



BAHAMAS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# ***2022 Annual Report***

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022





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# Executive Summary

As we cast our gaze forward into 2023, the Bahamas Football Association (BFA) proudly reflects on a transformative year. In 2022, the BFA not only embraced change and celebrated progress but also set new benchmarks for excellence in football. This summary underscores our key achievements, encapsulating our commitment to nurturing talent, enriching community connections, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and innovation.

## LEADERSHIP AND VISION

The election of Anya James as the BFA's first female president marked a milestone in our journey towards inclusive leadership. This historic election underscores our commitment to diversity and sets a precedent for future governance. Her presidency heralds a new era of strategic focus on the development of football in The Bahamas and reinforces our resolve to bring equality to the forefront of sports administration.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The BFA's national teams have shined in their respective arenas, with the Men's National Beach Soccer Team making an indelible mark on the international stage. These achievements are a testament to our rigorous development programs and the high-caliber talent emerging from our shores.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION INTEGRATION

Our initiatives in 2022 focused on embedding football within the educational framework, offering educators the tools and knowledge to cultivate the next generation of athletes. The National Development Programme stood out as

a beacon of development, providing a structured pathway to sporting proficiency.

## MARKETING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Reinvigorated marketing efforts amplified the BFA's digital engagement, connecting with fans and communities through a vibrant online presence. Innovative campaigns and content strategies have fostered a more interactive relationship with football enthusiasts, enhancing their experience and involvement with the sport.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The BFA enters the new year with a sense of purpose and direction, empowered by a clear set of values: accountability, transparency, respect, inclusivity, and responsiveness. Our passion for football is the driving force behind our ongoing initiatives and strategic plans. The forthcoming pages detail the BFA's operational highlights, the successes of our athletes and teams, and the forward-thinking approaches that have characterized our achievements in the past year.



# International Participation

## GLOBAL REPRESENTATION AND COMPETITION

The Bahamas Football Association (BFA) demonstrated a strong international presence in 2022, with our national teams participating in key competitions and showcasing the depth of Bahamian talent on the world stage.

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BEACH SOCCER TEAMS

Our beach soccer teams had a prominent year internationally. The Men's team continued to build their legacy by winning The Bahamas Beach Soccer Cup and competing in the CAC Beach Games, where they showcased their skills and tenacity. The Women's National Team made significant strides, participating in the NBSL in Fort Lauderdale and the El Salvador Beach Soccer Cup under Coach Daria Adderley, marking a year of remarkable progress in international beach soccer competitions.

## YOUTH TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS ABROAD

The youth teams also made their mark, with the U15 Girls competing in the Concacaf U15 Girls Championship in Tampa. These international experiences are invaluable, exposing our players to high-level competition and diverse tactical styles.

## REFEREEING ACHIEVEMENTS

We are proud of the international recognition of our referees, exemplified by Anisa Albury's appointment to officiate in The Bahamas Beach Soccer Cup. Her appointment underscores the BFA's commitment to excellence in officiating at an international level.

## MILESTONES AND DEVELOPMENT

The U17 Boys' participation in the Concacaf U17 Boys Championships Qualifiers and the U15 Girls' participation in the Concacaf U15 Girls Championship in Tampa were landmark achievements. These platforms provided our young athletes with critical development opportunities and competitive experience.

## STRATEGIC IMPACT

The BFA's international engagements in 2022 served as crucial benchmarks for our progress, enhancing our competitive strategies and reinforcing our bonds within the international football community. The insights and experiences gained are fundamental to our ongoing development and pursuit of excellence.





# National Teams

## WOMEN'S TEAM

The Women's National Beach Soccer Team showed their competitive edge and development with active participation in regional and international events in 2022. Their commitment to growth was evident in the following:

- NBSL in Fort Lauderdale, 2022: The team's involvement provided valuable exposure to various international playing styles, contributing to their growth.
- El Salvador Beach Soccer Cup: Under Coach Daria Adderley, the team participated in challenging matches against teams from El Salvador, Argentina, and the United States in April 2022, marking significant progress in their international development.
- Bahamas Beach Soccer Cup: The Women's National Beach Soccer Team proudly participated in two matches during the event in October, demonstrating their skill and readiness to compete at high-stakes international events.



## MEN'S TEAM

The Bahamas Men's National Soccer Team showcased remarkable skill and resilience throughout 2022. Their performance in the Concacaf Nations League was marked by strategic plays that solidified their position in League B Group C.

### Beach Soccer Team

The Men's National Beach Soccer Team's calendar was filled with international competitions:

- Fort Lauderdale, USA: They started strong with three matches in January 2022, setting a



competitive tone for the year.

