

From grassroots football to the Matildas



Alen Stajcic Matildas Head Coach



My Background



- Former NSW and Australian Schoolboys Representative
- 10 years playing in the NSW NPL
- Nearly 10 years as a PD/H/PE Teacher & Head Teacher/ Lurnea HS, Hills Sports HS (1996-2005)
- Head Coach Hills Sports High School (2003-2014)
- Head Coach NSW Institute of Sport (2002-2012)
- Head Coach Sydney FC Women's Team (2008-2014)
- Head Coach Australian U/20's/ Young Matildas (2007-2010)
- Assistant Technical Director, Football Federation Australia (2013)
- Head Coach Australian National Women's Team/ The Matildas (2014-
- Leased Synthetic Field at Hills Sports (2010-2015)



Women's Football



PAST

- Banned World wide for since WW1 in the majority of countries
- Title IX in USA in the 1960's bucked the trend Access and Equal Opportunity for Females

PRESENT

- Fastest growing in sport in Australia and around the World (over 100,000 registered players in Aust)
- World Cups, Olympics, Youth World Cups, Semi Pro Domestic Leagues, All girls Comps in younger Ages

<u>FUTURE</u>

- Continues to gain traction in the sporting landscape of Aust at Elite and grassroots levels
- Australia could become A World/Olympic Champion in the World Game
- Women's Football could become the biggest participation activity for Young Girls



Barriers to Growth



Culture/Tradition

Social

Myths about Women's Sport

- Lack of commercial potential/sustainability
- Lack of quality
- Lack of demand

Media Attention

Facilities for Football, Futsal, Street Football, Beach Football, Women's Football



Football- The Universal Code



ANYONE CAN PLAY, ANYTIME!

- Boys/Girls
- Old/Young
- Tall/Short
- Crosses boundaries of race, culture, religion, gender, age like no other
- 2v2, 5v5, 10v10, numbers don't matter, can play anywhere, anytime
- But where can we play in NSW/Australia????



Where? Global Answers?



Brazil

- 5 a side courts everywhere (beaches, roadside etc)
- 11 a side fields not well maintained, usually used by elite clubs/academies/schools
- Fortaleza, council built full size synthetic pitch for Community, administered by Community patrons

<u>Canada</u>

Increased use of synthetic pitches due to cold, long winter

Iceland (population 335,000)

- Heavy investment in coaching courses, elite coaches coaching 5-6 year olds (1 per 800 players)
- Full size Indoor fields (synthetic bubbles in the middle of the tundra!)



Where? Community?



INVESTMENT IN GRASSROOTS

How do we Increase Access and Opportunity?

- 2 Fold, Coaching and Facilities
- Local Clubs, Schools, Parklands, Beaches, Indoor Courts, Synthetic Pitches (Small and Large)
- Floodlights
- Quality of fields
- Quality of Amenities (female friendly)
- All year round usable fields



Where? Elite?



FOOTBALL SPECIFIC GROUNDS/ STADIUMS

- All year round training and competitions grounds
- Synthetic Pitches
- Quality Grass Pitches
- Female Friendly Amenities/ New era of Semi Pro, Professional Sport
- Rectangular Stadiums
- Sports Institutes/Centres of Excellence
- Futsalroos, Pararoos, Matildas, Socceroos Exposure at Quality venues promoting our Country



WHY & HOW?



WHY

- Access & Opportunity for young children to pay Football is imperative to our Nations Health and Wellness
- No other Active Sport can include as many demographic groups as Football
- Already the highest participation Sport In Australia
- Make Football the most Popular Sport in the country and Australia a World Leader in the World Game

<u>HOW</u>

- Australia has its own Unique problems but increasing Access & Opportunity for all Australians can only happen if key Agencies solve problems together!
- For example Schools, Clubs, Councils, State & Federal Govts, Member Federations, FFA, Local Associations





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