

E- Magazine

BHUTAN FOOTBALL

Magazine



BHUTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

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His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck graced the inauguration of Changjiji Football Academy School

The inauguration of the first Football Academy School was graced by His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuk on 30th May 2022 at Changjiji Stadium.

After the arrival of His Royal Highness, Bhutan Football Federation President Dasho Ugyen Tsechup addressed chief guest and the distinguish guests welcoming them to the ceremony. Dasho stated that with less training time, school-related obligations after school, and flexibility on exam timing and admission hassle have been a hurdle for the young enthusiastic footballers in the country. He stated that after starting the school the academy players can now be more focused on the training and game techniques as they will sit in the class for few hours unlike 7 hours of class at other schools.



He also stated that the school will be an institute where students will excel both in academics and football.

After that the chief guests and guests made a visit to the classrooms and other amenities of the school. As of now there are 42 young football studying in the school. These young footballers were selected across the country by the BFF for the under-13, 16 and 17 national squads. Changjiji Football Academy School is one of its first kind of school in the country and in the region where by it focuses on both academic and the football.

This landmark shows the significance of footballing culture in the country.

The day also marks a special landmark that Bhutan Football Federation has reach in the field of academy footballing in the country.


President Cup

The first ever Bhutan Football Federation's President Cup commenced from 5th January, 2022 at Gyalpoizhing artificial turf ground in Mongar.

The sole purpose of the tournament was to give the platform and to promote football in the Eastern region. It was the vision and a mission of the president Mr. Ugyen Tsechu to promote the trend of football nationwide, and that's the sole reason why the name of the tournament is named as, 'The President Cup.' The tournament also aims in keeping the top Bhutan Premier League clubs engaged during the off season and also to provide opportunity and experience to the local teams in competing against the tops teams of the BPL.



Top 5 teams from the BPL season 2021 and 2 teams from the host participated in the tournament. FC youngster from monger and Sherubtse Football club from Tashigang were the new teams in the tournament. It was a huge exposure for them playing against the top teams in the country. Karma Lobzang of Sherubtse Football club stated that it's the first major tournament in the east and the fans here are enjoying that the trend of football is getting introduced in the eastern region.



We have played many tournaments in the past but this is one of the most important for the team for us. We are playing against the top team of the country so we are expecting something more from them and will learn a lot from them. On the other hand, one of the lessons learned from the tournament is that the lack of accommodation in the host districts makes it more difficult for the clubs to visit as they have to accommodate 2 -3 players in a room, lack of training ground on the other hand was an additional obstacle in the tournament because the teams don't get enough training during the tournament.

After the tenth day, the tournament came to an end. The finalists of the president cup 2021, were Thimphu City FC and Transport United Fc which was played on 15th January 2022. The final match was graced by the Dasho Dzongda, OC and the Gyalpoizhing High School principal. The final score was one each which lead to the penalty shootout between two teams. Transport FC came victorious with in the shootout and lifted the first ever president cup. . The champion cup was awarded with the cash of Nu. 200,000 and runner up with Nu. 100,000 along with the trophies and medals. The four semi-finalist of the tournament were awarded a sum of Nu. 50,000 as an appreciation. The most valuable player and the highest scorer which was awarded to Tsenda Dorji of Transport United FC with a sum of Nu. 50,000. The fair play team award was awarded to FC Youngster with a cash of Nu.50,000 and the young emerging player of the region was awarded to Tshering Wangchuk of Sherubtse FC with an individual cash of Nu. 20,000.

The President Cup will act as the promoter in the field of football in the country and will be played every year in different locations.

The Coronation Cup

The first ever Coronation Championship organized by Bhutan Football Federation commenced from 18th May to 2nd June, 2022. The sole purpose of the tournament is to celebrate the Coronation Day of the great 4th Druk Gyelpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck which is also marked as social forestry day. The tournament also aims in keeping the top Bhutan Premier Clubs engaged during the off season and also prepare for upcoming BPL tournament.

Total of four clubs participated and the clubs are:

Transport FC

Paro FC

Druk Lhayul FC

Thimphu city FC



The tournament was played a league cum knockout where two bottom team will be relegated and top 2 from point table will be through for the final. As the tournament continued the number of spectators started increasing because the teams were giving best of their skills and performance. Unfortunately Thimphu City FC and Transport FC were not favored by luck so both the teams were out from the tournament and on the other side Paro FC and Druk Lhayul FC were through to the final.

