

BOTSWANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

U15 ELITE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2017



INTRODUCTION

After careful analysis of 2016/2017 youth programmes in Botswana the BFA Technical Department together with a FIFA expert (Mr. Govinden Thondoo) came up with the following proposals:

- To use the existing Youth Competitions(schools and regional leagues) as a platform to select players and build two (2) teams per region in the Southern and Eastern Zones due to the areas' vast population.
- To then create two (2) Youth Leagues with 10 teams in each zone
- To promote training (at least 3 sessions per week) and player development programmes for the created teams.
- To develop an annual plan of activities taking into consideration the school calendar to avoid clashes with school activities.
- The annual fixtures to run from October 2017 to April 2018 for the 1st phase and from August 2018 to March 2019 for the next edition
- At the end of the competition BFA Technical Department to organise a national training camp including an elite competition with the selected young talented players during the month of August 2018
- This process will facilitate the building of the national U16 team

THE U15 ELITE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The programme encompasses two (2) leagues made out of ten (10) teams per league in the East and South Zone for boys born in 2003/2004 (13/14 years old). Two (2) teams from each region are made out of the best 20 players per team who train and play games every weekend. By so doing each team will have played eighteen (18) games and around hundred (100) training sessions at the end of the current programme.

Teams are made up as follows:-

EAST ZONE TEAMS		SOUTH ZONE TEAMS	
Region	Teams	Region	Teams
Central North	1. Serowe South 2. Serowe North	Gaborone	1. East Gaborone 2. West Gaborone
Central South	3. Kalashosho 4. Mahalapye	Kgatleng	3. Mochurabo 4. River Mountains
Selebi Phikwe	5. Bobirwa 6. Mmasephikwe	Kweneng	5. Mokummo 6. Molethama
Tswapong	7. Letswapo	South East	7. Ramomanya

	8. Radipala		8. Tlokweng Villa
Francistown	9. Francitown City 10. Tonotati	Southern	9. Kajwashupa 10. Lobapigo



River Moutain team



Lobapigo team



Serowe North team



Mmasephikwe during team selection



Serowe North team in training

At the end of the current programme a maximum of eighty (80) players shall be retained with creation of four (4) teams of twenty (20) players per team scouted and selected during the league competition.

Ultimately in August 2018 the four (4) teams will gather at Lekidi Football Centre for a training camp and tournament amongst themselves. A final selection and building of the U16 National team will also take place during this period.

PREPARATION FOR THE PROGRAMME

THE ANNUAL CALENDER

Botswana Football Association Technical Department converged to develop an annual plan with the assistance of a FIFA expert (Mr. Govinden Thondoo) and is detailed as below:-

2017	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
ACTIVITIES COMPETITION DAYS		Regional teams are already in place	FIFA technical visit (12 – 15) Draft the U15 Youth leagues project Youth Policy Roll-Out and BFA Youth league consultative seminars Finalisation of the project by end of September	Organise a selection exercise in the Southern and Eastern zones Consolidate the youth select teams	Week 1 games Week 2 games Week 3 games Week 4 games	Week 5 games FIFA Youth coaching course Youth Referees course	
2018	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL/AUG
ACTIVITIES COMPETITION DAYS	Week 6 games Week 7 games	Week 8 games Week 9 games Week 10 games Week 11 games	Week 12 games Week 13 games Week 14 games Week 15 games Week 16 games	Week 17 games Week 18 games			1st week of August-National training camp

After sharing the plan with the BFA President and the BFA Secretariat it was agreed that it was then up to the BFA Technical Department to finalize the plan before the

end of September 2017 and the plan to be send to FIFA for approval before implementation of the program.

PERSONNEL

Following the finalization of the plan, regions were informed of the program during youth policy cascading seminars after which qualified coaches (Head coach with a CAF "B" or "C" Coaching License and an Assistant Coach with a minimum of FIFA Youth Coaching Certificate or BFA Preliminary Coaching Course Certificate) were appointed who are currently training these teams and making sure teams play games.



