



# 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress

ACTIVITY REPORT



**Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Football Association**

# FOREWORD BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

I am honored to present NMIFA's Activity Report to the 12th Ordinary Congress. We started 2022 with elevated expectations since we were able to resume normal football activities towards the middle of 2021. Our association was able to conduct all the regular football programs and sustain the growth of the sport notwithstanding the continued ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AFC youth competitions where our national teams regularly compete resumed in 2022. That was a much-welcomed development for our players, especially the young men, as they looked forward to the AFC U20 and U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Amman, Jordan and the upcoming competition in Shepparton, Australia. Under our Technical Director and Head Coaches, the national teams have been training year-round to prepare for high-level competitions. In 2022, the preparations included five training camps in Guam and one in the Philippines, participated by U17, U19, Men's and Women's teams. Even our Junior National Academy comprising of U12 players had a training camp on Guam. NMIFA is grateful to the Guam Football Association and Tuloy Foundation in the Philippines for hosting these training camps.

NMIFA was also able to conduct all the local youth programs in 2022. After the long break due to the pandemic, the young players were looking forward to the resumption of the youth league. Adding to the enthusiasm was the introduction of TakeCare Insurance as the brand sponsor of the youth League. Starting Spring of 2022 the league has been named the NMIFA TakeCare Soccer Youth League. In addition to the Spring and Fall Season, there was also a TakeCare Youth Summer Cup. There have been over 140 teams in age groups from U6 to U16 that had registered in the NMIFA youth leagues.

The youth programs for the schools also continued in 2022. The Interscholastic Soccer League (ISL) for the Middle School and High School Girls had their league from March to April. While ongoing from September to October are the Elementary COED (4th & 5th Graders) and Middle School Boys' leagues. All the matches are now being played at the NMISTC mini pitch. The PE Support Program for elementary schools (1st to 3rd Graders) was also conducted from February to May 2022 with three schools participating.

# FOREWORD BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The adult leagues have also been active throughout the year. The men's committee kicked off the year with a Master's Holiday League in January and then followed that with the Spring Season League from April to June. The Fall Season League is ongoing from September to November 2022. The women's committee had their Dove Women's League Spring Season from March to May and are about to start the Fall Season this October to November.

NMIFA's Technical Department has been continuously contributing their share for the development of coaches and referees. The shortage of coaches and referees is a major concern for our young association as we still don't have enough individuals in the NMI with the institutional knowledge about football. Therefore, our technical director and senior coaches/referee are regularly conducting certification courses & refresher courses, workshops, assessments, and mentoring to all those willing to learn. NMIFA has also continued implementing the coaching incentive program whereby cash allowances are paid to coaches that attended certification courses and are regularly coaching teams in their respective clubs. Our national team coaches are also devoting time to attend courses to reach higher levels of certification or license. They also take advantage of online seminars and workshops being offered by the technical departments of AFC and other football organizations. We also have current staff members that have or are attending long-term courses (at least six months) that are intended for developing football association administrators. We make it a point to inform our young players that there is growth in football not only by playing but also by being international referees, coaches, coaching instructors, tournament officials, and football organization executives.

NMIFA has been committed to instill the value of social responsibility. It continues to be an active participant in the GCEA-PPP Initiative through volunteer national team players, coaches, and office staff doing regular clean-up and/or trash collection within Koblerville. This same group are also being encouraged and supported by NMIFA to actively participate in fundraising and other activities that promote health and assist the needy sectors of the community.

On March 5, 2022, NMIFA had the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the NMI Soccer Training Center (NMISTC). This \$2 million project is Phase 2 of the training center and will provide another full-size pitch with stadium lighting and bleachers for spectators. Since the number of players are increasing, and the school football league programs are now all being held at the training center, the new pitch can alleviate the shortage of playing venues. It will also allow better scheduling of leagues, tournaments, and other football related activities. Once completed, the expanded training center will be more attractive to sponsors. NMI will be able to market the facility for sports tourism since that was also one of the justifications for building it.

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 continue the development of soccer in the CNMI.