Druk Lhayul FC defeated Paro FC and won the first Coronation Cup at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu.

In the intense game, the two teams didn't score any goals even in added time. The winner was decided in a penalty shoot-out, Druk Lhayul scored five goals whereas Paro FC scored only four goals. The teams drew in two games in the league round.

Bhutan Football Federation awarded a cash prize of Nu 200,000 to Druk Lhayul FC along with the winning trophy. Paro FC was also awarded Nu 100,000 with a trophy. Whereas, Mr. Tenzin Dorji of Lhayul FC is awarded as most valuable player in the tournament. His skills and performance in the tournament was unexceptional. He will be first player to go Qatar to witness world cup 2022 sponsored by Coca Cola and his coach Kinley Tobden was awarded the young achiever coach of the year.





Bhutan Premier League Qualifier

The most awaited qualifier league of the country "The Bhutan Premier League Qualifier" kicked off on June 4 coinciding with Her Majesty the Queen birthday. The final game will be played on 5th July 2022. 11 teams from Punakha, Paro, Gelephu and Thimphu and participating these year after winning the district league last year.

Ugyen Academy FC

Tensung FC

Gelsar FC

Paro Rinpung FC

FC Takin

Thimphu Raven FC

Namlha FC

RTC FC

BFF academy

Friends United FC

Terton FC

The top 6 teams after the single league will be promoted the most decorated league of the country, "Bhutan Premier League"



Bhutan Higher Secondary School Championship

The first ever Bhutan Higher Secondary Championship has come alive after the covid-19 pandemic protocols are lifted in the country. The championship was supposed to happen last year but due to covid-19 restrictions it was not possible.

The Championship will start from 25th June in the capital and 3rd July other Dzongkhags. It will be held in 20 Dzongkhags which comprises of 70 Higher Secondary School which is divided into a group 25 clusters.

The championship will be played in a home and away league matches over the period of 3 month. The league winner of Dzongkhag will play in the regional championship.

Regional Championship

Regional Championship comprises of 4 regions(East, Center, West and South) which comprises of 5 Dzongkhag each. It will be played for the duration of two months in the month of October and November.

EAST Region

Tashigang
Tashi Yangtse
Lhuntse
Pema Gatsel
Samdrup Jongkhar

Center Region

Bumtang
Mongar
Trongsa
Zhemgang
Wangdue Phodrang

West Region

Thimphu
Punakha
Gasa
Paro
Haa

South Region

Sarpang
Tsirang
Dagana
Chukha
Samtse

The regional championship will be played in a single league match unlike the Dzongkhag Championship and the top 2 of the league table will be promoted to the National School Championship which will be held at Changlimithang Stadium in the capital.



The BFF C Diploma Coaching Course was conducted at the Wangduecholing Resort/Ugyen Wangchuk Stadium, Bumthang district from 18th to 27th April 2022. The Principal of Jakar Higher Secondary School Mr. Ngawang Jamtsho graced the opening ceremony of the coaching course on 18th April 2022.

The 12 days' course consisted of both theory and practical sessions. The participants had to appear for two practical assessments and written exam for theory paper and Laws of the Game.

The main objective of the course was to nurture and develop coaches in the school, the school sports instructors to prepare their team for the upcoming Bhutan Higher Secondary School Football Championship 2022.

26 School Sports Instructors attended the course. The Head of Coach Education Division of Technical Department of BFF instructed the course with Regional Grassroots Football Manager, Dechen Choki as the coordinator.

With little ease in covid -19 protocol in the country, the Diploma Course was conducted in strict compliance with the SOP

put in place by the district task force. The participants used face mask at all times during the sessions but were allowed to take off their masks at certain times during the practical lessons. Frequent hand washing with soap and water was practiced. Social distancing amongst the participants were maintained at all times.



The course was divided into three session each day, i.e Practical session, Theory session and review session was done at the end of the day to review the session. In the practical session some of the session includes, 1. Running with the ball 2. Penetrate play 3. Heading 4. In attack and defense 5. Basic combination plays, wall pass, overlaps, take overs 6. Tackling techniques 7. Goalkeeping 8. Passing and receiving skills, 9. Dribbling and feints, 10. Turning with the ball and shielding 11. Shooting and volleying 12. Types of crossing, 12. Defending play and 13. Small sided plays.

