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Vasantkumar Patel

GUJARAT STATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Soc. Reg. No.: GUJ / 82 / ABD.

Affiliated to All India Football Federation

Pub. Tr. Reg. No. : F / 320 / ABD.

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1ST September, 2022

GUJARAT STATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

BRIEF ABOUT THE 1st Gujarat STATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2021-22.

Gujarat State Football Association introduced for the very first time ever the GSFA Club Championship in the year 2021-22 in three categories for the football players of Gujarat, with 33 Teams & 11 cities with 990 players all registered Clubs in the CRS/CMS of AIFF.

2nd Year of the GSFA Club Championship - 2023.

The 2nd Year of the GSFA Club Championship - 2022-23 is starting from 3rd September 2022.

Senior Club Championship: Where an affiliated club/team of Gujarat having players of any age can participate, a team is also allowed to register three foreign players in their squad. A squad comprises 30 players out of which 20 players can be chosen on any match day to participate. However it is also mandated that a team should have a minimum of 5 players under the age of 20 years (born 2003/2004/2005) out of which 3 players always have to be on the field of play in a match. This is because GSFA would like to encourage the development of youth players along with the seniors, which will enable them to compete on a higher stage and get better exposure to the competition.

There are 20 teams participating in the Senior Club Championship, from across Gujarat State (5 teams from Ahmedabad, 3 from Gandhinagar, 3 from Vadodara, 2 from Rajkot, 2 from Surat and 1 team each from Anand, Kutch, Bhavnagar, Vapi and Godhra).

The tournament will be played in two phases which will go on for 7 (Seven) months. In the first phase (Qualifiers Round) the teams would be divided in groups and would

play twice (Home and Away) among the other teams in the Group. The matches would be played on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) so that each team can get maximum rest between two games, which will help them to recover and also plan for the next game, which will help them to enhance their performance.

Two Best teams of the Qualifiers Round will be promoted to Final Round where last year's best 8 teams have been promoted.

The 10 Club Teams will play the Final Round with each team playing with each other twice to play a total of 18 matches.

The Champions will be nominated for the AIFF 2nd Division(team to fulfill the AIFF criteria) from Gujarat.

The last two position teams of the final round will be relegated to the qualifying stage of next year's Senior Club championship.

All the matches are going to be played with Nivia (Simbolo) Footballs, each club has been provided by three footballs to conduct their home games.



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The winner & Runner Up team of the Championship would be awarded a Rolling trophy and medals.

Moreover, the winner of the Senior Club Championship would be nominated from Gujarat State in AIFF iLeague Qualifiers, provided they fulfill the Club licensing Criteria, laid down by AIFF.

Hosting the first phase games on Home and Away was definitely a success with all the stakeholders giving their 100% Support, the benefit to smaller cities to see players from bigger cities and bigger clubs playing in their hometown had given a footballing atmosphere throughout Gujarat, this initiative will definitely ensure the development of Football in every District of Gujarat.

All the venues where the matches are going to be held would be inspected by the representatives of the GSFA to ensure that the best infrastructure is being provided for the players to play.

Junior & Sub Junior GSFA Club Championship will Begin from October end this year.

Junior Club Championship: Where an affiliated club/team of Gujarat having players under the age of U18 (born 2005/2006/2007) may participate. Selecting the particular age group is to make more and more players of this age category out of which most of them would be High School students, for whom we don't have much of a competitive tournament and also to identify the future talents among them and nurture them down the line.

Sub Junior Club Championship: Where an affiliated club/team of Gujarat having players under the age of U15 (2008/2009) may participate. This tournament will continue to boost their growth in the critical age to give them more matches per year.

Youth U13 Club Championship: Where an affiliated club/team of Gujarat having players under the age of U13 (2010/2011) may participate. To popularize the game an association needs to identify the raw talent from the grassroot level itself, this age group children are mostly Primary school students. In many districts we do have many school tournaments organized but to have a proper club championship in this age group will also generate interest in football in this particular category and will also develop the team strengthening mental abilities which will definitely help them to grow stronger mentally and physically.

In this category The players will be scouted by clubs from the Golden Baby Leagues held across Gujarat.

The Golden Baby League is a format for Boys/Girls to catch them young from their age of under 6 to under 12.

The GBL will saw the seeds & Gujarat will prosper in Football with all the efforts together.



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The benefit of having the club championship is that the players get maximum playing time and also, the state association can identify real talent and groom them for the national championship in future. By having such tournaments not only the players would benefit, it will also create more opportunity for the home grown coaches as well as home grown referees to develop their skills and perform better at a higher level whenever called for.

Thank you, Let the game begin.

Mulrajsinh Chudasama **Hon. General Secretary Gujarat State Football Association.**