

iThemba Labantu Sport Coordinator's Report December 2014

Introduction: What do we have?

Yet another year has come to an end with lots of lessons learned and many areas for improvements. The experiences that took place this year should help us to take our sport program to a new level. This requires us to create practical solutions for our challenges and written guiding documents for our sport activities and facilitators. We have the most support in resources, high number of participants, attendance and the best administrative support but we have to see how best we can effectively utilise our facilitators. We have 9 football divisions, the 6 football boys teams of under 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and a senior team, 3 football girls' teams under 11, 13 & 15. We also have 4 Netball divisions of Under 9, 11, 13 & 15. The total number of participants in the sport program is +- 180 young children.



Summary of the Year Activities 2014

iThemba labantu Football Activities

We have established a young group of under 9 players who have been training through out the year regardless of less opportunities in which they can participate in. The Philippi LFA that we affiliated to this season did not have a league competition for this division and we had to keep them busy playing small sided game and we participated in the Rygate Cubs tournament which is in central Cape Town and did exceptionally well. We would like to continue participating in this tournament annually. This division is coached by Wendy Mdwekesha who always ensures that the boys do get friendly match at least twice a month.

We propose that we establish an under 7 division for 2015 give young boys an early exposure in life skills empowerment through football. There is always a challenge that the players do not have a proper training gear and playing shoes. This causes them to use schools shoes for training as parents can not afford to prioritise sport training equipment for their children as poverty level are high. The work we do incorporates the life skills for both the child and the parents as we have to ensure that the parents walk the talk with us and with our partner organisation Life Choice we empower parents with parenting skills. There are opportunities for the under 7 to have fun game and participate in the Rygate Cubs Tournament.



Under 11 before a friendly match with Chippa United

The under 11 has been working well together for the past year, it is one the division with the high number of attendance in the sport program. This division is coached by Sanele Manqola who has identified a number of areas for development as the measuring outcomes. When we worked with this age group there are high levels of aggressiveness which end up with a violent reaction or behaviour. Part of the problem that we have notice is that they have to be developed emotional and assist them to change their negative behaviour to be more positive and self aware. There is a need to assist more sport kids educational and have extra support lessons for their school subject.



U13 before the Child Protection tournament July 2014

The Under 13 division is the highlights of our football as the young people approaches the teenager stage and most of them have been with us for the past 2 years. They have by a degree out grown the negative behaviour and have the clue of our working principles. At this level we emphasize life skills, commitment and punctuality. The under 13 division is a bunch of technical sound football players and show characters of football maturity. We have to work hard towards assisting them in education by having special Saturday Classes and during the week in Mathematics, Science and Languages. This will need special assistance from the Centre and use training time for educational support where necessary.

The Under 15 is another strong group of players that plays good football which need a lot of attention. They are tempted into participating on negative social activities and we have to keep on motivating them as they are easily influenced by their peers. The most of the social ill that bothers the community we work in is gangsterism, it has the bad influence in young children that had witness the gruesome acts of stabbing and street fights. These gangster fights take place any time of the day, after school and frequently during school holidays. 95% of our players are not affected but can be if we are not vigilant enough and keep open communication with them on issues affecting them. They also do need educational support we have to move the sport program more towards being educational as there is some weakness in their academic development. Using football for youth development has proven to be a positive catalyst towards growing young people to be responsible individuals

Now we have a senior and the under 17 divisions which were put together for the purpose of affiliation, these division caused strain in the program as they were not budgeted for. Because the requirements for affiliation were strict we had to do something if we wanted to play in an organised football league. We need to get help with getting extra sport facilitators and training equipment for these two divisions in order maintain growth and stability in the sport program. We had good players who were hungry to play football for good health reasons. We will keep these divisions as required by the Philippi LFA and find way to manage them between coaches. The senior division is promoted to Super League in 2015 from Premier League and the Under 17 will remain in the Premier League unless confirmed otherwise as the final log has not been given to the affiliating members.

Tournaments 2014

Football

We had various tournament in 2014 some were organised by iThemba Labantu Community Centre others by our partner organisation like The Ark in Mfuleni which works with street children, Beautiful Gate which does similar work as iThemba Labantu and Philippi Local Football Association a local football federation. The under 9 team played in the 8 aside tournament early this year and won and the under 11 lost in the finals. We played the Phillipi LFA preseason tournament which was the eye opener in how the Phillipi LFA runs its affaires. This tournament was the preparations for joining the Phillipi LFA and only the Senior side, Under 17 and Under 14 participated in that tournament.

