

Anguilla Football Association 2021 Activity Report



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
FIGURE 1: FOOTBALL CAMP COACHES WITH KIDS 2021	3
THE N.C.B.A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A.L.H.C.S INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL 2021	4
THE A.F.L SENIOR MEN’S FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2021	5
FIGURE 2: AFL SENIOR MALE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS ROARING LIONS FC.....	5
TABLE 1: AFL SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE RESULTS	6
SUNSET HOMES WOMEN’S FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2021	7
FIGURE 3: AFL SENIOR WOMEN’S LEAGUE CHAMPIONS SUPER STARS FC	7
TABLE 2: WOMEN’S LEAGUE RESULTS	8
THE AFA FOOTBALL CAMP 2021.....	9
FIGURE 4: CHILDREN AND COACH AT FOOTBALL CAMP 2021	9
TABLE 3: NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR FOOTBALL CAMP 2021	10
PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES	11
AFA GOALKEEPING CAMP	11
FIGURE 5: GARY WALKER WITH YOUNG GOALKEEPERS.....	11
SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP	12
FIGURE 6: POSTER OF SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP.....	12
AFA GRASSROOTS SKILLS CHALLENGE	13
FIGURE 7: CHILDREN AT THE GRASSROOTS SKILLS CHALLENGE	14
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2021.....	15
FIGURE 8 : ANGUILLA NATIONAL U-20 WOMEN’S TEAM	15
FIGURE 9: ANGUILLA NATIONAL U-20 MEN’S TEAM	16
FIGURE 10: ANGUILLA NATIONAL SENIOR MEN’S TEAM.....	16
COACHING EDUCATION	17
FIGURE 11: COACH EDUCATORS AND D-LICENSE COACHES	17
TABLE 4: NUMBER OF B AND D LICENSE COACHES	18
COONCLUSION.....	19
FIGURE 12: RAYMOND E.G. GUISHARD STADIUM	19

Introduction

The 2021 Anguilla Football Association season was perhaps one of the most arduous and frustrating in its history. Once again, the Corona Virus pandemic raised its ugly head and despite the best efforts of the Anguilla Football Association, many programs, projects, tournaments and new initiatives were either disrupted, curtailed, delayed or completely suspended or cancelled. The island-wide shut down, new travel restrictions and safety protocol measures implemented by the government of Anguilla and the Ministry of Health also presented novel challenges for the Anguilla Football Association.

In the face of all these demanding circumstances, the vision, strategic planning, commitment and hard work of the A.F.A, the technical department and the support of the clubs and key stakeholders, football was still possible in 2021. Among the many accomplishments were the execution of the annual football summer camp, the grassroots skills challenge, the A.F.A men and women's leagues, coaching education courses and Anguilla's participation in regional and international competitions by both males and females at all levels. This was indeed commendable.



FIGURE 1: FOOTBALL CAMP COACHES WITH KIDS 2021

The NCBA Primary School Football League and the ALHCS Inter-House Football Tournament

Both the Annual NCBA Primary School league and the ALHCS Inter-House competitions were cancelled in 2021. The fear, uncertainty and health risk created by the Corona Virus pandemic, forced the authorities and key stakeholders to decide to scrap both of these tournaments for 2021, with the idea that once the environment is safe and conducive in 2022, these tournaments will resume.

AFL Senior Men's League 2021

The AFL Senior Men' League was severely hampered by the Corona Virus pandemic and several stoppages for Nations League matches and international friendlies. The tournament was originally scheduled for two rounds using the round-robin format with 11 teams. After an island-wide shut down, the league was suspended for an extended period. Several attempts were made to complete the league but they all proved unsuccessful. The AFA eventually decided to end the league prematurely and determine the final places based on points per game. This meant that Kicks United F.C placed 3rd with 2.33 points per game, while Docs United FC was 2nd with 2.5 points per game. Roaring Lions FC was awarded the 2021 AFL Championship with 3 points per game. Jermaine Ricketts, Renee Thomas and Emanie Amedee each won 3 M.V.P Awards with Jonathon Guishard being the top goal scorer with 10 goals.



