



**Northern
Mariana Islands
Football Association**

11th Ordinary Congress

ACTIVITY REPORT

FOREWORD BY THE NMIFA GENERAL SECRETARY

I am honored to present the association's Activity Report to the 11th NMIFA Ordinary Congress. It has been a busy and successful year notwithstanding the CNMI's continued diligence in observing the Covid -19 health protocols.

During its 30th Ordinary Congress on December 9, 2020, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) accepted NMIFA as its 47th ordinary member. It was an arduous process, finally accomplished on NMIFA's 15th year. And to quote NMIFA President Jerry Tan – *"We would like to thank the AFC family for the trust and support. This milestone was a community effort. Players, coaches, parents, volunteers, game officials, the private sector, and our program sponsors, the CNMI government, and our supportive community are all behind us and have done their part in our mission to develop soccer in our islands and our bid to become an ordinary member of the Asian Football Confederation."*

We started 2021 NMIFA on a high note. The training center's mini pitch reconstruction was completed by the end of 2020 and it is now integral to our youth development programs especially with the unavailability of most school fields. Entry to school campuses are still restricted by health protocols or by ongoing renovations.

The National Team (NT) Programs under our Technical Director and national team coaches have been running year-round since the Covid-19 Task Force allowed the resumption of national team training in June 2020. Scheduled international competitions were cancelled or postponed in 2021 due to the health risks from the pandemic. Fortunately, Guam lifted the quarantine requirements for vaccinated individuals in July 2020. That allowed the Women's NT and the U18 Boys' NT to have training camps on Guam. The Guam Football Association (GFA) hosted the two teams from July 19 to 23 and July 26 to 30, respectively. Mental skills training sessions conducted by a sports psychologist has also been included in the national team program.

Although it had a later start in the year, the Youth Program was able to have two full seasons, Summer and Fall. The Youth Summer League started on June 26 with 43 teams in the different divisions and that number increased to 53 in the Fall Season that started on September 25. In addition to the Youth Leagues, the Youth Programs for the schools also continued in 2021. The Interscholastic Soccer League (ISL) for elementary students had eight teams for the Spring Season held in April. Also conducted in April and March was the P.E. Support Program for 1st to 3rd Graders at the elementary level.

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In August 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding between PSS and NMIFA was signed to formalize the roles of each entity within the organized school soccer leagues and tournaments. In the same month, NMIFA arranged the donation of full set of soccer uniforms to all CNMI public schools. The uniform funding came mainly from the JFA Youth Development Grant and another donor. With improved coordination between PSS and NMIFA, and with available uniforms, the ISL Fall Season was able to start on the second week of September with two divisions: the Elementary CoEd Division (4th & 5th graders) and the Middle School Boys Division (6th, 7th, & 8th Graders).

The Men's Program was able to start its Spring Season League late February. This year's Men's League Spring Season had the highest number of teams since the league started with a total of 14 teams, eight (8) in Division A and six (6) in Division B. This year also marked the first ever Men's Summer League. It started in July, just over a month after the Spring season. Before the date of the 11th Congress, the Men's League Fall Season, the third for this year, should already be in progress.

The Women's Program was also able to start its Spring Season League late February. And just like the men, this year also marked the first ever Women's Summer League. With lesser number of players compared to men, the Women's Committee has been working on the recruitment and on the proper classification of players. The objective of the latter is to create divisions for leagues or competitions where members of participating teams have the same level of skills. The Women's Committee have been consulting with ordinating key members of the Technical Committee for the continued development of the women's program.

The key personnel of our Technical Departments have continuously found the time and ways for development. Certification courses, refresher courses, workshops, assessments, and mentoring are being

regularly conducted for coaches and referees. This year, NMIFA adopted a Certification and Incentive Program for current and aspiring coaches. An application has also been sent to AFC to upgrade NMIFA's Coach Convention Level so NMIFA Coaching Instructors can conduct B License Courses.

