

Dale Rudder Talent Development Manager



The Talent Development Scheme is FIFA's brand new approach to "levelling the playing field" and giving every young football player a fair chance to develop to his or her fullest potential. To this end the Member Associations are to be provided with the necessary resources to aid in the overall goal of the FIFA initiative, that is, ultimately, to produce elite players. Talent Development is a long and arduous task and one which must be approached with patience, a firm set of realistic objectives in mind, a mindset to constantly pursue excellence and the overall commitment from many of the stakeholders in football.



**GIVE EVERY
TALENT
A CHANCE**



Players, parents, coaches, trainers, schools, clubs, academies etc. Our initial TDS Project is focused on developing the Girls 11-16 age group. An aggressive recruitment and training regimen (4 days a week) has been employed targeting schools, clubs and academies across the island as well as various communities in an effort to unearth our next generation of young talented female footballers. The response has been tremendous and at present we have about 40 young female players of various levels in their development. They are hard at training with some of the island's best and most certified coaches.

Yearning for learning

Aimed at total overall development, we have engaged in various activities to help develop these young players both mentally and physically. Namely Easter and Summer Football Camps, Art Therapy sessions, Health and Wellness lectures, Social Media Workshops, Football Video sessions etc. These are exciting times and a vast improvement can already be seen in the attitude and approach to training sessions. This “yearning for learning” amongst our TDS group is definitely a plus and very encouraging. The future looks bright indeed. Next Project will be the Under-15 Boys and we have conducted extensive talent scouting exercises over the last two Youth tournaments to identify the best young talent within this age group. This group is scheduled to start training on their developmental journey in January 2024.

Quote: “It is absolutely important to align our young players with our best coaches as early as possible in their footballing pathway.

Best+Best = Excellence and Excellence is the ultimate Goal.

The TDS team has been dedicated to advancing youth football development, particularly at the younger age levels. Building on the success of the U14 girls' group, we are poised to introduce the U14 boys in the coming weeks, pending confirmation of coaches by the executive board. Our objective is to follow the same development pathway as the girls, offering 3 to 4 training sessions a week that align with our established academy structure for the younger age group.

Ensuring access to the grass pitch at the BFA is crucial to meeting all the criteria of our Academy structure. Inspired by Arsene Wenger's emphasis on frequent training (ideally four times a week), we have tailored our approach to three days a week in our environment. This includes an advanced group catering to the TDS focus players, whom we identify as the next generation of football talent.

Recognizing the paramount importance of coaching quality, we have identified a key area of focus – ensuring that all coaches at the younger age groups are licensed. We are committed to promoting coaching success and imparting the game to the younger generation in the most effective and enriching manner.

We recognize the imperative to concentrate our efforts on ensuring that coaches in the younger age groups are appropriately licensed. Our focus extends to actively promoting coaching success and guaranteeing that the younger generation receives instruction in the correct manner. To fortify this commitment, we are establishing a comprehensive club licensing system and a coaching policy.

Effective immediately, our coaching policy mandates that any coaches involved in the BFA youth leagues must possess a minimum of a D license. Looking ahead to 2025, this requirement will be elevated, necessitating a minimum of a C license. We are implementing courses designed to span 12 months from initiation to completion, with ongoing monitoring by coach educators. This proactive approach ensures that coaching standards, player development, and coaching behaviour align seamlessly with the BFA coaching methodology. Our aim is to foster a nurturing and progressive environment for both coaches and the young talents under their guidance.





Aim

Starting the project of a youth soccer tournament tailored for U16 girls, with a strong focus on football education.

Launching an initiative that seamlessly integrates the excitement of football with enriching educational experiences and essential life skills, we proudly introduce a U16 girls' soccer tournament. This unique event is meticulously crafted to nurture not only the athletic prowess of the players but also the intellectual growth of both players and coaches involved in the younger age groups.

Beyond the boundaries of the playing field, our primary goal is to empower young female athletes by imparting knowledge, enhancing teamwork skills, and fostering holistic development. We recognize that success in sports is not solely defined by on-field achievements but also by the personal and intellectual growth of the individuals involved.

Key Objectives

Football Education:

The tournament will go beyond conventional match dynamics, incorporating dedicated football education sessions. These sessions will provide players and coaches with a deeper understanding of the game, strategic insights, and advanced techniques, elevating their football IQ.

Life Skills Workshops:

In addition to the physical aspects of soccer, participants will engage in workshops focusing on crucial life skills. These include leadership, communication, resilience, and time management, aiming to equip them for success both on and off the pitch.