FIGURE 2: AFL SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONS ROARING LIONS FC

Team	Games Played	Games Won	Games Lost	Games Drawn	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Pts per Game	Points
Roaring Lions FC	8	8	0	0	33	1	32	3	24
Kicks Utd FC	9	7	2	0	27	8	19	2.33	21
Uprising FC	8	5	2	1	16	11	5	2	16
Doc's United FC	6	5	1	0	28	3	25	2.5	15
Lymers FC	8	4	3	1	10	8	2	1.625	13
Attackers FC	9	3	2	4	10	16	-6	1.44	13
Diamond FC	8	3	4	1	11	11	0	1.25	10
Enforcers FC	8	2	5	1	15	16	-1	0.875	7
Salsa Ballers FC	9	2	7	0	11	32	-21	0.67	6
Spartans FC	9	1	6	2	6	24	-18	0.556	5
West End Predators FC	10	1	9	0	8	45	-37	0.3	3
1st Place	Roaring Lions								
2nd Place	Docs United								
3rd Place	Kicks United								

TABLE 1: AFL SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE RESULTS

AFL Sunset Homes Women's League 2021

The 2021 pre-season activities were dominated by Super Stars FC. For beach soccer Shinning Stars placed 3rd, Superstars placed 2nd, and De youngsters FC was 1st. In the junior 4 v 4 competition, Super Stars FC placed 1st while Gazelles FC and Lil Soldiers FC were 2nd and 3rd respectively. The senior 4 v 4 tournament was also won by Super Stars FC, while Gazelles FC and Shining Stars FC were in the 2nd and 3rd positions. The junior Futsal competition was won by Super Stars FC with Shining Stars FC and Gazelles FC placing 2nd and 3rd respectively. Shining Stars FC were the senior Futsal champions, Superstars FC was second and De Youngsters FC placed 3rd. The women's Backyard Olympics was also won by Super Stars FC, with Shinning Stars FC and Gazelles FC placing 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Super Stars FC won the 2021 Soccerama championship defeating Gazelles in the finals by 3 goals to nil. In the AFL 2021 Senior Women's football league, Superstars FC emerged champions for the 3rd consecutive year with 30 points, Shinning Stars placed second with 17 points and De Youngsters FC was 3rd with 14 points. Carlia Johnson won 10 MVP awards and was also the top goal scorer with 39 goals.



FIGURE 3: AFL SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONS SUPER STARS FC

Team	Games Played	Games Won	Games Lost	Games Drawn	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Superstars	10	10	0	0	73	4	69	30
Shining Stars	10	5	3	2	26	11	15	17
De Youngsters	10	4	4	2	27	14	13	14
Gazelles	10	4	5	1	21	33	-12	13
Lil Soldiers	10	3	4	3	8	20	-12	12
Diamond Queens	10	0	10	0	1	74	-73	0

TABLE 2: WOMEN'S LEAGUE RESULTS

The AFA 2021 Football Camp

It is remarkable that in the face of extreme challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic the number of participants at the AFA football camp continues to grow. For the first time, the registration for the football camp was done primarily online. This process not only enabled more efficient recording but also allowed the organization to plan and prepare in advance. The number of participants increased slightly from 454 in 2021 to 489 in 2022. The statistics also revealed that there is a huge disparity in the number of boys attending the camp compared to girls. In 2022, there were 339 boys registered and 150 girls with the highest proportion of participants coming from the 10 to 11-year-old category, which showed 77 boys and 35 girls.

In preparation for the 2022 football camp in addition to the general protocol measures mandated by the ministry of health, the AFA also took the initiative to apply additional safety measures to ensure the protection and well-being of all participants and staff. Apart from random temperature checks and regular sanitizing, a safeguarding officer was always on sight as well as two trained red-cross personnel. The Anguilla Football Association annual football camp continues to be the premier breeding ground for the identification and development of young football talents.



FIGURE 4: CHILDREN AND COACH AT FOOTBALL CAMP 2021

Age Ranges	Male	Female	Total
3-5	46	20	66
6-7	53	33	86
8-9	68	29	97
10-11	77	35	112
12-13	43	14	57
14-15	46	13	59
16+	6	6	12
Overall	339	150	489

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR FOOTBALL CAMP 2021

Projects, Programs and Initiatives

AFA Goalkeeping Camp

In September 2021, the Anguilla Football Association held a goalkeeping camp conducted by Mr Gary Walker, a very experienced and respected A-license coach and coach educator who has a successful soccer camp and sporting academy in Maine, USA. This program was initiated by Mr Billy Hughes and fully supported by the Anguilla Football Association. Sessions were delivered to players between the ages of 12 and 19 in two age categories; ages 10-13 and 14+. The goalkeeping camp ran from September 3rd to 7th at the Raymond E.G. Guishard Football Technical Center and Rendezvous Beach. The sessions included diving, catching, kicking, reading the game as well as passing. National team players and coaches were utilized to help to improve the goalkeepers in game situations.

