

The Greenfields Cup And The Coca Cola League Season

Kick Off!

Saturday January 12 will be the first day of what is claimed to be the biggest Sport Event for School Students in Indonesia: the Jakarta Schools Football Association (JSFA) is to kick off the third full season of interschool football.

The school football competition contains 4 groups: under 9 years, under 11, under 13 and under 15. For the Coca-Cola League each age group is divided into divisions (A, B or C), while for the Greenfields Cup the teams will compete within their own age group. The 2008 season will start this Saturday, January 12 and run until April. Every Saturday and some Sundays all footballers will play all out in pursuit of honor and victory.

The football league and cup competition was held for the first time in 2006, and was initiated by Brian Dallamore, the Chairman of JSFA. The fact that students have little chance to take part in school football competitions in Indonesia motivated him to start the event here. "This is the only competition in which any school can join, and has the added benefit of the students expanding their relationships among many different cultures and races. This year more than 32 schools -including International, National Plus, Local Schools and Orphanages- have entered well over 80 teams and more than 1250 football players in the competition. Within 3 years we have grown to such a size that we need 6 Venues, 40 referees and many support teams, I think it clearly shows the need and support for a quality event like this and we will continue our mission: getting more kids on the fields enjoying the game of football," says Dallamore.

In the Coca-Cola League all teams in each division will meet and play and collect points for winning the game. The team with the most points at the end of the season will win their division in the 2008 Coca Cola League. The Greenfields Cup 2008 will be played following the open draw Knockout system. Thus every game is a final: only the winner goes to the next stage. The last two remaining teams in each age group will compete on the final weekend prior to the Award Night in which the winners will take home the Greenfields Cup.

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The kickoff on January 12 will play 31 matches to mark the Coca Cola League season at four venues, the British International School (BIS), Sekolah Tiara Bangsa-ACS, Sekolah Global Jaya in Bintaro and the International Sports Club of Indonesia (ISCI). Matt Wheeler, Director of Sports at Sekolah Tiara Bangsa said: "We are proud that our school is one of the main venues in this event. Sport is an important part of education and representing their school in a competition like this, helps to build team spirit. And it's not just boys anymore: the teams are mixed. This year we even have a competition for girls teams under 15 years!" adding that the event would not exist without the full support and sponsorship from Greenfields Fresh Milk and Coca Cola.

The skills of the players both in individual play and teamwork shows continued improvement. This is largely due to the enthusiastic support from coaches, both professional and amateur who encourage their teams. Results matter in this league but the JSFA ensure that sportsmanship is paramount. Mike Woolf, a JSFA Committee Member, commented that "it was a joy to see so many student playing football and being competitive and not playing video games or at shopping malls munching on fast food!"

Favorites in the U15 league are probably the Jakarta International School (JIS) and British International School (BIS) though they will be challenged by St. Laurensia, last year's Division B Runners Up. In the U13, Global Jaya and Madania will be up there challenging JIS and BIS for the Division A Championship. The team of Central School is participating for the first time may cause surprises in the B league.

At U11, we have the fiercest of competition. Gandhi Memorial is expected to rise to the challenge of JIS and BIS, with Madania and Cita Buana also strong, based on past year's performances. In the U9 league the competition is open, but expect Cita Buana, Gandhi Memorial & Mentari to be strong. There will be many new players experiencing the joys and stresses of competition for the first time. Players as young as 6 years will be on the field trying to emulate their heroes from the Premier League and Serie A. Is there a new Ronaldo out there?