Ross Zapanta

NMIFA General Secretary

# NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

DATE	DIVISION	MATCH RESULTS	VENUE
June	AFC U20 Asian	NMI 0 7 Turkmenistan	Amman, Jordan
7-17	Cup Qualifiers,	NMI 0 10 Syria	
2022	Uzbekistan 2023	NMI 0 16 Jordan	
		NMI 0 9 Chinese Taipei	
October	AFC U17 Asian	NMI	Shepperton, Australia
5-9	Cup Qualifiers,	NMI	
2022	Bahrain 2023	NMI	
			Australia



## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CAMPS

DATE	DIVISION	DELEGATION	VENUE
2/18-24/22	U19 Boys & MNT	30 Players, 4 Officials	Guam
2/18-24/22	U18 Girls & WNT	30 Players, 4 Officials	Guam
6/29 – 8/11/22	U17 & U19 Boys	26 Players, 5 Officials	Philippines
7/7-14/22	Women's NT	19 Players, 4 Officials	Guam
7/13-17/22	U17 & U19 Boys	23 Players, 4 Officials	Guam

## LOCAL FRIENDLIES

DATE	MATCH RESULTS
6/25-26/22	NMI U14 2 5 Guam U14
	NMI U14 5 4 Guam U14
	NMI U15 6 0 Guam U14

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	
8/26/21 – 12/16/21	Fall Class of 2021-2022	Girls	11
1/27/22 – 05/26/22		Boys	25
6/4 -7/2022	JNA Fall Class of 2021-2022 Guam Training Camp		



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM (2/28 – 5/18/22)

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. Unfortunately, due to the strict protocols surrounding the COVID 19 Pandemic, NMIFA saw a drop in participation of schools this year. However, now that restrictions continue to ease, NMIFA anticipates an increase in participation for next school year.



SCHOOL	GRADE	STUDENTS
KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1 <sup>st</sup>	79
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	77
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	84
GARAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1 <sup>st</sup>	55
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	53
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	68
WILLIAM S REYES ELEM SCHOOL	1 <sup>st</sup>	48
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	60
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	100
TOTAL		624

## **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:

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS DIVISION SY 2021-2022 (3/26 – 4/23/22)**

Participating Teams:

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Hopwood Middle School   | - Tinian Middle School            |
| - Francisco M. Sablan MS  | - Saipan Int'l School             |
| - Saipan Community School | - Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School |

**CHAMPIONS:** Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

### **HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS DIVISION SY 2021-2022 (3/26 – 4/23/22)**

Participating Teams:

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Marianas High School 1 & 2 | - Saipan Southern High School 1 & 2 |
| - Mount Carmel School        | - Tinian High School                |
| - Kagman High School         |                                     |

**CHAMPIONS:** Marianas High School 1

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS' DIVISION SY 2021-2022 (9/13 – 10/13/22)**

Participating Teams:

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Francisco M. Sablan MS  | - Tanapag Middle School 1 & 2 |
| - Saipan Community School | - Hopwood Middle School 1 & 2 |
| - Mount Carmel School     | - Saipan International School |

**CHAMPIONS:** ONGOING

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION SY 2021-2022 (9/12 – 10/5/22)**

Participating Teams:

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Saipan International School 1 & 2 | - Koblerville Elem School 1 & 2  |
| - Garapan Elementary School 1 & 2   | - San Vicente Elem School 1 & 2  |
| - William S Reyes Elem School 1 & 2 | - Gregorio T.C Elem School 1 & 2 |
| - Seventh Day Adventist             | - Kagman Elementary School       |
| - Oleai Elementary School           | - Mount Carmel School            |
| - Brilliant Star School             |                                  |

**CHAMPIONS:** ONGOING

## **AFC GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DAY 2022 (5/21/22)**

NMIFA, together with 40 other Member Associations Across Asia, celebrated the annual Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots Football Day. The exciting event saw a total of 500 youth players gathered at the NMI Soccer Training Center for an afternoon of football fun!