Coach at work; Mr. Johnson Tshupo, Head Coach of Mokummo team during their game vs. Lobapigo in Lobatse

Furthermore the program is administered from the BFA Technical Department for purpose of easy monitoring and accountability.

PROCUREMENT & DITRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT

The Association procured and distributed equipment to all the forty (40) teams to start their preparations. Each team received footballs, playing kits, training bibs and training cones as Follows:

EQUIPMENT	U15	TOTAL ISSUED
1. Footballs	10	400
2. Playing Kit	1 set	40
3. Cones	20	800
4. Bibs	20	800

The equipment was surplus items that were purchased for the previous youth program from both small business entrepreneurs locally and prominent sport equipment suppliers, in the event the former cannot supply the equipment.

COMMENCEMENT OF ELITE YOUTH LEAGUES

The leagues commenced by an official unveiling on the 4th November 2017. The official launch was held at Lekidi football Centre in Gaborone. It was officially opened by the BFA President, Mr. Maclean Letswiti. A Mini Grassroots Festival and an U15 Elite Youth League game between Tlokweng Villa and Ramomanya teams followed by West Gaborone and East Gaborone teams highlighted the event.



BFA Marketing and Communications Officer introducing quest during the launch



BFA President Mr. Maclean Letswiti and BFA Secretary General, Mr. Mfolo Edwin Mfolo (front row), BFA Technical Director, Mr. Sexton Kowa (dark glasses) and Men's Senior National Team Head Coach, Major David Bright (adidas cap) all grazed the U15 Elite Youth League unveiling.



Grassroots activities paving way for U15 Elite League launch



Botswana National Sports Commission, Director, Technical, Mr. Bobby Gaseitsewe giving a key note address during the launch



The President and other dignitaries shaking hands with players before kick-off



Botswana National Sports Commission, Mr. Bobby Gaseitsewe getting ready for kick-off



Coaches of the two teams during the half-time break

CURRENT RESULTS AND LEAGUE TABLES

2017/2018 SOUTH ZONE U15 BOYS LEAGUE 1ST ROUND							
WEEK 1							
4th November 2017							
	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS			TEAM B	VENUE
1	09h00	West Gaborone	1	vs	5	East Gaborone	BNYC
2	09h00	Tlokweng Villa	5	vs	1	Ramomanya	Council Grouds
3	09h00	Mochurabo	6	vs	0	River Mountains	O. Show Grounds
4	09h00	Lobapigo	1	vs	1	Kajwashupa	L. Sports Complex
5	09h00	Molethama	2	vs	0	Mokummo	M. Sports Complex
WEEK 2							
11th November 2017							
	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS			TEAM B	VENUE
6	09h00	Tlokweng Villa	1	vs	5	West Gaborone	Council Grouds
7	09h00	East Gaborone	2	vs	2	Mochurabo	Lekidi
8	09h00	Ramomanya	1	vs	6	Lobapigo	R. Show Grounds
9	09h00	River Mountains	1	vs	4	Molethama	Mabalane
10	09h00	Mokummo	0	vs	2	Kajwashupa	Mogoditshane
WEEK 3							
18th November 2017							
	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS			TEAM B	VENUE
11	09h00	West Gaborone	2	vs	2	Mochurabo	BNYC
12	09h00	Lobapigo	4	vs	1	Tlokweng Villa	L. Sports Complex
13	09h00	Molethama	3	vs	1	East Gaborone	M. Sports Complex
14	09h00	Mokummo	1	vs	1	Ramomanya	Mogoditshane
15	09h00	Kajwashupa		vs		River Mountains	Kanye
WEEK 4							
25th November 2017							
	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS			TEAM B	VENUE
16	09h00	West Gaborone	1	vs	1	Lobapigo	BNYC
17	09h00	Mochurabo	1	vs	1	Molethama	O. Show grounds
18	09h00	Tlokweng Villa	4	vs	2	Mokummo	Council Grouds
19	09h00	East Gaborone	1	vs	0	Kajwashupa	Lekidi
20	09h00	River Mountains	5	vs	2	Ramomanya	Mabalane
WEEK 5							
2nd December 2017							
	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS			TEAM B	VENUE
21	09h00	Molethama	2	vs	2	West Gaborone	M. Sports Complex
22	09h00	Lobapigo	3	vs	0	Mokummo	L. Sports Complex
23	09h00	Kajwashupa	1	vs	0	Mochurabo	Kanye
24	09h00	Tlokweng Villa	5	vs	3	River Mountains	Council Grouds
25	09h00	Ramomanya	0	vs	10	East Gaborone	R. Show Grounds