NMIFA has a continued commitment to Social Responsibility in the CNMI. As an active participant in the GCEA-PPP Initiative, NMIFA, through the volunteer national team players, coaches, and office staff, have adopted the Koblerville Village for regular monthly clean-up and/or trash collection. With wide-spread unemployment due to the pandemic, NMIFA members have also been actively participating in fundraising programs for needy sectors of the community.

NMIFA is looking forward to the expansion of the NMI Soccer Training Center. On February 25, 2021, the CNMI government extended the lease of the training center property to 25 years and added another 20,000 square meters of land for facility expansion. The expansion can include another full-size pitch and another mini pitch which can alleviate the shortage of playing venues. The number of players of member clubs and those from schools have been increasing. That is evident from the number of teams now participating in NMIFA and school leagues. Our national team coaches can also attest that the availability of high-quality pitches significantly contributed to the quicker development of our grassroots players. The safer environment and the role models developed in our soccer programs also encouraged more families to try the sport.

In closing, the NMIFA Executive Committee and I would like to thank all the member clubs, their officers and members, and all the NMIFA officials and staff members for their hard work and untiring support to recruit, organize, and to continue the development of soccer in the CNMI.



Ross Zapanta

NMIFA General Secretary

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CAMPS

DATE	DIVISION	MATCH RESULTS			VENUE
7/19 – 7/23/2021	Women's NT	NMI	4	3	Guam
		NMI	0	4	Guam
7/19 – 7/23/2021	U18 Boys NT	NMI	3	3	Guam U20
		NMI	2	1	Guam U17



LOCAL FRIENDLIES

DATE	MATCH RESULTS			
6/27/2021	Women's NT	1	0	U15 Boys NT
6/27/2021	Men's NT	4	1	Men's All Star
8/28/2021	Women's NT	5	1	Women's All Star



The NMIFA has been regularly conducting this elite football program designed to train and prepare possible future national team players since early 2015 (NEA Program). The program was then revisited and reformatted in the early quarter of 2020 by the NMIFA technical staff. Thus, the NEA Program became the Junior National Academy Program. The establishment of the JNA program has substantially bridged the gap between soccer at the grassroots and national level as players are now being trained by NMI national team coaches at a localized venue, the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center, while being heavily supervised by NMIFA Technical Director and Head Coach, Coach Michiteru Mita in order to ensure proper training sessions:

DATE	SEASON	PARTICIPANTS	
2/04 – 6/03/21	Spring Class of 2021	Girls	14
		Boys	20
8/26 – 12/16/21 (Pt1)	Fall Class of 2021	Girls	13
		Boys	23



PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM (4/12 – 5/27/21)

The NMIFA dispatches local coaches to public /and private schools every school year to introduce the sport of football /and to encourage young students to participate in football activities outside of school jurisdiction:



SCHOOL	GRADE	STUDENTS
BRILLIANT STAR MONTESSORI	1 st – 3 rd	14
EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL	1 st	7
	2 nd	7
	3 rd	14
GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	1 st	13
	2 nd	12
	3 rd	13
SAIPAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1 st	12
	2 nd	8
	3 rd	12
KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1 st	65
	2 nd	48
	3 rd	60
TOTAL		285

INTERSCHOLASTIC SOCCER LEAGUE

The NMIFA organizes an annual Interscholastic Soccer League (ISL) for the elementary, middle, and high schools on the main island of the CNMI, Saipan. Aside from promoting the physical and mental well-being of young boys and girls, this league aims to introduce football to pre-teens and teens in an organized competition format:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION SY 2020-2021 (4/08 – 22/21)

Participating Teams:

- Koblerville Elem School 1 - Saipan Int'l School 1
- Koblerville Elem School 2 - Saipan Int'l School 2
- WSR Elem School - Saipan Community School
- Brilliant Star Montessori - Isla Montessori