Coaching Development:

Recognizing the pivotal role coaches play in youth development, our tournament places a strong emphasis on coaching education. Coaches working with younger age groups will have access to specialized training sessions and mentorship programs to enhance their ability to guide and inspire the next generation of players.

Teamwork and Holistic Development:

The tournament environment will encourage teamwork, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and unity. Players will experience holistic development, ensuring they emerge not just as skilled athletes but as well-rounded individuals ready to tackle challenges beyond the soccer field.

In summary, our U16 girls' soccer tournament is more than a competition – it's a comprehensive educational journey. By merging the thrill of football with valuable life skills and football-specific knowledge, we aim to shape the next generation of female athletes and coaches, setting them on a path of success in both their sporting endeavors and personal growth.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



TACTICAL

Game knowledge
Technical
Physical

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Attitude
Good habits
Positive mindset
Work ethic
Self-motivation

TECHNICAL

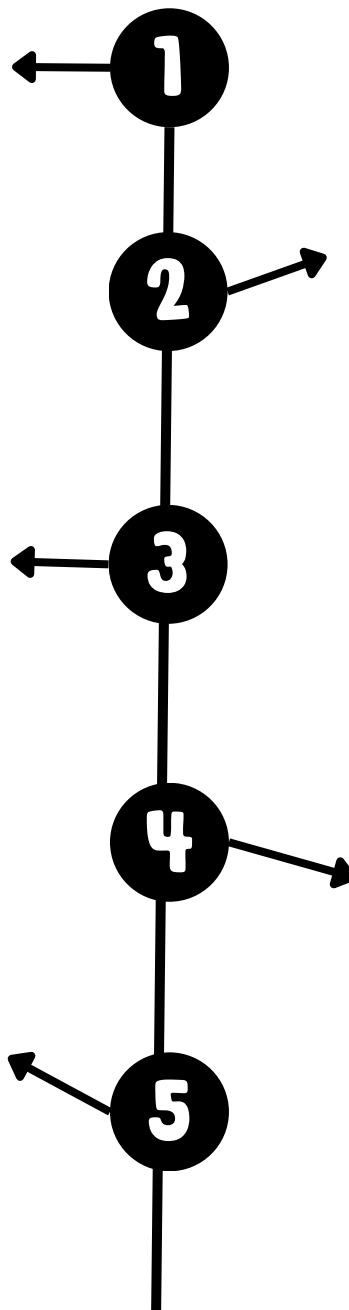
Ball mastery
First touch
Receiving skills
Dribbling
Finishing
Creativity
Defending

SOCIAL

Teamwork
Communication
Making friends

PHYSICAL

Speed
Agility
Power
Endurance
Strength Balance
Fitness





Coaches

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TALENT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS





Fitzgerald Carter

Talent Development Coach

My devotion lies in football development, and I am grateful to play a role not only in nurturing players but also in supporting coaches. Working closely with the U14 focus group during the CFU tournament was a privilege, and witnessing their football potential firsthand was truly inspiring. I am confident that these players will showcase their excellence on the international stage in the coming years.

To ensure success, it's crucial to revisit the fundamentals, ensuring each player is technically proficient and possesses a sound understanding of the game within a professional setup. The Talent Development Program provides a valuable opportunity for these players to enhance their skills through consistent training and access to the right equipment.

Beyond the pitch, I take pride in our holistic approach, addressing both on and off-field challenges. Understanding the hurdles players encounter, we are committed to creating an environment conducive to their overall growth. All of us involved in the Talent Development Program, are determined to provide the players with the necessary support and conditions for them to flourish.



FUTSAL



As we set our sights on developing Futsal as one of our key projects in 2024, our commitment to supporting the community college in fostering the sport remains paramount. Engaging with Dr. June Caddle, we've had promising discussions about the potential inclusion of coaching education in the Sports Management course at the college. We are currently in the early stages of exploring the customization of a module within the program. This initiative is aligned with one of the BFA TDS projects we are actively championing.

Fitz has played a crucial role in establishing relationships and gaining a deeper understanding of the essential elements required for the advancement of Futsal. This marks another initiative from the TDS program, driven by our belief that introducing Futsal at a young age significantly contributes to ball skill development and mastery. Recognizing the global trend, where leading nations incorporate small-sided games for player development, we plan to implement this approach across all our national team programs, with a particular focus on the younger age groups. Additionally, Futsal serves as another avenue for players who prefer small-sided games to represent Barbados on an international stage.