



HEADING TO THE WORLD CUP: CONDITIONS AND CHALLENGES OF WOMEN'S FUTSAL IN SOUTH AMERICA





INDEX

01

INTRODUCTION

02

ABOUT THE
SURVEY

03

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE
OF THE PLAYERS

FINDINGS ABOUT PLAYERS' AGE

04

COMPETITIVENESS
AND DUAL CAREER

05

NATIONAL LEAGUES

COMPETITION LEVEL

QUALITY OF ORGANIZATION

VISIBILITY, AND MEDIA
COVERAGE

SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION

CONCLUSIONS

06

WORKING CONDITIONS AND SPORTS
SUPPORT

CONTRACTS

NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS

TRAINING SCHEDULES

ACCESS TO TRAINING FACILITIES

INJURY RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

07

COPA AMÉRICA

RESULTS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREPARATION TIME - FRIENDLY MATCHES

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREPARATION
PROCESS

DIFFICULTIES

PERSONAL INVESTMENT

PRIZE

EQUALITY

08

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

01. INTRODUCTION

The Women's Futsal Players Association (AJFSF), committed since its founding in 2010 to defending the rights and recognition of futsal players in Spain, has taken a significant step towards a global dimension with the creation of AJFSF International. This branch of the association has extended its reach beyond national borders, embracing an ambitious mission: the international regulation of women's futsal players' rights.

As part of this initiative, AJFSF International embarked on a journey to Argentina in September 2023 to support the players in the eighth edition of the Copa América de Fútbol Sala in Buenos Aires.

This competition, which featured ten national teams (Uruguay, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Paraguay), provided a unique opportunity for AJFSF International to establish direct contact with the players in the region.

During the gathering in Argentina, the association conducted a series of informative talks with the purpose of presenting its work and objectives to South American players.

Additionally, an anonymous survey was conducted with seven of the participating teams (Uruguay, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Paraguay), with the active participation of 90 players.

02. ABOUT THE SURVEY

The survey conducted by the Women's Futsal Players Association (AJFSF) International represents a significant step toward a deeper understanding of the realities faced by futsal players in South America. Carefully designed and thoughtful, the survey covered various aspects of players' lives, aiming to capture an accurate picture of their experiences, challenges, and aspirations.

The questions addressed crucial aspects of both their sports careers and personal lives. From demographic details to club conditions, preparation for international competitions, and perceptions of media visibility, each question was formulated to provide a comprehensive and detailed view of the reality of women's futsal players in the region.

It is important to highlight that the survey was designed as an anonymous instrument, respecting participants' privacy and encouraging honest and candid responses. The confidentiality of the responses ensures the integrity of the collected data, allowing for an impartial and accurate analysis of the current situation.

AJFSF International sincerely thanks all the players who participated in the survey. Through their voices and collaboration, AJFSF International aspires to shed light on the realities faced by women's futsal players, promoting a deeper understanding and more effective action in the pursuit of equality and recognition in the sport.



03.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE PLAYERS

BELOW IS A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE AGES OF THE PLAYERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY, ORGANIZED BY NATIONAL TEAM.





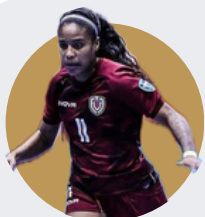
PARAGUAY

AVERAGE AGE:
23 YEARS



BRAZIL

AVERAGE AGE:
32 YEARS



VENEZUELA

AVERAGE AGE:
25 YEARS



ARGENTINA

AVERAGE AGE:
26 YEARS



URUGUAY

AVERAGE AGE:
27 YEARS



COLOMBIA

AVERAGE AGE:
24 YEARS



CHILE

AVERAGE AGE:
24 YEARS

03.

FINDINGS ABOUT PLAYERS' AGES

The age profile analysis of the players from the seven participating teams in the Copa América de Fútbol Sala Femenino highlights the inclusion of both emerging talent and experienced players.

