



LET'S  
**KICKSTART**  
EQUALITY



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## ABOUT CEQUIN

Established in 2009, the Centre for Equity and Inclusion (CEQUIN) is an NGO that promotes equal rights for women and girls, to enable them to lead a violence-free life and help develop their capabilities, have ownership and control over resources and participate in decision making. To accomplish its objectives, CEQUIN works with not only girls and women, but also with other stakeholders such as men and boys, local community and institutions.

A flagship initiative of CEQUIN is Kickstart Equality which uses football as a means to build girls' leadership.



## Football Delhi

Football Delhi is the official governing body of football in Delhi. It partners with various clubs, facilities' owners, experienced coaches and various other stakeholders across the entire spectrum of the football ecosystem, to create an environment that is healthy and conducive to maximising participation and achieving excellence in the sport.



## Delhi Dynamos Football Club

Delhi Dynamos Football Club (DDFC) is a professional Indian football club, based in Delhi, which competes in the Indian Super League. As the only Indian Super League Club in North India, it has a catchment area of over 300 million people.



## Innovative Partnership - CEQUIN-Football Delhi-DDFC

The three partners came together to initiate a Delhi State level pilot with an aim to create a platform for young girls to play competitively, expose them to work as collective and create a pathway for future excellence.

### Key objectives for this partnership

1

Provide opportunities for competitive matches for younger age group girls.

2

Encourage sustained play in league format.

3

Sensitize, co-opt and build ownership of schools authorities.

4

Create an inclusive format ensuring participation of government and private schools.

5

Inspire more girls to play 'nontraditional' sports like football.

In a bid to galvanize women's football in India, the National Alliance for Women's Football in India was created with CEQUIN as its convener. This initiative is one of the several strategies being planned by the National Alliance for Women's Football in India in keeping with its Mission 2028 to bring Indian Women's Football to the global stage.

## Grassroots Intervention

Over the past one year, CEQUIN has conducted football and leadership camps for girls in 25 Delhi Government schools. 10 school teams were selected and groomed to form from girls' football team who have participated in this league.

**CEQUIN, through its girls' football programme 'Kickstart Equality', seeks to achieve five major outcomes for girls:**

- Enhanced health and well-being (physical and mental)
- Enhanced leadership skills (self-esteem, communication, strategy planning, ambition)
- Strengthens networks (social skills, team spirit, empathy)
- Enhanced academic performance (attitude to learning, concentration)
- Enhanced mobility (access to public parks, sports facilities, transport)





## A message from Australian Deputy High Commissioner

'Team sport is a powerful vehicle for the empowerment of women and girls. The Australian High Commission is proud to support CEQUIN's work to grow girls' participation in football through training, workshops, community engagement and broader advocacy. Congratulations on the U-13 Girls Football League – a great example of what can be achieved by innovative partnerships under the National Alliance for Women's Football.'

**Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to India, Mr. Rod Hilton**

## Four Venue Partners

The first edition of the Under 13 Delhi Girls' Football School League witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 384 players, from 32 school teams with 10 teams from government schools. Having been divided into four zones, it was our venue partners in the four zones that ensured that the League met with success.



In the South Zone, it was the warm and expansive heart of Sanskriti School, that put forth all available resources to ensure that all matches were held perfectly!



The East Zone saw Tagore International School, East of Kailash playing an instrumental role as an enthusiastic venue partner, helping translate the dreams of many into reality, through their tireless/unstinting efforts.



In the West Zone, Maharaja Aggarsain Adarsh Public School, were wonderful hosts and venue partners, providing this League with a perfect combination of talent and just the right kind of resources.



In the Central Zone, Modern School Barakhamba lent its excellent support as our venue partner. The work put in by the team at this school was truly indispensable to the functioning of the League!

# South Zone



Sanskriti School



Sarvodaya Vidyalaya,  
Vasant Vihar



Govt. Co-Ed Middle School,  
Munirka



Sarvodaya Vidyalaya SSS,  
Munirka



The Mother's  
International School



Blue Bells Public School,  
Gurgaon



Modern School, Vasant Vihar



Tagore International School,  
Vasant Vihar

# East Zone



Tagore International School,  
East of Kailash



Shiv Nadar School, Noida



SKV, Noor Nagar



The Shriram Millennium School



SKV, Madanpur Khadar



GGSSS, Trilok Puri



GGSSS, Joga Bai



Gyan Kunj Public School

# West Zone



Maharaja Aggarsain Adarsh Public School (A)



Rising Star Public School (A)



Maharaja Aggarsain Adarsh Public School (B)



St. James Convent School (A)



The Heritage School, Rohini



St. James Convent School (A)



Rising Star Public School (B)



Maharaja Aggarsain Adarsh Public School (C)

# Central Zone



Modern School, Barakhamba Road (A)



Sardar Patel Vidyalaya



Modern School, Barakhamba Road (B)



Sarvodaya Co-Ed School, Shahpur Jat



RPVV, Lajpat Nagar



Sarvodaya Co-Ed Middle School, Masjid Moth



Springdales School, Dhaula Kuan



St. Mary's School



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**Sara Abdullah Pilot**, Chairperson, CEQUIN and Chairperson of the Women's Committee at the AIFF, "By promoting football for girls we are shattering gender stereotypes, bringing girls out of their homes and building their leadership. The growing popularity of women's football across the globe presents an exciting possibility to kick start equality and bridge the gap of gender inequality."

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**Ashish Shah**, CEO, Delhi Dynamos, "Partnering with CEQUIN and Football Delhi in this unique initiative has been very exciting. It has strengthened our commitment to girls' football and we see great potential in its future."

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**Keshav, Coach**, Sanskriti School, "It is a challenge for us to sustain girls' teams if there are not enough competitions. This league has turned out to be a brilliant platform, giving an opportunity to the girls to play multiple matches. I have seen them improve with every match! My compliments to the organisers for taking this initiative!"

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**Aakash Narula**, Head, Football Development, Delhi Dynamos Football Club, "In near future, we plan to contribute more towards women's football and bring Indian Women's Football to a professional and global stage. This league is just the first step towards that."

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**Prashant J Singh**, Director, Technical Operations, Football Delhi, "It's been a big challenge to connect to grassroots and develop a pool of talent. Through this league we've been able to create a structure that is transparent, accountable and creates a proper pathway to hone the talent for the future."

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**Shaji Prabhakaran**, President Football Delhi, "It is critical for girls to have an early start in competitive playing, if we really want to see success. The format of this league has given an excellent opportunity to scout for talent at an early stage for our Excellence Academy. I hope we will be able to sustain and build on these efforts."

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**Lora Prabhu**, Executive Director, CEQUIN, "In the last few years we have been trying to understand what the right format for girls' grassroots football should be. Working with schools through collaborative partnership, targeting the younger age group is what we have attempted here. Seeing the enthusiastic participation, I think it has been a success!"

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**Jyoti, Participant**, RPVV Lajpat Nagar, "One year back I could not have even imagined playing football in my own school ground. But thanks to CEQUIN for supporting me throughout and making me believe in my talent! I feel so proud of myself to be a part of this league!"

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