



# BEYOND SPORTS TOURNAMENT

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## REPORT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the support, encouragement, and presence you gave during this year's Beyond Sports Tournament held at the Nakuru Athletics Club. The tournament was once again a success, and this would not have been possible without your trust in us and your sacrifice to ensure the players participated fully.

The event brought together teams from different regions, giving our children a chance to compete, make new friends, and learn valuable lessons in discipline, teamwork, and resilience. While results on the field varied, the greatest victory was seeing our players showcase the skills they have been developing and enjoying the beautiful game in a safe, nurturing environment.

We also appreciate the parents who have partnered with us to market their brands using tear drops and banners. We encourage more of you to be part of our growing network – be visible, support the academy, and share in the dream

## PERFORMANCE BY CATEGORY & AWARDS

- Under 7: Runners-up after an excellent campaign.
- Under 9: Retained our trophy, making it three titles in a row after also winning the Rausha Kipaji Cup in April. Marcelo Nderitu was crowned Best Player.
- Under 11: Reached the quarterfinals in some categories and the semifinals in others, losing through post-match penalties.
- Under 13: Two teams exited at the group stages, one reached the quarterfinals, and the advanced team won the trophy. Kyrian Thabanja was crowned Top Scorer, tied with Bramsey Ayodi but winning on assists.
- Under 15 (Boys): One team lost in the quarterfinals while the advanced team exited in the semifinals after post-match penalties.
- Under 15 (Girls): Reclaimed their trophy in style. Kayla Mbone was crowned Top Scorer for the third time in a row, while Angel was named MVP.
- Under 17: We entered two teams. The advanced team lost in the quarterfinals, but the intermediate team showed great resilience to win the trophy. Jamal Kamau was crowned Goalkeeper of the Tournament after not conceding a single goal, while Kelly Kibet Omondi was named MVP.

### POINT TO NOTE:

Our girls' teams continue to excel despite having fewer matches and less consistent training. This is both inspiring and a challenge to their parents – **with more regular training, they can reach even higher levels.**

We are also proud that **Kayla, Angel, and Shanice have already secured schools fully sponsored after Grade 9. Meanwhile, Kevin Mogere and Clarence Kamau are attracting strong interest, with four top schools** – Kakamega High, St Joseph's Kitale, Musingu, and Mukumu Boys – battling to sign them.

## TECHNICAL OBSERVATIONS



- This was one of our very best performances, with players showing maturity and growth.
- We learnt valuable lessons, especially from penalty shootouts – where we lost in four categories, in some cases missing all our penalties. Our keepers, excellent in open play, found post-match penalties overwhelming. This is a key area we will now emphasize in training.
- There is a big difference between players who train consistently and those who do not. Consistency directly translates to composure, confidence, and execution on match day.
- Teams and categories that have been together for a long time and gelled well showed better teamwork and understanding compared to newly formed groups.
- Players who have participated in high-intensity tournaments demonstrated less fear and greater resilience, while beginners often experienced stage fright in pressure situations.
- Children who trained consistently showed composure, awareness, and teamwork. Those skipping training but appearing only in tournaments struggled to cope. Conversely, some who train faithfully but miss tournaments lose the chance to measure their progress.



## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT**

We also noted that we have had the same faces of parents turning up for these tournaments. While we understand you may be busy, it is worth taking time to watch your son or daughter at a high-level competition. Your presence is powerful whether they win or learn, they feel supported.

Let us support them in the best way we can as parents. Showing up in your jersey with their name printed on the back, and a simple shout from mum or dad on the touchline, goes a long way in lifting their spirit and confidence.

## **INJURIES AND SAFETY**

We had one major injury in the Under 15 category. The player is recuperating, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

A few other minor knocks occurred but were managed with first aid. Safety remains our top priority.

## **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS**

- Distances between pitches created logistical challenges. This will be improved next year.
- Timekeeping is vital to ensure maximum playtime.
- Girls' participation remains limited. Despite this, they excelled which underlines the importance of consistent training.
- Penalty shootouts highlighted a technical gap that we will now address in training.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Our goal is to expand the tournament into a three-day event next year to provide more time for play and assessment.

We remain committed to fairness, inclusivity, and unity.

We remind parents that football development is a journey – consistency in training, showing up at tournaments, and parental encouragement are equally important.

## NEXT STEPS FOR OUR PLAYERS

With the Beyond Sports Tournament behind us, we now shift focus to a series of friendly matches that will sharpen fitness, teamwork, and technical ability. These are part of our structured build-up to two major events:

1. The East African Chipkizi Cup in December – one of the region's most competitive youth tournaments.
2. The Spain Experience in Barcelona – an international exchange that will expose our players to world-class football standards and cultural learning.

These upcoming opportunities will demand even greater discipline, consistency, and commitment from both players and parents. We deeply value your partnership. Together, we are raising disciplined, skilled, and confident young boys and girls who will shine not just in football, but also in life.

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