- Bahamas Beach Soccer Cup: The team claimed victory at home in October, captivating fans with their skill over three matches.
- CAC Beach Games: In November, five matches at the CAC Beach Games tested their endurance and tactical skills, continuing their impressive performance streak.

### YOUTH NATIONAL TEAMS

The BFA's focus on youth development bore fruit as our young athletes gained critical developmental opportunities and competitive experience:

- Boys' Youth Achievements: The U17 Boys' participation in the Concacaf U17 Boys Championships Qualifiers provided invaluable exposure to high-level competition.
- Girls' Youth Achievements: The U15 Girls' team's engagement in the Concacaf U15 Girls Championship in Tampa offered them an essential platform for growth and learning.

The BFA remains dedicated to supporting our youth, ensuring they have the foundation to excel and inspire the next generation of football enthusiasts in The Bahamas.





# Women's Football Development



The Bahamas Football Association (BFA) remains committed to elevating women's football, aligning with FIFA Women's Development Program standards. Our strategy encompasses enhancing all aspects of women's football in The Bahamas, from grassroots to elite levels, ensuring comprehensive growth and resource allocation.

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Women's Football Strategy is our roadmap, broadening our focus beyond traditional 11-a-side football to include beach soccer and futsal. This diversification aims to promote wide-ranging involvement and development across the sport.

## DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Our developmental agenda emphasizes:

- **Educational Initiatives:** Conducting workshops for educators and coaches, equipping them to effectively train and inspire female footballers.
- **Targeted Training Programs:** Offering specialized training catering to the unique requirements of women's football at various levels.
- **Community Integration:** Expanding football's reach by incorporating it into school curriculums and community activities.

## WOMEN'S TRAINING

Since January 18th, the Women's Training Program has been pivotal in providing ongoing

training and mentorship, vital in raising the standards of women's football in The Bahamas.

## STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The BFA's strategic plan for women's football, with a mission to develop girls and women holistically, envisions Women's Football at the forefront in The Bahamas by 2034. Our focus on inclusion, accessibility, education, equality, innovation, and success underpins our efforts to advance women's football.

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We are dedicated to creating a sustainable future for women's football, fostering an environment that supports and celebrates the ambitions of women in the sport. Our strategy is tailored to nurture talent and create pathways for progression at every level, ensuring women's football is an integral and thriving part of sports in The Bahamas.



# Domestic Competitions

## RETURN TO FOOTBALL: YOUTH CUP AND LOVE CUP

2022 heralded a significant milestone for Bahamian football with the Return to Football, marked by the Youth Cup and Love Cup tournaments. These events symbolized the resurgence of the sport after a two-year pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, reigniting the spirit of competition across all ages. The Youth Cup marked a vibrant comeback for our younger players, showcasing emerging talent in a dynamic environment at the RALD facilities. The Love Cup, encompassing both men's and women's teams, celebrated the sport's inclusive and competitive return, embracing the community's passion for football.

## BAHAMAS MEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE (BMSL)

Following the spirited return through the Youth and Love Cups, the BMSL resumed with clubs engaging in intense competition. This league served as a platform for showcasing high-caliber football, underlining the country's rich sporting heritage and the fervor for the game.

## BAHAMAS WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE (BWSL)

The BWSL commenced with an exciting Futsal format, marking a spirited return to play for women's football. This vibrant beginning set the stage for a season where female athletes showcased their evolving skills and competitive spirit. The league's dynamic format underlined the BFA's commitment to innovating women's football and promoting gender equality in the sport.

## BAHAMAS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE (BYFL)

The BYFL continued to nurture young talent across a spectrum of age groups, from U-7 co-ed to U-18 boys. This league's comprehensive structure is a testament to the BFA's commitment to developing future stars of Bahamian football.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

In collaboration with the New Providence Primary School Sports Association (NPPSSA), the Bahamas Football Association proudly supported the Primary School Soccer Tournament. This event marked a significant step in reintroducing regular sporting activities for primary school students, offering them an exciting opportunity to engage in football. The tournament played a crucial role in fostering a love for the sport among young students and contributed to the sport's growing popularity and development at the grassroots level.

## CUP COMPETITIONS

The excitement of Bahamian football was also evident in the Hummel Cup, where clubs across the island competed in thrilling knock-out matches. These events were not just competitions but celebrations of the sport's deep roots and vibrant presence in the country.