Additionally, national teams and clubs' goalkeeping coaches also participated in the training to aid their development and enhance their coaching skills. All goalkeepers were fully equipped with their full goalkeeping outfits which included jerseys, pants, socks and gloves. The sessions were attended by over 25 male and female goalkeepers from various school clubs and grassroots academies. This workshop was very timely.



FIGURE 5: GARY WALKER WITH YOUNG GOALKEEPERS

Sports Scholarship Workshop

Mr Gary Walker also took the opportunity to conduct a hybrid scholarship workshop from the 5th to the 6th of September. On the first day, Mr Walker delivered an excellent power-point presentation to players, parents and coaches, where he educated them on the scholarship opportunities, offered by schools and universities in America as well as the most effective ways to select their schools and programs. This workshop was made available to all athletes across all sporting disciplines. On the second day, Gary conducted several interviews with parents and athletes to connect them to possible schools and guide them through the process of acquiring a sports scholarship. Several athletes took advantage of this opportunity and benefitted significantly.

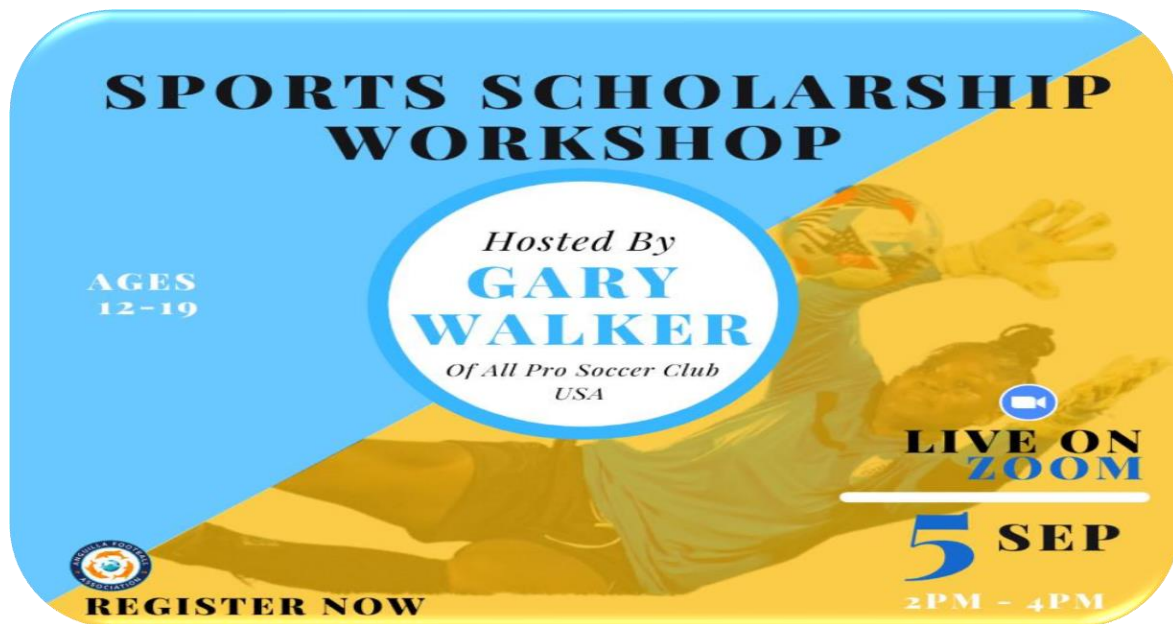


FIGURE 6: POSTER OF SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP

AFA Grassroots Skills Challenge

On February 27th 2021, under the leadership of the Grassroots Coordinator, Mr Germain Hughes, the AFA held its grassroots skills challenge which featured all eight grassroots academies on the island, for players between the ages of 3 years to 12 years old. The grassroots skills challenge included team and individual activities such as juggling, dribbling, shooting, agility race, hurdle runs and various relay races. This event was attended by over 200 players and was facilitated by the technical department with the assistance of the coaches from the academies and Spartans FC.