In the theory session some of the theory sessions covered were 1. Warming up with activation drills 2. Cooling down 3. Principles of coaching 4. Coaching process 5. Youth coaching 6. Physical demands 5. Talent identification 6. Sports safety and injury preventions

7. Nutrition 8. Three main moments in the game 10. Basic anatomy 11. Human Skeletal 12. Organizing of a training session 13. Use of resources 14. Coaching methodology 15. Development of techniques and skills 16. Principles of play 17. Attack and defence and 18. small sided game.

The head of Referee Department Mr. Ugyen Dorji talked about the laws of the game and Marketing head Ms. Choki spoke on the child safe guarding policy in Bhutan.

The closing ceremony 27th April 2022 was graced by Mr. Rinzin Wangdi the Chief Program Officer of the Games and Sports Division of Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education. He thanked the Bhutan Football Federation on behalf of the Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, SSIs and all the children in school who will be immensely benefited from the course given to the School Sports Instructors. He encouraged the School Sports Instructors to make the best use of the knowledge learned from the course for the benefit and wellbeing of the children in their respective schools.

The School Sports Instructors also thanked the Bhutan Football Federation for the very informative football coaching lessons and the opportunity to learn for the benefit of the children and the school. They assured to practice their lessons on the field to prepare their team for the upcoming tournaments and also the Bhutan Football Federation to promote and develop this beautiful game in the country.

BFF will conduct the coach coursing every year in different location.

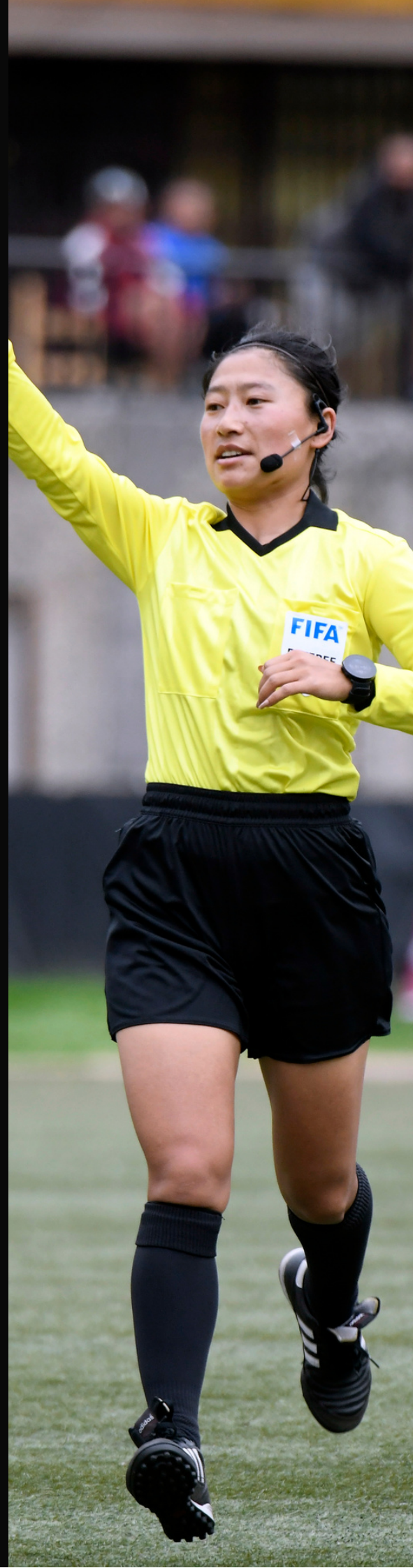


First Bhutanese referees to officiate the finals of the SEA games

Refereeing in Bhutan has come all the way since the starting days of the footballing in the country. These year AFC has selected two women from Bhutan to serve as referee and assistance referee from the handful of women referees in the country in the South East Asian games held in Veitnam.

Choki Om, a graduate from Gedu College of Business Studies, who hails from Wangdi Phodrang took the post of a referee while Tshering Choden, who hails from Zhemgang took the post as an assistant referee in finals of the SEA games. They officiated 3 matches together in the tournament including the finals. The finals were played between Vietnam and Thailand in Champa stadium in Lhalong district of Vietnam which Vietnam won by a goal.

Choki Wangmo stated that it was a great honor to represent Bhutan in such a big event and officiating the final was the most exciting and proud moment for her.



