

Youth Football Development Programme

McDonald's Youth Football Promotion Scheme (July-October)

This is a very popular summer youth football training programme which is held annually with commercial sponsorship for youngsters aged 6 to 18. The scheme aims at promoting youth football, providing systematic and fun-filled football training activities for the beginners. Divided into four phases and taught by over 400 registered Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) coaches, the scheme runs from July to October each year. The first phase aims at providing fundamental training, the second phase focuses on team work and attacking and defending strategies; and the third phase involves intra-district competition which culminates in the Hong Kong Inter-District Championship eventually. Over 20,000 participants took part in the Scheme in 2004. The overall budget for the Scheme in 2005/06 is \$3.5M with sponsorship of \$1.07M from McDonald and subsidy of \$1.53M from LCSD.

Primary Young Athletes Football Training Programme (October-June)

This programme is a continuation of the McDonald's Youth Football Promotion Scheme. It provides football technique training for players aged under 13, emphasizing competitiveness required in training. It is divided into two age groups, with the support of a total of 24 experienced coaches acting as instructors. Training is held twice weekly, with six-a-side competitions being held during three long school holiday. Over 410 games will be played by the 660 participants under the programme. The overall budget in 2005/06 is \$509,000. Subsidy from the LCSD is \$ 213,000.

Young Athletes Football Training Scheme (October-June)

This scheme aims at identifying talented players between 13 and 15 through systematic training. Divided into two age groups, the scheme is taught by 45 registered coaches. A total of 1080 players are

recruited through a stringent selection process conducted by the HKFA and the training begins with fundamental football skills before moving into tactical drills and matches. Those who show talent in the sport will be selected to join the HKFA Youth Squad Teams. The overall budget in 2005/06 is \$1,156,000. The subsidy from LCSD is \$770,000, while NIKE has sponsored the sports wear to the participants and coaches and footballs for the scheme.

District Football Teams Training Scheme (October-June)

In order to promote football development in Hong Kong and to generate more community interest in local football activities, the LCSD has worked with the HKFA to set up district youth football teams under the “District Sports Teams Training Scheme” in all 18 districts as one of the new initiatives since 2000. 36 talented young football players, aged 16 to 19, from each district are recruited through a stringent selection process to join the district team and represent their own district in the competition. They have to undergo a series of training conducted weekly by registered coaches and will compete with other district teams in the Inter-district Tournament, with the aim of gaining match experience and raising their on-field abilities. Players with outstanding performance will be channeled to the HKFA or its various divisions teams to become professional players and may be recruited to the Hong Kong Team to take part in international competitions. The overall budget in 2005/06 is \$1,023,000. The subsidy from LCSD is \$728,000, while NIKE has sponsored the sport wear to the participants and coaches. In addition, senior district football teams are supported by the District Councils and local organizations to take part in the HKFA Football League.. The LCSD provides free venue support for the training of these district teams.