## FORWARD FOCUS

Looking forward, the BFA remains dedicated to fostering the growth and legacy of football in The Bahamas through these diverse domestic leagues and competitions. Each game, player, and supporter weaves into the rich tapestry of Bahamian football, echoing our commitment to the sport's enduring success and sustainability.



# Development Programs

## EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Bahamas Football Association (BFA) steadfastly advanced its educational and professional development initiatives in 2022, reinforcing the integration of football into our national education system. Our specialized workshop for Physical Education teachers, part of a broader effort to embed football into school curriculums, exemplified our proactive approach to cultivating early football interest among the students of The Bahamas.

The commitment to professional growth was evident through our active participation in the Concacaf Coach Education Exchange in Kingston, Jamaica. Deputy General Secretary Carl Lynch and Technical Director Bruce Swan's attendance at this three-day training in April enriched our knowledge base and provided an international perspective on coaching development.

In November, the BFA proudly hosted the Concacaf W C License Coaching course exclusively for women. This groundbreaking initiative underscores our dedication to empowering female coaches and elevating the standard of women's football within the region.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ISLAND-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Our commitment to community outreach extended beyond New Providence, with Football Development Island Trips serving as a cornerstone of our efforts. These island-specific visits allowed us to tailor football programs to the unique needs of each family island community in The Bahamas.

The journey began with a visit to Grand Bahama on March 29-30, 2022, where our Technical Director and Director of Women's Football Development engaged with local clubs, school associations, sports officials, and educators. This trip helped us understand and address the football needs of Grand Bahama.

On April 7, 2022, our team ventured to the northern part of Eleuthera, assessing football needs and distributing equipment to schools and community fields. This visit aimed to support football development in the region.

Cat Island became our focus from October 24-27, 2022, with our Technical Director and Director



of Women's Football Development meeting with local sports authorities, educators, and community coaches. We also donated footballs to schools, promoting football as a unifying force on the island.

These Football Development Island Trips exemplify our dedication to grassroots development and our commitment to tailoring football initiatives to the specific needs of each Bahamian family island community.

### **NATIONAL AND STRUCTURED TALENT DEVELOPMENT**

Our National Development Programmes continued to be pillars of skill development and professional training, catering to both the women's and men's game. Participation in FIFA

and CONCACAF-endorsed courses has been key to establishing a solid foundation for nurturing elite football talent across the islands.

The BFA's educational outreach endeavors extend the reach of football, ensuring the sport's inherent values are instilled from a foundational level. Through these partnerships with educational institutions, we aim to promote football as an integral part of holistic development for young athletes.

### **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

Every program and initiative introduced in 2022 is a testament to our commitment to maintaining the highest standards in football governance and operations.





# Refereeing

## ELEVATING OFFICIATING STANDARDS

In 2022, the Bahamas Football Association (BFA) continued to elevate the standards of refereeing, synchronizing the advancement of officials with the dynamic growth of football within the nation.

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Our year began with a commitment to comprehensive education, seeing referees participate in FIFA MA online Beach Soccer courses and First Aid Certification Workshops. These programs are integral to our objective of equipping referees with the necessary skills and knowledge for both the safety and integrity of the sport.

## GLOBAL LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE

International exposure and development were key themes of the year, with referees attending the Concacaf Coaching Convention and the FIFA Technical Director Workshop. These experiences are vital in aligning our referees with the highest international standards and practices.

## DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

At home, Bahamian referees maintained the competitive integrity of the game, officiating with distinction across national leagues and cup competitions. Internationally, they upheld the BFA's reputation, with their skills being recognized and utilized in tournaments around the region.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

In a notable accolade, FIFA Assistant Referee Krystal Evans was appointed to officiate in the CONCACAF U15 Girls Competition, marking a significant achievement for Bahamian officiating and exemplifying the BFA's commitment to promoting excellence in refereeing on an international scale.

## MENTORSHIP AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT

The BFA values mentorship as a key component of referee development, with experienced assessors like Dianne Ferreira James providing invaluable insight and evaluation to nurture our officiating talent.

## COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED GROWTH

As we look to the future, the BFA's dedication to the progression of referees remains unwavering. We are committed to ongoing development programs, education, and mentorship, recognizing the critical role referees play in the success and enjoyment of football.

We commend the hard work and dedication of our referees, whose contributions significantly enhance the beautiful game. The BFA is steadfast in its support of their professional journey, ensuring that the quality of officiating in Bahamian football continues to rise and gain the respect it deserves.

# Good Governance

## UPHOLDING EXCELLENCE IN ADMINISTRATION

Throughout 2022, the Bahamas Football Association (BFA) set a benchmark in governance, both in The Bahamas and across the CONCACAF region. Our commitment to transparency, strategic oversight, and inclusive leadership guided our administrative actions, ensuring football's integrity and continual advancement.

## PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP AND HISTORIC ELECTIONS

The BFA's governance in 2022 was characterized by a blend of progressive leadership and adherence to evolving best practices. The pivotal event of the year was the election of Anya James as President, marking a significant stride towards gender equality and diversity in leadership within the BFA.

Complementing this was our initiative to revamp the BFA's statutes, a key step towards aligning our governance framework with contemporary global standards. By harmonizing our leadership approach with structural reforms, the BFA has strengthened its foundation for future growth and success, underscoring our commitment to excellence in administration and governance.



The newly elected BFA President and Council. (L-R standing) Frankie Edmond, Dion Peterson, Andre Moss, John Joseph, Gavin Christie. (L-R seating) President Anya James and Daria Adderley.

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Strategic alignment with global standards was a priority, highlighted by our active participation in the CONCACAF 37th Ordinary Congress and the 72nd FIFA Congress. These platforms allowed us to engage in critical discussions, adopt new regulations, and ensure that our practices were in line with international benchmarks.

## EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AND DEVELOPMENT

The BFA continued to emphasize education and training through initiatives such as the workshop for Physical Education teachers and First Aid certification programs.

## REFINING FOOTBALL'S FUTURE

The BFA's dedication to governance extends to continually refining our strategic plan, including the Women's Football Strategy, to promote a sustainable and dynamic future for football.

As we reflect on a year marked by strong governance, the BFA is poised to continue fostering an environment conducive to the growth and success of football in The Bahamas, driven by an unwavering commitment to excellence.



# Community Impact

## COLLABORATION WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

In a display of our commitment to inclusivity and community engagement, the BFA proudly supported the Special Olympics Bahamas soccer team at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, FL, from June 5th-12th. Our support extended beyond facility access, including significant financial contributions for travel and uniforms. This sponsorship was part of our broader initiative to embrace athletes from all walks of life.

The Special Olympics Bahamas soccer team showcased remarkable talent and determination, culminating in a thrilling 4-3 victory over Special Olympics Ohio to clinch the gold medal in their division. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the coaches and players. We congratulate them on their well-deserved success and are honored to have played a role in their journey. Their victory not only brings pride to our nation but also reinforces the BFA's commitment to fostering diverse sporting opportunities.



# Marketing and Communications

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## DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

The Bahamas Football Association (BFA) heightened its digital presence in the latter part of 2022, charting significant growth and engagement across our social media platforms, solidifying our connection with a global audience, and amplifying the voice of Bahamian football.

- Facebook: Achieved a 14.47% increase in followers, garnering over 37,651 unique views, and saw a notable rise in interactions, demonstrating the resonating power of our content with fans.
- Instagram: Experienced a 40.31% increase in followership, with our year-end count standing at 1,250, while engagement with our content surged, reflecting the BFA's vibrant storytelling of Bahamian football.
- Twitter: Grew our following by a remarkable 466.67%, indicating a burgeoning interest in the BFA's timely updates and engaging football discourse.

## STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Strategic campaigns launched during this period had a considerable impact:

- Beach Soccer Cup: Intense promotional campaigns including sponsorships and media collaborations, significantly heightened the profile and success of the Beach Soccer Cup.
- Youth Referee Training: Our focus on youth referee training in September captured the community's attention and showcased our investment in the game's future leaders.

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

Our grassroots and community initiatives benefited from strategic marketing support:

- Primary School Soccer Tournament: Enhanced marketing efforts resulted in increased visibility and participation, underscoring our dedication to the sport's early development.
- Exuma Sports Council Support: Publicizing our contributions to the Exuma Sports Council, we emphasized the BFA's broad impact on sports development across The Bahamas.

## MEDIA RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

The BFA's proactive media relations were essential in maintaining a consistent narrative of our teams' and players' triumphs and activities.

## PERFORMANCE ANALYTICS AND ADVERTISING EFFECTIVENESS

Our data-driven marketing strategies and judicious advertising investments have yielded impressive results, showcasing that targeted content and promotional efforts can significantly enhance community involvement and brand visibility.

The latter part of 2022 set a new benchmark for the BFA's marketing and communication endeavors, establishing a robust template for future campaigns and solidifying the BFA's role in fostering the growth of football in The Bahamas.

# Acknowledgments

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The Bahamas Football Association (BFA) wishes to express its profound appreciation to all the individuals, organizations, sponsors, and partners who have contributed to the progress and achievements of the past year.

## OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

A heartfelt thank you to the event sponsors of the Beach Soccer event in 2022 for their generous support and belief in our mission:

- Aliv
- Bamboo Shack
- Ministry of Youth, Sports, & Culture
- Insurance Management

- Simplified Lending
- Atlantis
- Tito's/Jimmy's Wines & Spirits
- Thompson Trading
- Bahamas Waste
- CGT Contractors and Developers
- Master Creations/ Perfect Paint
- Island Destination Services
- Bruce LaFleur & Associates Ltd.
- Fourth Terrace Diagnostics
- Ballin' By Da Beach
- Original Patties
- Aquapure
- The Movi Group

Your contributions have not only supported the successful execution of our events but have also played a pivotal role in developing football in The Bahamas.

## OUR VALUED PARTNERS

The BFA is grateful for the continued support from:

- Bahamas Waste
- Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

These partnerships have been crucial in providing opportunities for growth, learning, and development within our football programs.

## OUR COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS

The dedication of our volunteers has been invaluable. Your tireless efforts and enthusiasm make a world of difference and enable us to reach our collective goals.



## OUR DEVOTED CLUBS, COACHES, AND ATHLETES

A heartfelt salute to our clubs, their dedicated coaches, and the relentless athletes of both our national teams and league competitions. Your collective passion, hard work, and unwavering commitment are the heartbeat of Bahamian football. We recognize and celebrate not only your on-field achievements but also the integrity, resilience, and team spirit you bring to every game and training session. You are the true embodiment of the spirit of our football community.

## THE FAMILIES BEHIND THE PLAYERS

We extend our thanks to the parents, guardians, and families who stand behind our players. Your support systems are the foundation upon which the successes of our players are built.

## THE BFA SECRETARIAT

Special recognition goes to the BFA Secretariat for their diligent work:

- Frederick Lunn, General Secretary
- Carl Lynch, Deputy General Secretary
- Bruce Swan, Technical Director
- Soraya Toppin-Herbert, Director of Women's Football
- Charmaine Smith, Office Manager
- Larry Minns, BFA Ambassador
- Marsha Forbes, Custodial Supervisor, whose dedication ensures our facilities are not only functional but also welcoming and safe.

## SUPPORT AND SERVICE TEAMS

We thank Sports and Management, the Ballin' By Da Beach Sports Management Team and Trevor McKenzie for their exceptional services which help maintain our operations at the highest standards.

In sum, the achievements of the BFA in 2022 are a direct result of the collaboration, support, and shared vision of all our stakeholders. We are

immensely grateful for every contribution that has propelled us forward and look forward to achieving even more together in the future.





# Tribute to Anton Sealey

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## HONORING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

As the Bahamas Football Association (BFA) acknowledges the remarkable tenure of Anton Sealey, we celebrate a leader whose vision and dedication have significantly elevated Bahamian football.

Anton Sealey's stewardship as President of the BFA, spanning from 1996 to 2022, was a period of transformative growth for football in The Bahamas, marked by numerous milestones and international recognition.

Key Achievements Under Anton Sealey:

- Founding of the BFA's first operational office with full-time staff.
- Inception of the Bahamas Youth Football League (BYFL).
- Development and implementation of a primary school football curriculum.
- Hosting the 2009 FIFA Congress and the 2017 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.
- Advancing Bahamian football on the global stage through various initiatives.

Internationally, Sealey's role in FIFA and CONCACAF committees, including his work as a FIFA Match Commissioner, has showcased his global football acumen.

## TRIBUTES TO ANTON SEALEY

**Anya James, BFA Vice President:**

*"As Vice President under Anton Sealey, I witnessed first-hand his visionary leadership that has indelibly shaped the BFA. His foresight and dedication paved the way for our current and future successes. His legacy is a beacon for all in Bahamian football."*

**Frederick Lunn, BFA General Secretary:**

*"Working alongside Anton Sealey has been an enlightening experience. His strategic vision and commitment to football in The Bahamas have left an indelible mark on the sport. His leadership has been a guiding force for the BFA."*

Anton Sealey's tenure as President is not just remembered for its milestones but also for the profound influence he has had on individuals within the football community. His passion for the game and dedication to the development of football in The Bahamas will continue to inspire future generations.

The BFA extends heartfelt thanks to Anton Sealey for his extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to Bahamian football.





## ***Get Involved:***

Join the movement to elevate football in The Bahamas. Your participation as a volunteer, partner, or donor helps our sport thrive. Get in touch today!

## ***Support Our Programs:***

Support the beautiful game. Whether it's sponsoring an event, providing gear, or funding a player's journey, your contribution is game-changing.



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