We have come miles to reach here and sometimes when I recall my early days of refereeing, I feel that Bhutan has come a long way in developing elite referees in the country. On the other hand Tshering Choden stated that it's a great opportunity and an experience for her and officiating the match in the big tournaments gives her much more confidence and exposure. She also stated that she was able to make lots of friends from other countries who are in the same field and learned lots of new things in her life.

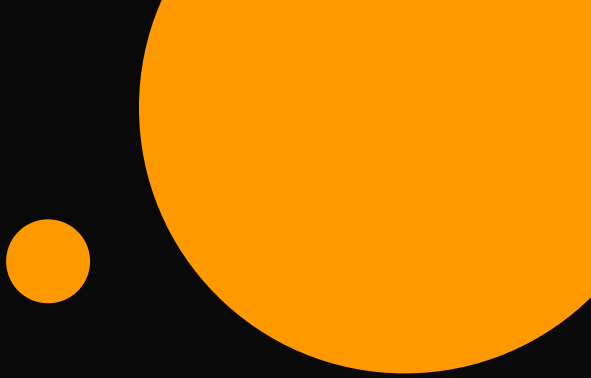
The two of them were sent to Vietnam in the month of June, to attend the SEA games by AFC. Both of them are AFC elite referee and together they have officiated finals of SEA games and many other finals in the past as well.



Implementing child safeguarding policy in Bhutan Football

Bhutan Football Federation acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all in regard to age, religion or belief, disability or gender assignment for children whilst participating in football activities.






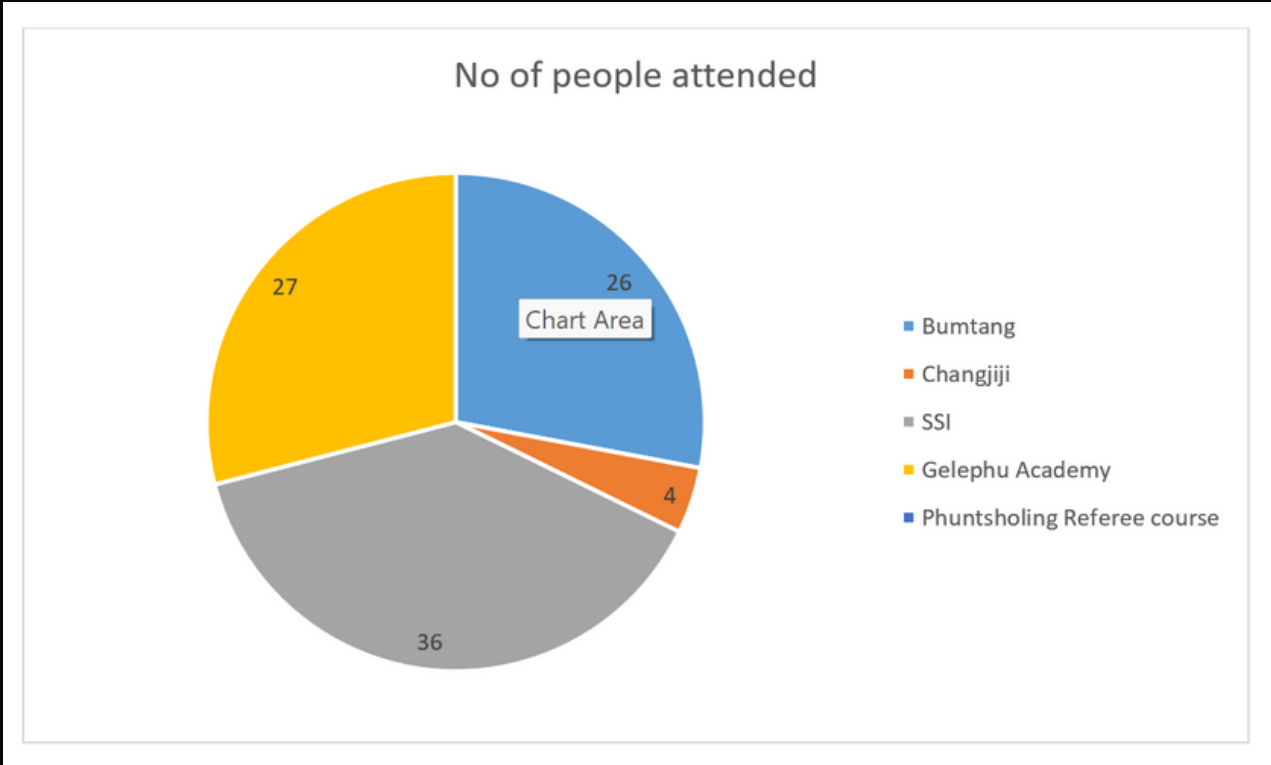
The vision is to create a safe environment for every child whilst experiencing football with a mission to protect every children by embedding safeguarding measures through proactive actions, preventive works, training and the provision of clear policies and guidelines.