## **TAKE CARE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE SPRING 2022 (3/05 – 5/14/22)**

<b><u>DIVISION:</u></b>	<b><u>TEAMS:</u></b>	<b><u>CHAMPIONS:</u></b>
Under 6	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 8	- 12 Teams	- N/A
Under 10	- 11 Teams	- N/A
Under 13 COED	- 6 Teams	- N/A
Under 13 Boys	- 7 Teams	- Paire FC
Under 13 Girls	- 8 Teams	- SouthernU FC
Under 16 Boys	- 6 Teams	- Kanoa FC
Under 16 Girls	- 5 Teams	- Kanoa FC

## **TAKE CARE YOUTH SUMMER CUP 2022 (7/23 – 8/15/22)**

<b><u>DIVISION:</u></b>	<b><u>TEAMS:</u></b>	<b><u>CHAMPIONS:</u></b>
Under 8	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 10	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 13 COED	- 6 Teams	- N/A
Under 13 Boys	- 6 Teams	- TanH FC
Under 13 Girls	- 5 Teams	- Kanoa FC
Under 16 Boys	- 7 Teams	- TanH FC
Under 16 Girls	- 5 Teams	- Kanoa 2 FC

## **TAKE CARE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE FALL 2022 (9/24 – 11/26/22)**

<b><u>DIVISION:</u></b>	<b><u>TEAMS:</u></b>	<b><u>CHAMPIONS:</u></b>
Under 6	- 7 Teams	- N/A
Under 8	- 15 Teams	- N/A
Under 10	- 10 Teams	- N/A
Under 13 COED	- 5 Teams	- N/A
Under 13 Boys	- 6 Teams	- ONGOING
Under 13 Girls	- 9 Teams	- ONGOING
Under 16 Boys	- 5 Teams	- ONGOING
Under 16 Girls	- 5 Teams	- ONGOING

## **HOLIDAY MASTERS KICKS 2022 (1/25 – 27/22)**

**FORMAT:**

(8v8)

**TEAMS:**

4 Teams

**CHAMPIONS:**

Eli's Angels

## **MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE SPRING 2022 (4/08 – 6/15/22)**

**FORMAT:**

Premier (11v11)

Recreational (11v11)

GROUP 1

GROUP 2

**TEAMS:**

5 Teams

4 Teams

4 Teams

**CHAMPIONS:**

Eleven Tiger FC

Hana FC

Matansa FC

## **MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE FALL 2022 (9/25 – 11/27/22)**

**FORMAT:**

Premier (11v11)

Recreational (11v11)

**TEAMS:**

5 Teams

6 Teams

**CHAMPIONS:**

ONGOING

ONGOING



## DOVE WOMEN'S LEAGUE SPRING 2022 (3/13 – 5/22/22)

### FORMAT:

PREMIER (11v11)  
INTERMEDIATE A (8v8)  
INTERMEDIATE B (8v8)  
NOVICE (5v5)

### TEAMS:

- 4 Teams  
- 4 Teams  
- 4 Teams  
- 5 Teams

### CHAMPIONS:

- Kanoa FC  
- Shirley's FC  
- Matansa FC  
- N/A

## AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DAY 2022 (3/23 - 27/22)

In line with Women's History Month, NMIFA took part in Asian Football Confederation's Women's Football Day - a day that is celebrated yearly by countries all over Asia to honor the impact and contribution of women in the football world!

During the celebration, NMIFA presented the rebranding of the Dove Women's League divisions to the soccer community:

- Simiya-Faayúl as the Novice Division
- Flores-Pée luwal as the Intermediate Division
- Tinekcha-Awaal as the Premier Division



Since our overall focus for our Women's league is growth and development, our theme is: "Plant the seeds, watch the flowers, harvest the fruits." In the vernacular: "Tanom I simiya, adahi I flores, kosecha I tinekcha." Or, "Fitagháli faayúl, uwa amwuri péé luwal, bwe sibwe ghili awaal."