CHAMPIONS: Koblerville Elementary School 2

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION SY 2021-2022 (9/08 – 29/21)

Participating Teams:

- Koblerville Elem School 1 & 2 - Saipan Community School
- WSR Elem School 1 & 2 - Kagman Elementary School
- San Vicente Elem School 1 & 2 - Saipan Community School
- Garapan Elem School 1 & 2 - Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Int'l School - Gregorio T. Camacho Elem
- Mount Carmel School - Grace Christian Academy
- Seventh Day Adventist

CHAMPIONS: ONGOING

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION SY 2021-2022 (9/14 – 10/08/21)

Participating Teams:

- Hopwood Middle School - Dan Dan Middle School
- Tanapag Middle School - Francisco M. Sablan MS
- Mount Carmel School - Saipan Community School
- Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School - Saipan Int'l School

CHAMPIONS: ONGOING



NMIFA/PSS ISL UNIFORM DONATIONS (8/30/21)

The NMIFA donated soccer uniform sets to nine elementary schools, five middle schools, and five high schools on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to further support the students' participation in the interscholastic sports program. NMIFA president Jerry Tan and general secretary Ross Zapanta presented the jersey, shorts, and socks to the representatives of the 19 schools. Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred A. Ada, associate commissioners Yvonne Pangelinan and Eric Magofna, and PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross joined the two NMIFA officials in the donation turnover ceremony at the NMI Soccer Training Center. NMIFA was able to avail of JFA's Youth Development Program grant and used the fund to purchase uniform sets and provide additional support to the NMIFA/PSS Interscholastic Soccer League.



AFC GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DAY 2021 (5/15/21)

NMIFA, together with 40 other Member Associations

Across Asia, celebrated the Long awaited return since The COVID 19 pandemic of the Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots Football Day. The exciting event saw a total of 181 youth players gathered at the NMI Soccer Training Center for an afternoon of football fun!



NMIFA YOUTH LEAGUE SUMMER 2021 (6/26 – 8/07/21)

<u>DIVISION:</u>	<u>TEAMS:</u>	<u>CHAMPIONS:</u>
Under 6	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 8	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 10	- 8 Teams	- N/A
Under 12B	- 5 Teams	- N/A
Under 12A	- 6 Teams	- Paire FC
Under 15 Boys	- 4 Teams	- Kanoa FC
Under 15 Girls	- 6 Teams	- TanH FC
TOTAL	43 Teams	

NMIFA YOUTH LEAGUE FALL 2021 (9/25 – 12/24/21)

<u>DIVISION:</u>	<u>TEAMS:</u>	<u>CHAMPIONS:</u>
Under 6	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 8	- 11 Teams	- N/A
Under 10	- 11 Teams	- N/A
Under 12B	- 5 Teams	- N/A
Under 12A	- 7 Teams	- ONGOING
Under 15 Boys	- 6 Teams	- ONGOING
Under 15 Girls	- 6 Teams	- ONGOING
TOTAL	53 Teams	



M-LEAGUE SPRING 2021 (2/23 – 6/13/21)

FORMAT:

DIV A (11v11)

DIV B (11v11)

TEAMS:

- 8 Teams

- 6 Teams

CHAMPIONS:

- TanH FC

- Shirley's FC

- *STARTING SUMMER 2021 FALL SEASON, NMIFA'S MEN'S M-LEAGUE IS REBRANDED TO NMIFA'S MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE (FOR THE PREMIER DIVISION) AND MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE 2 (FOR THE RECREATIONAL DIVISION)*



MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE SUMMER 2021 (7/23 – 9/30/21)

FORMAT:

Premier (11v11)

Recreational (11v11)

TEAMS:

- 6 Teams

- 8 Teams

CHAMPIONS:

- ONGOING

- The One FC

DOVE WOMEN'S LEAGUE SPRING 2021 (2/28 – 5/30/21)