Brazil has the highest average age at 32 years. Chile has the lowest average at 23 years.

In conclusion, the overall average age of the surveyed teams is approximately 26.3 years, with a range spanning from 16 to 41 years.

The significant presence of players under 20 years old suggests not only a vibrant present but also a promising future for women's futsal in these countries.





04.

COMPETITIVENESS AND DUAL CAREER

ANALYSIS OF COMPETITION CATEGORIES
AND PROFESSIONAL DEDICATION.





91%

▶ 91% PLAY IN THEIR CLUB'S **FIRST DIVISION**.

61%

▶ 61% COMPETE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE **NATIONAL LEAGUES**.

39%

▶ 39% PLAY IN **ITALIAN AND SPANISH LEAGUES**.

56%

▶ 56% DEDICATE THEMSELVES **EXCLUSIVELY TO FUTSAL**.

44%

▶ 44% **COMBINE FUTSAL WITH ANOTHER JOB**.



05.

NATIONAL LEAGUES

ANALYSIS OF PLAYERS' PERCEPTION OF COMPETITIVE QUALITY, MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY, AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF THEIR LOCAL LEAGUES.



ON A SCALE FROM 1 TO 10, HOW DO YOU RATE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF YOUR NATIONAL LEAGUE?



URUGUAY

3.7



VENEZUELA

6.33



CHILE

3.8



BRAZIL

7.79



PARAGUAY

5.33



COLOMBIA

NO NATIONAL
LEAGUE EXISTS.



ARGENTINA

6.8

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL QUALITY OF YOUR LEAGUE?

TERRIBLE, VERY LOW, LOW, AVERAGE, GOOD, VERY GOOD, EXCELLENT.



65%



65% OF PLAYERS CONSIDER IT **POOR/VERY LOW/BAD.**

28%



28% CONSIDER IT **GOOD/VERY GOOD/EXCELLENT.**

7%



7% CONSIDER IT **AVERAGE.**



**COLOMBIAN PLAYERS
CHOSE NOT TO ANSWER
DUE TO THE LACK OF
A LEAGUE.**

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE VISIBILITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF YOUR LEAGUE ON A SCALE FROM 1 TO 10?



BRAZIL

5.71



VENEZUELA

5.23



PARAGUAY

4.72



ARGENTINA

4.5



URUGUAY

3.42



CHILE

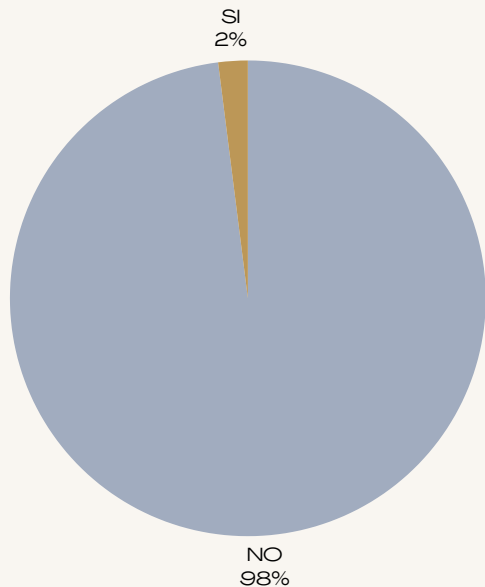
2.57



COLOMBIA

NO NATIONAL
LEAGUE EXISTS.

DO YOU THINK YOUR TEAM RECEIVES THE SAME SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION AS A MEN'S TEAM IN YOUR LEAGUE?



▶ **98% OF PLAYERS DON'T DO NOT BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE EQUAL SUPPORT.**

▶ 2% BELIEVE THEY DO RECEIVE EQUAL SUPPORT.



05. CONCLUSIONS ON THIS CHAPTER

Based on the answers provided about the national leagues, the following conclusions can be drawn:

COMPETITION LEVEL

Brazilian players consider their league the most competitive.

