

Development of Women's Football in Uzbekistan

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Annotation: Women's football has been growing rapidly globally in recent years. Many countries around the world are actively working to support the sport, increase girls' interest in football and expand opportunities at the professional level. However, there are still significant milestones to be achieved in this area. This article focuses on the factors that are influencing the development of women's football.

Key words: Women's football, social development, gender equality, quality fields, equipment, special training bases, Spartak, women's national teams.

Women's football is not only a sport but also an important tool for social development. This sector serves to increase girls' self-confidence through sport, guide them towards a healthy lifestyle and ensure gender equality in society. Through football, girls develop skills such as teamwork, responsibility and decision-making.

Problems and obstacles

There are some difficulties in the development of women's football:

1. Limited financial resources: In many countries, the amount allocated to women's football is much less than for men's football.
2. Lack of infrastructure: There are not enough quality pitches, equipment and special training facilities for women.
3. Social stereotypes: In some societies, attitudes against girls' participation in football persist.
4. Limited professional opportunities: The number of high-level championships and competitions in women's football is lower than in men's football.

Women's football in Uzbekistan was founded in the early 1990s, when the first amateur club "Spartak" was founded in Tashkent. In 1994, the women's national football team was founded. In 1995, Uzbekistan participated in the Asian Championship held in Malaysia for the first time, taking 6th place. Since 1995, competitions have also been held between the national football clubs of Uzbekistan.

In the first national championship, the "Chehra" club, coached by Ravshan Usmonkhodjayev, won the championship. In September of this year, the Uzbekistan women's national football team, formed by members of the "Chehra" club, coached by Ravshan Usmonkhodjayev, participated in the Asian Championship held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia for the second time, and took 3rd place.

In the national championships held until 2003, the Andijan club "Andijanka" did not win the championship, while the current "Sevinch" football club, "Talaba", coached by Vladislav Khan, which was first established in 2003 at the initiative of the governor of Kashkadarya region Nuriddin Zayniev, took 3rd place in its first championship and celebrated the championship the following year. "Sevinch" was established as the first official women's football club in Uzbekistan, while women's football clubs in other regions were under the control of men's football clubs and officially separated in 2018.

In 2005, at the Asian Indoor Games held in Thailand, the Uzbekistan women's national football team, coached by Vladislav Khan, won the continental championship for the first time. In this tournament held in Macau in 2007, our team took third place.

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In 2015, the first women's football tournament was held for the first time among female students of higher educational institutions in Tashkent.

Starting from 2021, championships will also be held in Uzbekistan among women in the categories under 14 years of age (U-14) and under 16 years of age (U-16).

In 2023, the first women's football school was opened in Uzbekistan. Ravshan Sayfitdinovich Ermatov, First Vice President of the Football Association of Uzbekistan, and Kamoliddin Murzoyev, Head of the Footballers' Association of Uzbekistan, attended the opening ceremony of the football school as guests of honor. The "Sevinch" women's football school is designed for 50 places, and it is planned to attract young female football players from different parts of our country to this school. Local players were expected to attend training sessions from home.

The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures for the comprehensive development of mass and professional football" (PQ-115) dated April 7, 2023, stipulates the development of women's football, the development and implementation of long-term plans and programs in this regard.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, women's football players conducted online training with coaches. The 3rd round of the Oliy Liga matches, which was suspended from March 15, 2020 due to the pandemic, was resumed from June 13. Uzbekistan Cup matches were also held between the teams of the Oliy Liga and the First League.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, not only national championships but also the AFC U-20 Asian Cup among women, which Uzbekistan was supposed to host in 2022, were canceled. The Asian Football Confederation Executive Committee has decided that the tournament will be held in 2024, with the host country remaining unchanged.

Conclusion. Women's football is not just a sport, it is a movement with the power to positively transform society. Working together to develop this sector will open up new opportunities for girls and benefit society as a whole. By developing women's football, we can build a healthy, confident and active society for future generations.

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