FORMAT:	TEAMS:	CHAMPIONS:
DIV A (5v5)	- 4 Teams	- Shirley's FC
DIV B (6v6)	- 5 Teams	- Southern U FC
MASTERS (6v6)	- 5 Teams	- N/A

AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DAY 2021 (3/28/21)

In celebration of International Women's Month, NMIFA hosted its annual AFC Women's Football Day on Sunday, March 28 at the NMI Soccer Training Center Mini Pitch. NMIFA shared the beautiful game with distinguished female role models of the community. The event started off with its Dove Women's League matches for Division B and Masters, followed by an opening ceremony, fun warm up drills, and ended with an exciting 6v6 exhibition match.



DOVE WOMEN'S LEAGUE SUMMER 2021 (7/28 – 9/01/21)

FORMAT:	TEAMS:	CHAMPIONS:
COMPETITIVE (8v8)	- 4 Teams	- Southern U FC
INTERMEDIATE (6v6)	- 5 Teams	- Paire FC
MASTERS (6v6)	- 5 Teams	- N/A



NMIFA 'C' COACHING CERTIFICATE COURSE (2/08 – 21/21)

NMIFA conducted its first ever NMIFA 'C' Coaching Certificate Course under the leadership of Coach Michiteru Mita. He shares that as this was NMIFA's first licensing course, the course contents were tailor-made to cater to NMI football and its environment. 9 coaches were handed their certificates on April 08, 2021 at the NMISTC by course instructors Jershwin Angeles, Mae Ito, and Coach Michiteru Mita. Coach Mita.

NMIFA COACHING DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP; COACHING INCENTIVE PROGRAM (2/26/21)

NMIFA Head Coach and Technical Director, Coach Michiteru Mita introduced the Coaching Incentive Program, a program designed to establish a system where commitment and professionalism within youth club coaches improve. The program provides club coaches and managers with a monthly monetary incentive, assuming appointed officials fulfill ALL the responsibilities - as provided by the technical director - of their position.

GRASSROOTS KIDS LEADER COACHING COURSE

3/13/21:

23 participants
NMISTC, Saipan

INSTRUCTORS: Michiteru Mita
Jershwin Angeles
Mae Ito
Irish Pagarao

8/28/21:

21 participants
NMISTC, Saipan

INSTRUCTORS: Jershwin Angeles
Mae Ito

INJURY PREVENTION WORKSHOP (5/08/21)

12 (NT Coaches) Participants
NMISTC, Saipan

INSTRUCTORS: TJ Bellama

NMIFA 'D' LICENSE COACHING COURSE FALL 2021 (SEPT 2021)

23 participants
NMISTC, Saipan

INSTRUCTORS: Michiteru Mita
Jershwin Angeles
Mae Ito
Irish Pagarao

EAFF-NMIFA REFEREE COURSE (11/08/20)

A total of fourteen (14) referees completed the EAFF-NMIFA Referee course on November 8, 2020, at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center. The course had an emphasis on Offsides, Handball, Anticipation & Positioning, and Free kick management – all noted problem areas that our local referees faced during leagues. The EAFF-NMIFA Referees Course was conducted from November 7 to 8, 2020 by Mr. Noboru ISHIYAMA, a FIFA, AFC, and JFA Referee Instructor; assisted by Ruselle Zapanta, Executive Director and Referee Committee Deputy Chair, and Mae Ito, Referee committee member.



NMIFA BASIC REFEREE COURSE LVL 4 (7/19/21)

22 participants
NMISTC, Saipan

INSTRUCTORS: Ruselle Zapanta
Mae Ito



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS' PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE – KOBLERVILLE VILLAGE CLEAN UP:

The NMIFA has partnered with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' (GCEA) Public Private Partnership (PPP) Initiative to support the programs' objectives for the benefit of our local community which goes hand in hand with NMIFA's values. NMIFA has committed to 5 years of service to the GCEA PPP Initiative – which we plan to carry out on a monthly basis (starting August 2020) – not limiting ourselves to cleanups but also to other improvement projects that will benefit the community and their quality of life.



COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER DRUG TREATMENT AND COUNSELING SEMINAR (4/24/21):

63 National Team players participated in an informative drug prevention seminar facilitated by the Community Guidance Center. Players were given the opportunity to listen to real life stories of patients who are currently enrolled in the CDC's drug rehabilitation program.



5th OFF-ROAD DUATHLON AND TRAIL RUN (11/07/20)

Thirty-two (32) National Team Players and two (2) coaches participated in the 5th Off-Road Trail run, taking part in the 11.5k trail on November 7, 2020.

JP HERO RUN VIRTUAL EDITION (DEC 2020)

Tan Siu Lin Foundation's annual JP Hero Run featured a Virtual Edition in 2020 due to the pandemic. NMIFA had the most participants with 109 runners. The NMI national Men's, Women's, and Youth Teams raced in the 10K Competitive division at the CPA Airport Field on December 12, 2020, while NMIFA's Junior National Academy players ran in the 5K competitive division at the NMISTC on December 17, 2020.



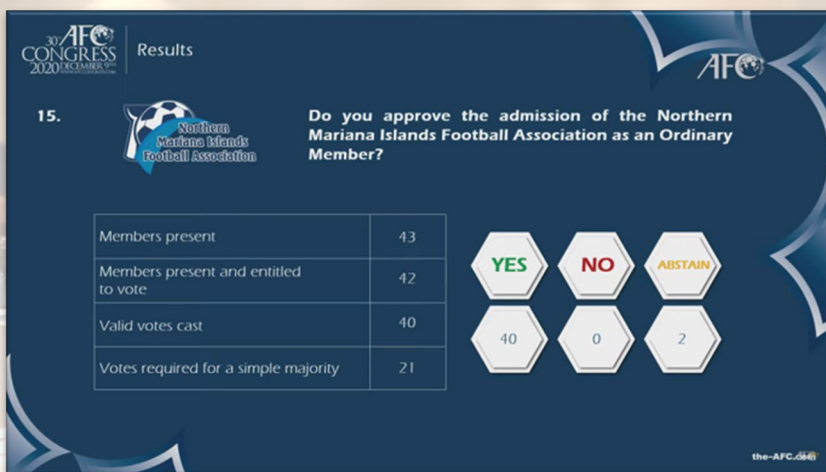
NORTHERN MARIANA ATHLETICS' NMI WOMEN'S 10K RUN (3/27/21)

15 of NMIFA's national team players participated in the Northern Mariana Athletics' first-ever NMI Women's 10k Run that was organized in celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month last Saturday, March 27, 2021.



NMIFA RECEIVES FULL AFC MEMBERSHIP (12/20/2020)

On its 15th year, NMIFA became the 47th full Member Association of the AFC at the 30th AFC Congress on December 10, 2020. After 11 long years of hard work, perseverance, and pure passion for the sport, NMIFA's journey to full membership was finally put to an end through the majority of 40 votes.



RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MINI/SECONDARY PITCH (12/31/20)

Reconstruction of the mini/secondary pitch at the NMISTC in Koblerville was completed before the end of year 2020. The facility replaced the one that was totally damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. NMIFA received funding from the Asian Football Confederation to rebuild the mini pitch that sits on the west side of the NMITC's main pitch. AFC totally funded the reconstruction of the mini pitch which was contracted for \$299,584.

SIGNING OF LEASE AGREEMENT (2/26/21)

Less than three years after the NMISTC opened in Koblerville, additional pitches will be built in the same village after the NMIFA, through the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Lands, secured a lease agreement for the construction of the new facility adjacent to the NMISTC. Governor Ralph DLG Torres led the lease signing ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and was joined by NMIFA president Jerry Tan, DCCA Secretary Joseph Deleon Guerrero, and senior policy adviser Robert Hunter.