Colombian players highlight the lack of a national league.

ORGANIZATIONAL QUALITY

A significant number of players perceive the organizational quality of their national leagues as low, very low, or poor.

VISIBILITY AND COVERAGE

With the exception of Brazil (5.71) and Venezuela (5.23), all other national teams rate their league's media visibility poorly with a score under 5.

This situation creates serious difficulties in attracting sponsors and public interest, affecting the viability and sustainability of national competitions.

SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION

A staggering 98% of players believe that women's teams do not receive the same support and recognition as men's teams.

CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

Increasing visibility through digital platforms and federations' official channels is identified as a key area for growth. Greater exposure can help attract sponsorships, improving the structure and viability of national competitions.

The disparity in support and recognition reveals a deep structural issue that requires urgent attention.

Sports governing bodies must implement effective policies to promote an equitable environment.



06. **WORKING CONDITIONS AND SPORTS SUPPORT**

ANALYSIS OF CONTRACTS, DEMANDS, FACILITIES,
AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.



DO YOU HAVE A CONTRACT FOR PLAYING FUTSAL?

61%



61% DO NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF CONTRACT.

39%



39% HAVE A CONTRACT.

OF THAT 39%,

68% HAVE A LABOR CONTRACT.
20% HAVE A VERBAL AGREEMENT.
12% HAVE A PRIVATE CONTRACT.



70% OF PLAYERS WITH CONTRACTS ARE ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN, PLAYING IN THE SPANISH AND ITALIAN LEAGUES.



HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU TRAIN PER WEEK WITH YOUR CLUB?

EXCLUDING MATCHES



18% TRAIN
TWICE A WEEK.



29% TRAIN
3 TIMES A WEEK.



19% TRAIN
4 TIMES A WEEK.



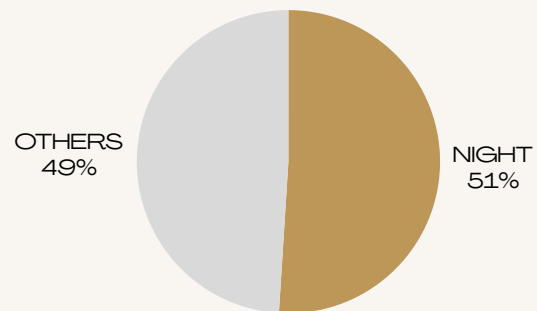
20% TRAIN
5 TIMES A WEEK.



14% TRAIN
6 TIMES A WEEK.



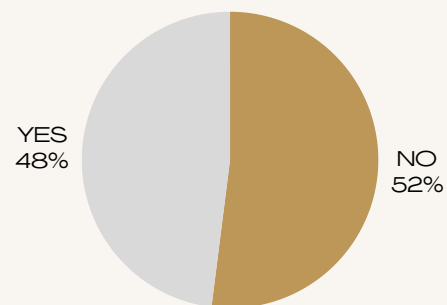
► TRAINING SCHEDULES



51% TRAIN AT NIGHT.

49% TRAIN IN THE MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR ON A VARIABLE SCHEDULE.

