



# **AFC PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL**

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## **ACTIVITY REPORT**

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**SUBMITTED BY THE:  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

## GROWTH IN PARTICIPATION



PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS
TakeCare Youth Soccer League	813
Interscholastic Soccer League	652
PE Support Program	500
After School Program	125
4-H Camp Maga'lahi	200
President's Cup	500
AFC Grassroots Football Day	404
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,194*</b>

\*PARTICIPANTS REPRESENT 35.4% OF THE TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION IN THE NMI

REGULAR GRASSROOTS COMPETITION	PARTICIPANTS
TakeCare Youth Soccer League	813
Interscholastic Soccer League	652
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,465*</b>

\*PARTICIPANTS REPRESENT 34.6% OF ALL STUDENT ATHLETES IN THE NMI

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Grassroots Football Program has experienced remarkable growth in participation, expanding its reach from to over 3,000 young players. This increase is the result of intentional program design and broad community engagement through a variety of youth-focused initiatives.

The TakeCare Youth Soccer League continues to be a flagship entry point for many first-time players, while the Interscholastic Soccer League, run in partnership with the CNMI Public School System, offers a structured competitive environment during the academic year.

Additional initiatives such as the PE Support Program and After School Program, in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System and the Saipan Soccer School respectively, have deepened access to football during school hours and beyond.

The 4-H Camp Maga'lahi, conducted in partnership with 4-H Marianas, and annual events like the President's Cup and the AFC Grassroots Football Day have contributed significantly to community enthusiasm and engagement. These interconnected programs reflect our program's inclusive vision: to make football accessible, fun, and beneficial to every child in the Northern Mariana Islands.





## INCREASE IN INVESTMENT

In 2024 to 2025, the NMIFA increased its financial commitment to grassroots development by **72%**, reflecting our passionate belief in the foundational role that youth football plays in the long-term growth of football in our community.

The NMIFA made targeted improvements to the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center, which serves as the main hub for our regular grassroots programs such as the TakeCare Youth Soccer League and the Interscholastic Soccer League. With the support of the AFC, additional lighting was installed at our Pitch 2 to accommodate evening practices and games, increasing safety and expanding usable hours. We also provided team uniforms for the participating schools in the Interscholastic Soccer League, while students in the SSS After School Program were each provided a personal soccer ball, ensuring that every student had the tools to practice and enjoy football.

This additional investment has supported the increase in quality of our current programs, facility improvements, coaching capacity, and events logistics. It has also allowed NMIFA to provide more equipment and resources to participants and partner schools, such as soccer balls and uniforms, ensuring a high-quality experience across all activities.

GRASSROOTS INVESTMENT IN 2023	\$969,871
GRASSROOTS INVESTMENT IN 2024	\$1,669,156
PERCENT CHANGE	+72%





## SPECIAL PROJECTS TO PROMOTE GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL



The implementation of six strategic special projects has played a key role in enhancing the reach and impact of grassroots football in the NMI. These projects have provided diverse experiences tailored to different age groups and skill levels.

- 1. Interscholastic Soccer League**
- 2. PE Support Program**
- 3. After School Program**
- 4. 4-H Camp Maga'lahi**
- 5. President's Cup**
- 6. AFC Grassroots Football Day**

Each project is designed to introduce football fundamentals and to develop young member of our community with valuable characteristics such as sportsmanship, discipline, and leadership. Through these programs, the NMIFA has reinforced its grassroots mission, integrating football in schools, summer programs, and community celebrations, while offering pathways for sustained engagement and growth in our leagues and national programs.





## GRASSROOTS PARTNERSHIPS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACTIVITIES



The strength of grassroots football in the Northern Mariana Islands is supported by purposeful partnerships that extend the program's reach and impact. In 2024, the NMIFA renewed its partnerships with three organizations that have become instrumental in delivering these grassroots activities: CNMI Public School System, Saipan Soccer School, and 4-H Marianas.

These collaborations allow for shared resources, integrated programs, and alignment with educational and youth development priorities. Through the CNMI Public School System, football has become a part of regular physical education, with the assistance of our **PE Support Program**, and interscholastic competitions for elementary, middle, and high school students through the **Interscholastic Soccer League**. The Saipan Soccer School contributes coaching support, especially in the **After School Program** for children ages 6 to 12, available all school-year. 4-H Marianas brings a unique community development lens, helping bridge football with positive youth development for children ages 5 to 12, through the **4-H Camp Maga'lahi**. Together, these partnerships create a more sustainable and inclusive grassroots community, focused on the overall well-being of the youth in our small island community.

PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS
Interscholastic Soccer League	652
PE Support Program	500
After School Program	125
4-H Camp Maga'lahi	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,477*</b>

\*PARTICIPANTS REPRESENT 27.5% OF ALL STUDENTS AGES 5-12 IN THE NMI



**CNMI PUBLIC  
SCHOOL SYSTEM**



**SAIPAN SOCCER  
SCHOOL**



**4-H MARIANAS**





## COLLABORATION WITH TOP CLUBS



In an exciting display of international collaboration, the NMIFA welcomed professional coaches and teams from the **Urawa Red Diamonds**, **Shonan Bellmare Football Club**, and **Tuloy Football Club** who all shared valuable expertise that strengthened our grassroots program.

In July 2024, the NMIFA hosted a delegation from Japan's **Shonan Bellmare Football Club**, whose visit combined football development with meaningful cultural exchange. The club visited local schools, connecting with students and teachers through shared activities, and conducted joint training sessions with our U15 Women's National Team. These interactions offered young athletes valuable exposure to new techniques, playing styles, and the importance of cross-cultural understanding.

The NMIFA also welcomed the **Tuloy Football Club** from the Philippines. The Tuloy players shared accommodations with our U15 Women's National Team, creating bonds of friendship and camaraderie that extended beyond the field. Tuloy FC's professional coaches also conducted high-level training camp sessions for our team, providing tactical instruction and mentorship rooted in shared experiences and values.

Professional coaches from the **Urawa Red Diamonds**, one of Japan's premier football clubs, hosted two youth soccer clinics for players ages 6 to 12, and for players ages 10 to 12 on October 11 to 12, 2024. This clinic offered young athletes a rare and valuable opportunity to learn from top-tier coaches with international experience. The Urawa Red Diamonds' staff led players through a dynamic series of drills that emphasized technical skill, tactical awareness, and even good character on and off the field. Their presence on island served as a motivational experience for our young players, and a motivation for the NMIFA to remain committed in connecting our island with global talent.





## COMMITMENT TO THE AFC GRASSROOTS CHARTER



The NMIFA's commitment to high standards in youth football was reaffirmed through the renewal of its **AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze Membership**.

This prestigious recognition validates our systematic and inclusive approach to grassroots development. The AFC Grassroots Charter outlines essential criteria such as inclusive access, safe environments, qualified personnel, and program sustainability, areas in which the NMIFA continues to lead with excellence.

This renewal reflects our dedication to aligning local efforts with continental standards, ensuring that the NMI's grassroots programs are not only growing in numbers but also in quality, structure, and long-term impact.



## GRASSROOTS AMBASSADORS

To further increase the impact of grassroots football in our community, the NMIFA has appointed two official Grassroots Ambassadors, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez (women's) and Daniell Mar Pablo (men's).

These individuals play an important role in championing youth participation, promoting the benefits of football in schools and communities, and inspiring the next generation of players.

Through involvement in our grassroots programs and community events, our Grassroots Ambassadors act as relatable role models who embody the values of respect, teamwork, and perseverance. Their presence and participation provide an important connection between our aspiring young players to the great pathways they can take through football.

