JUST 50 DAYS TO GO UNTIL THE 16TH HOMELESS WORLD CUP

Hundreds of players from around the world will head to Mexico City in what is being billed as the most spectacular event yet. Running from November 13th to 18th, it will again give people facing social marginalisation and homelessness a new perspective, while also changing people’s perceptions of homelessness, in order to give poverty the red card.

The power of football is a wondrous thing. It is a game that is accessible to anyone, anywhere, as long as you have something to kick. And there will be plenty to kick at this year’s 16th edition of the Homeless World Cup in Mexico City with more than 400 fast paced games played by more than 500 male and female players facing social marginalisation. It promises to be the most spectacular Homeless World Cup tournament yet, with more than 200,000 expected visitors cheering in the stands and millions more following the action online.

“I can’t wait for this year’s tournament”, says Mel Young, co-founder and president of the Homeless World Cup Foundation. “Meeting all the players who have fought so hard to be where they are now and seeing them succeed is a very special time for me and my team. For many players, the Homeless World Cup is a milestone marking the end of a tough journey and at the same time the beginning of a life with new perspectives and possibilities.”

This year, four pitches will transform the iconic Zocalo at the heart of the Mexican Capital in a world-class football extravaganza. Devoted ambassadors such as actor Colin Farrell, writer Irvine Welsh and football player Scott Brown are convinced that football actually can change people’s lives and therefore support the cause. Also, long-term partners such as UEFA and FIFPro are getting ready to participate with a FIFPro Fair Play Award as well as the UEFA Respect Day.

WHAT       HOMELESS WORLD CUP 2018
WHERE      MEXICO CITY / ZÓCALO
WHEN       NOVEMBER 13TH – 18TH
WHO        HOMELESS WORLD CUP FOUNDATION
WHY       BECAUSE FOOTBALL HAS THE POWER TO PUT FRAGILE LIVES BACK ON TRACK

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BACKGROUND ON THE HOMELESS WORLD CUP

Every year, the Homeless World Cup Foundation delivers an inspirational week-long street football tournament that brings together more than 500 players representing 50+ countries around the world, all of which have faced homelessness and social marginalisation. The Homeless World Cup tournament is just the tip of the iceberg for the year-round work of our National Partners. Having been immersed in a national programme, they have worked to overcome their issues and are given the unique opportunity to represent their country in a world-wide tournament.

THE HOMELESS WORLD CUP FOUNDATION

The Homeless World Cup Foundation uses football to inspire homeless people to change their own lives – through the power of teamwork and participation – while also changing people’s perceptions of homelessness and the issues surrounding it. By supporting grassroots programmes and social enterprises the foundation has developed a worldwide network of more than 70 National Partners in 450+ locations.

94% of players say the Homeless World Cup positively impacted their lives
83% improved social relations with family and friends
77% changed their lives significantly because of their involvement in football
71% continue to play the sport

The first ever Homeless World Cup was held in Graz, Austria, in 2003. The concept of a Homeless World Cup was conceived during an INSP conference in 2001, therefore the teams competing at the first tournament were organised almost exclusively by Street Paper programmes, giving some of their street paper vendors a chance to represent their country at a world stage.

PREVIOUS TOURNAMENT LOCATIONS

Graz, Gothenburg, Edinburgh, Caprtown, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Milan, Rio de Janeiro, Paris, Mexico City, Poznan, Chile, Amstersam, Glasgow, Oslo,

For more in-depth information about the issue of homelessness globally, see our Global Homelessness Statistics page.

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF FOOTBALL

Homeless World Cup Foundation  |  homelessworldcup.org  |  info@homelessworldcup.org
THE PORTUGUESE PUMA: “Can football change a person’s life? Of course it can, it definitely can. The Homeless World Cup was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, he says about the tournament that has the power to put fragile lives back on track. “I learned a lot, it is an experience that I will take with me for the rest of my life”.

REENA PANCHAL used to hide the fact that she was playing football from her parents. Now she is encouraging other young girls to play the sport. “Girls from my village have broken all barriers and superstitions and have started playing football and are competing well.”

PLAYERS’ & PARTNERS’ STORIES

STREET SOCCER SCOTLAND works with socially disadvantaged adults and young people across Scotland. The program is both a strong example of inclusivity and sustainable growth. The now head of Street Soccer Scotland himself played for Team Scotland in the 2005 Homeless World Cup.

TEAM GREECE and the Kick Out Poverty street football programme are run by Shedia streetpaper. Shedia means life raft and is a metaphor for the dynamic life changing opportunities the organisation offers to support people out of homelessness. Greece is regularly represented by both a men’s and a women’s team at the Homeless World