South Zone League Table

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	POINTS
1	Lobapigo	5	3	2	0	15	4	11	11
2	Molethama	5	3	2	0	12	5	7	11
3	East Gaborone	5	3	1	1	19	6	13	10
4	Tlokweng Villa	5	3	0	2	16	15	1	9
5	Kajwashupa	4	2	1	1	4	2	2	7
6	Mochurabo	5	1	3	1	11	6	5	6
7	West Gaborone	5	1	3	1	11	11	0	6
8	River Mountains	4	1	0	3	9	17	-8	3
9	Mokummo	5	0	1	4	3	12	-9	1
10	Ramomanya	5	0	1	4	5	27	-22	1
						105	105		



Letswapo vs Bobirwa

2017/2018 EAST ZONE U15 BOYS LEAGUE 1ST ROUND

WEEK 1

4th November 2017

	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS		TEAM B	VENUE
1	09h00	Mmasephikwe	4	vs	1 Bobirwa	S/Phikwe Council
2	09h00	Letswapo	1	vs	1 Radipala	Ramokgoname
3	09h00	Serowe South	3	vs	5 Serowe North	Newtown Primary
4	09h00	Kalashosho	0	vs	5 Mahalapye	Shoshong
5	09h00	Francistown City	0	vs	5 Totonati	Council stadium

WEEK 2

11th November 2017

	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS		TEAM B	VENUE
6	09h00	Radipala	2	vs	3 Mmasephikwe	Palapye
7	09h00	Bobirwa	2	vs	0 Serowe South	Bobonong
8	09h00	Mahalapye	1	vs	0 Letswapo	Railways
9	09h00	Serowe North	2	vs	2 Francistown City	S. Sports Complex
10	09h00	Totonati	1	vs	1 Kalashosho	Tonota Primary

WEEK 3

18th November 2017

	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS		TEAM B	VENUE
11	09h00	Mmasephikwe	5	vs	0 Serowe South	S/Phikwe Council
12	09h00	Radipala	1	vs	1 Mahalapye	Palapye
13	09h00	Francistown City	0	vs	5 Bobirwa	Council stadium
14	09h00	Letswapo	1	vs	0 Totonati	Ramokgoname
15	09h00	Kalashosho	3	vs	3 Serowe North	Shoshong

WEEK 4

25th November 2017

	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS		TEAM B	VENUE
16	09h00	Mahalapye	1	vs	1 Mmasephikwe	Railways
17	09h00	Serowe South	2	vs	1 Francistown City	Newtown Primary
18	09h00	Radipala	0	vs	3 Totonati	Palapye
19	09h00	Bobirwa	1	vs	1 Kalashosho	Bobonong
20	09h00	Serowe North	1	vs	1 Letswapo	S. Sports Complex

WEEK 5

2nd December 2017

	TIME	TEAM A	RESULTS		TEAM B	VENUE
21	09h00	Mmasephikwe	6	vs	0 Francistown City	S/Phikwe Council
22	09h00	Totonati	0	vs	0 Mahalapye	Tonota Primary
23	09h00	Kalashosho	0	vs	0 Serowe South	Shoshong
24	09h00	Serowe North	4	vs	5 Radipala	S. Sports Complex
25	09h00	Letswapo	1	vs	2 Bobirwa	Ramokgoname

