Arab Female Football Festival

Our Game, Our Goals

Lebanon, July 25-August 2, 2015
Prior to the FIFA U-17 World Cup held in Jordan in 2016, the Lebanese Girls Football Academy (GFA) and the German NGO DISCOVER FOOTBALL will host the first international female football festival in Lebanon in July and August 2015. The goals are to raise awareness about women’s football in the Middle East and to increase media exposure of women’s football in Lebanon and the neighboring countries.

In order to celebrate the power of female football there will be an international football tournament and cultural festival in Beirut combined with four days of football practice and a workshop program for young girls in different rural areas of Lebanon.

When the teams from Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Germany will compete on the pitch, they will share a feeling of empowerment and solidarity. They will experience the power of football to challenge traditional gender roles and to support the larger struggle for equality and social integration. Alongside the games, we will offer a diverse cultural program that includes educational courses, film screenings, discussions and a special program for girls only.

For four days, all the tournament participants will go on tour and travel from Beirut to different rural areas in Lebanon (North-Zgharta, South-Sour, Central North-Jounieh and Central South-Beirut). In each region, fun football games and educational courses related to football, gender equality and social development will be conducted for girls and women from the respective community. The long-term goal of these activities is to establish regular girls’ and women’s football teams in each area. For the implementation of the project GFA and DISCOVER FOOTBALL will cooperate with the Asian Football Development Project, Right to Play and One Goal, NGOs active in the field of sport for social development.

The festival will directly benefit 800-1,000 female participants and 2,000-3,000 spectators. The overall budget of this event is 210,000 US Dollar.

It takes a team to win a game! Thus, we are looking for sponsors and partners to help us realize our vision: greater acceptance of women’s football as a symbol for gender equality and social integration in Lebanon and the neighboring countries, more opportunities and more rights for girls from rural areas as well as more awareness about football as a tool for social change. You share our vision and want to help fight discrimination, gender inequality and stereotypes? Contact us!

**About GFA**

Girls Football Academy is a safe space for young female athletes in Lebanon to exercise their rights in the form of a sport. GFA is an exclusive female football academy where girls of all ages are given the priority and attention to become football players. We are committed to promoting the sport and empowering women both physically and mentally. GFA organizes friendly games, participates in tournaments abroad and in the Lebanese League and Cup. We have many female athletes of different age/level categories and 11 of who play for the national Lebanese team. GFA is a small family who strive to give other girls in Lebanon the same opportunity to nourish.

**About DISCOVER FOOTBALL**

DISCOVER FOOTBALL advocates for a world in which girls and women can do sports without being discriminated against for any reason. We use football as a tool to empower women, promote intercultural understanding and address women’s rights. We organize international exchanges, conferences and tournaments where women and girls build skills and share knowledge that will help them gain autonomy, mobility and power. We have won several awards and our work has been recognized by the UN special advisor on Sport for Development and Peace, Mr. Willi Lemke.