

Section Sportive Scolaire de Football à Vocation Régionale Ile de France

Sannois, France

Timeframe : The project started in September 2003 and is ongoing.

Organisation : The “Fondation d’Auteuil,” under a private framework, has so far gathered more than 7000 youths who have social or educational difficulties, or family problems.

Field of work : Education, Social Integration, Talent Promotion

Nationality : French and other nationalities

Social status : Underage youths

Age : Youths aged 13 to 15

Sex : Male

Project description :

Based on the youth’s passion for football, and recognizing that some youths encounter socialisation difficulties that prevent them from completing a “normal” education, this educational, sport-based, and scholarly project has been established around the practice of football. Youths are being hosted for two years with the goal of completing ninth grade education and preparing them for entry examinations to professional football clubs; or with the goal of convincing them to pursue further schooling in the area of physical education. These youths enjoy weekly lodging that allows them to win back a sense of family living. At the end of the week, they continue to play out championship matches in their clubs.

Background information :

The project represents an educational initiative based on sport, particularly on a passion for football. The three pillars (educational, sportive, and scholarly) are inseparable – one cannot address one pillar without referring to the others. The project originates from the realization that a certain number of youths are socially excluded and do not have any access to institutions that would allow them to succeed in life. The project has been presented to different bodies in French football (National Technical Training Centre, French Football Federation, Paris Football League of the region of Ile de France) and to the National Education Services. It is being supported by the General Council of Val d’Oise as well as the Community of Sannois, and has found resonance for public recognition and complementary partnerships.

Use of football :

Football is all around, and it is at the heart of the youth's daily activities. The first priority is to communicate to the youths the basic and fundamental techniques needed for a good football match. Their timetables, thus, consist of alternating sessions with a professor of physical and sport education (professeur d'EPS) and a football coach. Football also represents a pedagogical approach to teach behavioural, and life skills. The project places great attention upon medical supervision – a nurse and a physical therapist are present at every match, and a doctor available at all times. The youths are under the medical care of the Technical Training Centre of Clairefontaine where the reports are updated regularly.

Objectives :

To enhance the spotting of troubled youth with a potential to excel at football in order to enable them to succeed socially with top-notch educational methods. To assure all youths a correct treatment, both physically and legally, at the selection process of professional clubs. To let the practice of sport, and in particular football, make an essential contribution to the enhancement of the individual – whilst remaining a means and not an end.

Success :

Although it is still a fairly new project, the admittance to professional football lies at 60%, and the entry into above 9th grade education at 80%.

Best practice :

The quality of service and the guidance provided to the youths at their departure address the dangers of the world of football. The single location, matches structured around education, formalisation of procedures and a partnership respected by each participant.

Partners :

The French Football Federation, the National Technical Training Centre, the General Council of Val d'Oise, the Football chapter of the District of Val d'Oise, the Regional Council of Ile de France, the Community Sannois, the Regional Administration for Youth and Sports, and certain businesses.

Funding :

Currently, the bulk of the financing is provided by the private funds of the Fondation d'Auteuil. Some businesses have provided support in the area of basic equipment.

Implementation :

The project starts its 3rd round of welcoming youth into the programme in September 2005.

Future plans :

To increase the admittance of the most excluded youths. To enable the project to last for three to four years. To develop professional groups in the realm of professional football. To go international with the project. To improve the project site with a synthetic football field, in cooperation with the community.

Support needs :

A contribution for the uniforms of the youths. The recognition of and partnership with other groups in Europe and the world (contacts and meetings have already been established with Diambars/Senegal).

Administration :

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95117 Sannois

Knowledge :

The acknowledgment by public authorities to place football at the heart of school programmes. The establishment of medical guidance and supervision. Following the youths in their development after they leave the project and the guaranty of future assistance, should they need it.

Contact Person :

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