East Zone League Table

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	POINTS
1	Mmasephikwe	5	4	1	0	19	4	15	13
2	Bobirwa	5	3	1	1	12	7	5	10
3	Mahalapye	5	2	3	0	7	1	6	9
4	Tonotati	5	2	2	1	9	2	7	8
5	Serowe North	5	1	3	1	15	14	1	6
6	Letswapo	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	5
7	Radipala	5	1	2	2	9	12	-3	5
8	Kalashosho	5	0	4	1	5	10	-5	4
9	Serowe South	5	1	1	3	5	13	-8	4
10	Francistown City	5	0	1	4	3	20	-17	1
						88	88		

COURSES

COACHES EDUCATION

We have run two (2) FIFA Youth Coaching course in Gaborone for the Southern Zone (December 4th to 8th, 2017) and another one in Francistown for the Eastern Zone (December 10th to 14th, 2017). These courses were run specifically for coaches working with the twenty (20) U15 Elite Youth teams selected for the program.



Francistown FIFA Youth Course participants enjoying their tea break



Francistown FIFA Youth Course participants in a relaxed mood



Coaches under instructorship of FIFA Instructor, Mr. Kim Poulsen



Awarding of Youth Coaching course certificates to South Zone youth coaches



FIFA Coaching Instructor, Mr. Serame Letsoaka delivering instructions in a Youth Coaching course for East Zone youth coaches in Francistown

REFEREES DEVELOPMENT

We have also run two (2) Youth Referees courses in the two (2) zones; Francistown (December 4th to 8th, 2017) and Gaborone (December 13th to 17th, 2017). These courses also targeted youth referees who are officiating in the current youth league program.



Youth Referees ready to start a U15 Youth league game during launch

CHALLENGES

- 1. Transport:** We have realized that we have under – budgeted transport costs as it is difficult to secure mini buses (25 Seater) that will accommodate all members of a team for away matches as most of them are on business routes on a daily basis. Therefore they are expensive once you have to take them off their routes. Due to this we had to use 16 seater mini-buses for teams to travel for their away games. Hence coaches had to cut their squads to accommodate the number to travel.

We are also looking for modalities of how to secure transportation of players to training sessions regarding payment methods to transporters (taxi fares).



Kalashosho team travelling in a mini-bus for one of their away game

2. **Medical Services:** Majority of the teams could not at the time identify qualified personnel (e.g. First Aiders, Nurses, etc.) to assist in this area due to the short period of time we had to start the program. We hope this will be possible in the New Year.
3. **Refereeing:** Due to newly identified youth referees we did not have qualified ones to officiate in these games hence this affected quality of some games.
4. **Equipment:** To kick-start the program we used equipment that was surplus from the previous youth program and there were complaints that footballs are of poor quality (of which we agree) and uniforms were not of the right sizes for players. Teams are also using large goals for training and matches and this affects quality of the games as well as being not proper for development.
5. **RFA Support:** There was lack of support from some quarters in our regions with claims that they were not initially informed about the program. There were also complaints that they wanted to be involved in selection of coaches that are in-charge of the teams. This had let to lack of smooth running of the

program at the beginning and hence some region teams (e.g. Central North and Kweneng) got delayed to start playing their scheduled games.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is need to revise our budget especially on the issue of transport and at the same time BFA Finance Department should advice on modalities to be used to account for taxi fares for players going to training and return.
2. There is a serious shortage of first aiders. This area calls for running of courses so that the situation is improved to enhance better running of the program. Although courses were conducted for coaches and youth referees in December 2017 this should be considered as the beginning of developing both coaches and referees and more courses should continue to take preference in the following years.
3. There is also need to acquire equipment as we will not depend on what we have already disbursed to teams and also calls for revision of our current budget in that regard.
4. The BFA Technical Department is of the view that as much as the department deals mainly with technical issues, administration and accountability of running this program is key therefore need to be effected from the association offices. Running of this program calls for weekly reporting and accounting for funds used and that could be a challenge if it has to be done from regional associations.