FIGURE 7: CHILDREN AT THE GRASSROOTS SKILLS CHALLENGE

Regional and International Tournaments 2021

Despite the restrictions and the difficulties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, Anguilla still enjoyed a very busy international year. The U-20 girls participated in the Concacaf Women's U-20 Qualifiers in Curacao. Anguilla lost both matches. In the first encounter, Anguilla went under to the Bahamas by a score of 0 goals to one. In the second match, Anguilla was again defeated by the Cayman Islands by a score of 0 goals to three.

Anguilla U-17 girls also participated in the Concacaf Women's U-17 Qualifiers held at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. In the first match Anguilla and Turks and Caicos Islands played to a nil-all draw, while in the final encounter, Anguilla suffered a heavy defeat to Honduras, losing by 0 goals to 12.

Anguilla's U-20 boys also participated in the Concacaf Men's U-20 Qualifiers which was held in the Dominican Republic from the 3rd to the 14th of November 2021. In the first encounter, Anguilla lost to the host Dominican Republic by a score of 0 goals to 6. St. Lucia also defeated Anguilla in the second match, winning by a score of 3 goals to nil. In the 3rd encounter, Anguilla bounced back to draw with St. Martin by a score of 2 goals to 2. Striker Jauron Gayle scored both goals for Anguilla. In this match, Anguilla scored its first goal of the tournament and registered its first point ever in any Concacaf Men's U-20 competition. In the final match, however, Anguilla went under Belize by a score of 0 goals to 4.

Anguilla's men played an international friendly game against the U.S.V.I in Miami on March 21st 2021. This encounter was organized to assist Anguilla's preparation for the 2021 Nations League competition. Anguilla and U.S.V.I played to a nil all-draw in this encounter. On March 27th Anguilla went under to the Dominican Republic in its first Nations League match by a score of 0

goals to 6. In the second match held in the Dominican Republic, Anguilla was narrowly defeated by Barbados by a score of 1 goal to nil. In the 3rd match, Dominica defeated Anguilla by a score of 3 goals to nil. This match was also played in the Dominican Republic. On June 5th 2021, Anguilla played its final first-round Nations Leagues match against Panama in Panama and lost heavily by a score of 13 goals to nil. It was indeed a very tough year for Anguilla on the international scene.



FIGURE 8: ANGUILLA NATIONAL U-20 WOMEN'S TEAM



FIGURE 9: ANGUILLA NATIONAL U-20 MEN'S TEAM



FIGURE 10: ANGUILLA NATIONAL SENIOR MEN'S TEAM

Coach Education

In 2021 we ensured that we built on the foundation set in 2020 and previous years by adding another cohort of D License coaches to push our numbers to over 100 persons trained and certified as D License Coaches to support the needs of clubs and development programs. Upon archiving this target, we realize there was a need to advance these coaches over the next few years through our coaching pyramid.

Now with our Strategic and development plans in place and CONCACAF rebranding and restructuring the Licensing System regionally we took the opportunity to invite 25 coaches to be part of our inaugural AFA C License Diploma Course which allows our coaches to apply for coaching jobs within our region. The new format of courses has called for coaches to be actively coaching as a key part of their Development, Training and Mentorship which would allow us to have Stronger Clubs and raise the standard of Football Locally and Internationally.



FIGURE 11: COACH EDUCATORS AND D-LICENSE COACHES

Coaching Certificate	Number
B- license	1
D-license	28

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF B AND D LICENSE COACHES

Conclusion

Covid-19 might have resulted in the temporary suspension of several programs and competitions in Anguilla but the resilience, determination and collaboration of all stakeholders ensured that football never completely stopped in 2021. Many programs and functions continued virtually or using the hybrid approach. The 2021 A.G.M was held virtually for the first time in Anguilla's history. The lengthy break and temporary island wide-shutdown enabled the capable team at the Anguilla Football Association as well as the enthusiastic members to reflect, reorganize, refocus and reenergize to improve football. As we look forward to more camps, new initiatives and becoming a member of the Concacaf coaching convention, coaches, officials, players and administrators are now physically, mentally and technically poised to drive the sport of football in a new direction as we aim to move both men's and women's football up the FIFA rankings in 2022 and beyond.



FIGURE 12: RAYMOND E.G. GUISHARD STADIUM