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

8 participants  
NMISTC, Saipan

**INSTRUCTORS:** Michiteru Mita  
Jershwin Angeles  
Mae Ito

## **GRASSROOTS KIDS LEADER COACHING COURSE**

**01/29/22:**

11 participants  
NMISTC, Saipan

**INSTRUCTORS:** Michiteru Mita  
Jershwin Angeles  
Mae Ito

**9/03/22:**

22 participants  
NMISTC, Saipan

**INSTRUCTORS:** Michiteru Mita  
Jershwin Angeles

## **NMIFA 'B' COACHING CERTIFICATE TUTOR COURSE (5/09 – 11/22)**

NMIFA had the opportunity to facilitate a 'B' License Coaching Certificate Tutor Course conducted by Takeshi Ono. Mr. Ono, who is an AFC/FIFA Coach Instructor and the current JFA Deputy Technical Director held a 2-day tutor course for 4 participants: Michiteru Mita, Jershwin Angeles, Mae Ito, and Ross Awa who is from Guam Football Association.

## **AFC 'A' LICENSE COACHING CERTIFICATE COURSE**

NMIFA's Lalaine 'Irish' Pagarao attended the AFC 'A' License Coaching Certificate Course that was hosted by Philippine Football Federation. The course was conducted by Coach Marlon Maro and was held in two parts – virtually from 8/11-18/21 and 9/7-13/21, and in person from 9/5-19/22.

## **AFC 'B' LICENSE COACHING CERTIFICATE COURSE**

NMIFA's Mae 'Angie' Ito attended the AFC 'B' License Coaching Certificate Course that was hosted by Philippine Football Federation. The course was conducted by Coach Marlon Maro and was held in two parts – virtually from 10/5-15/21, and in person from 7/25 – 8/4/22.

## AFC ONLINE COURSES

As the football world is still in the process of transitioning into normalcy post COVID 19 Pandemic, AFC has opted to host several online courses, made readily available to Member Associations:

DATE	COURSE	PARTICIPANTS
10/6/22	2 <sup>nd</sup> AFC Coach Education Special Online Session 2022	Michiteru Mita Jershwin Angeles Mae Ito
10/13/22	2 <sup>nd</sup> AFC Elite Youth Special Online Session 2022	Michiteru Mita Jershwin Angeles Ronnell Ocanada
10/20/22	2 <sup>nd</sup> AFC Grassroots Special Online Session 2022	Michiteru Mita Jershwin Angeles Ronnell Ocanada Jireh Yobech Lalaine Pagarao Raymond Zapanta Ruselle Zapanta
10/6/22	2 <sup>nd</sup> AFC Women's Special Online Session 2022	Michiteru Mita Tang Chi Ming Mae Ito Lalaine Pagarao Ruselle Zapanta

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICIATING

NMIFA Executive Director Ruselle Zapanta has been called by the Asian Football Confederation on many occasions to participate in international tournaments as a Match Commissioner:

DATE	INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT	VENUE
6/24-30/22	AFC Cup 2022	Buriram, Thailand
9/14-18/22	AFC U20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2023 Qual	Surabaya, Indo.
10/23-28/22	AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 Qual	Fukushima, Japan



## **SAIPAN MARATHON (4/12/22)**

NMIFA participated in the annual Saipan Marathon hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority. 70 NMIFA members ranging from coaches, to players in the women's, men's, and youth divisions ran in either the 5k or 10k race.

## **LIBERATION DAY PARADE (7/4/22)**

NMIFA, its club players and officials, national team players and executive committee members, joined the CNMI community in the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day Parade



## **Make the Shift Mindset Workshop (7/9 & 8/2/22)**

NMIFA Executive Committee Member Catherine Attao, in coordination with PSS staff Mr. Jonathan Aguon and Dr. Bobby Cruz, facilitated an interactive workshop for the NMI national team players where they explored the concept of a 'growing mindset' and recognizing opportunities. Participants included players from the Women's, U19 Boys, and U17 Boys national team.



## GROUNDBREAKING AND EXPANSION OF THE NMISTC (3/5/2022)

On March 5, 2022, the NMI football community watched on as NMIFA officials, Executive Committee members, and local government officials ceremonially broke ground at the expansion site of the NMI Soccer Training Center.



The CNMI local government, through the Department of Public Lands and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, granted NMIFA an additional 20,000 square meters of land adjacent to the original lot of the NMI Soccer Training Center. NMIFA was also given an extension to its current lease of the entire property for another 25 years. NMIFA is now in Phase 2 of the NMI Soccer Training Center Project, where the additionally lot will allow for one regular sized pitch and one mini pitch.

