. Bhamra convinces Mrs. Bhamra that Jess should go to college, after telling his wife that he doesn't want Jess to be unhappy.

On the day of Jess’s and Jules’s flight, the two are about to board the plane when Joe arrives and confesses his love for Jess. The two kiss.