Safeguarding in sport is the process of protecting children and adults from harm by providing a safe space in which to play sport and be active.

As Bhutan Football Federation was recognized as Silver level membership of the AFC Grass hood charter in 2021, one of the key criteria was to develop a Child Safe guarding policy. So in order to fulfill it, team of safe guarding division which is headed by General Secretary of BFF, Ugyen Wangchhuk and Head of media and marketing head, Phuntsho Wangdi developed the policy and was approved by FIFA and AFC. To add on it, most of the clubs and private firms came up with the initiation of grasshood coaching in the country so it became an urgent need of one policy which will protect the children in the field of football.

Till date the Child safeguarding policy are advocated through videos and pictures in social media platforms and banners. And many workshops were held in districts in order to familiarize the policy in the country.





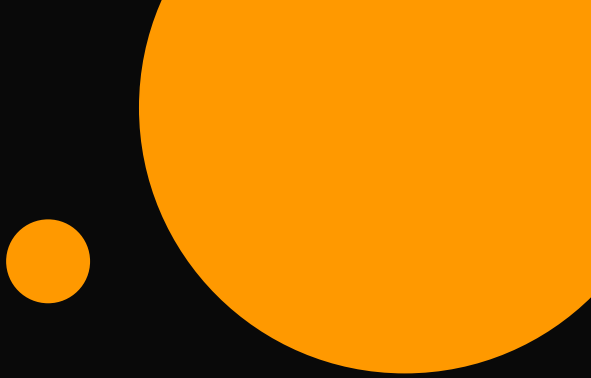
In near future BFF, plans to put an end to all types of violence against girls, boys and young adults in football. Create a strong system for child protection that operates effectively across all levels and at all times, including emergency periods and ensure that no child should feel unsafe in their sporting environment through advocacy, workshops in different locations and by providing safeguarding certification.



Phuentsholing Referee Development

Referees Development Course was conducted at Phuentsholing as part of the BFF's commitment to develop referees from 07th May 2022 and was concluded on 11th May 2022. Participants from following 5 districts attended the event:

- Phuentsholing
- Wangdue
- Punakha
- Paro
- Samtse
- Gelephu



The PSA ground was the venue for practical training sessions. Classroom sessions were conducted at Youth Centre conference hall. The course was divided into two sessions; 1 Theory class and 2. Practical session.


In the theory classes the following were discussed:

- The basic refereeing course to aspiring referees of the region
- Drill, signals, positioning and movement for referees and assistant referees.
- Offside (presentation and also in practical training session).
- Hand ball and technical fouls
- Laws of the game
- Penalty Area incidents

The media and marketing team also presented and highlighted the importance of Safe guarding and integrity in the field in the country.

In the practical session the participants were highlighted in active involvement of the participants in trial fitness training, fitness check and team work.

Overall, the participants understood the Laws of the Game and clarified many points, which they never knew. A mock test was carried out every evening, the result of which is very encouraging.



FACTS

REFEREE DEPARTMENT

FIFA/AFC Categories	Total	Male	Female
CAT-1	18	12	6
CAT-2	6	2	4
CAT-3	16	11	5
CAT-4	3	2	1
GRASSROOT CAT-G	185	139	46

FACTS

BPL WINNERS

TEAM	YEAR
PARO FC	2021
THIMPHU CITY	2020
PARO FC	2019
TRANSPORT UNITED FC	2018
TRANSPORT UNITED FC	2017
THIMPHU CITY	2016
TERTON FC	2015
DRUK UNITED	2014
UGYEN ACADEMY	2013
YEEDZIN FC	2012
YEEDZIN FC	2011

FACTS

COMPETITION OF THE YEAR, 2022

SNO	NAME	KICK OFF DATE	END DATE
1	District Men's Championship	1st May	29th May
2	BPL Qualifiers	4th June	26th June
3	Bhutan Premier League	20th August	30th December
4	District Women's League	25th April	15th May
5	Women's National League Qualifiers	21st May	4th July
6	Women's National League	7th August	6th November
7	Youths League	21st May	30th October