► ACCESS TO FACILITIES

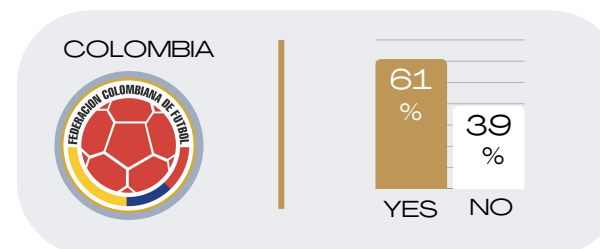
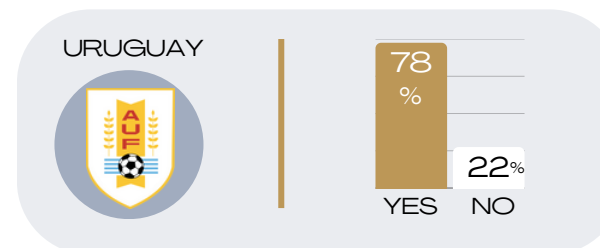
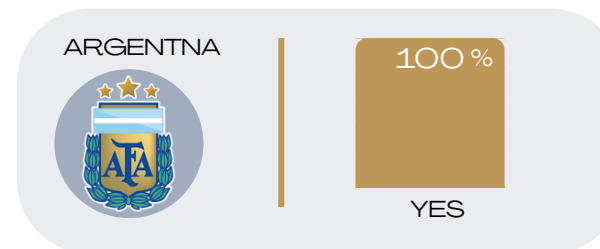
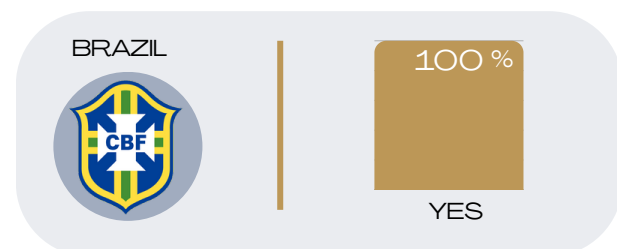
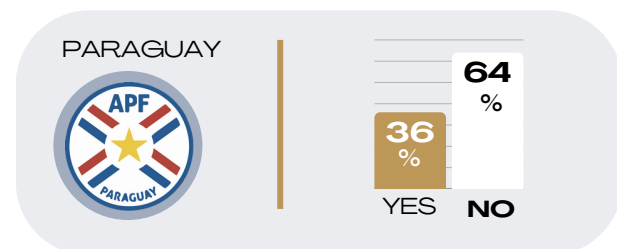
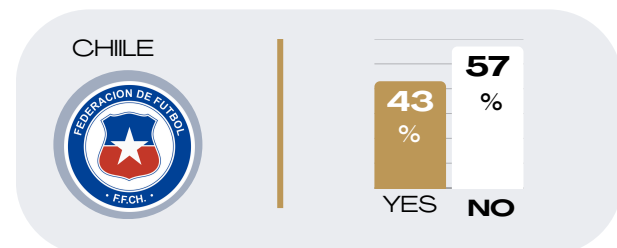
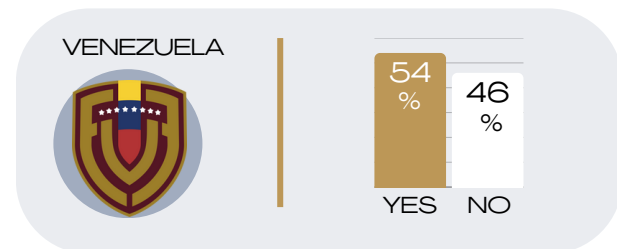


52% BELIEVE THEIR CLUB DOES NOT HAVE HIGH-QUALITY TRAINING FACILITIES.

48% BELIEVE THEY DO.



IF YOU GET INJURED, DOES YOUR CLUB COVER YOUR RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION?



* 73% OF ARGENTINE NATIONAL TEAM PLAYERS PLAY IN FOREIGN LEAGUES.

* 79% OF BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TEAM PLAYERS PLAY IN FOREIGN LEAGUES.

06. CONCLUSIONS ON THE CHAPTER

The detailed analysis of the working and sporting conditions of futsal players reveals a complex reality.

Firstly, the absence of contracts for more than 50% of the players who responded to the survey highlights the job insecurity in this sport.

Another significant finding is that 51% of the players train at night, suggesting that many of them combine their futsal commitment with daytime jobs. This reflects the reality of players who, despite lacking employment contracts, demonstrate a remarkable commitment to their athleticsporting careers development.

Injury care varies significantly between national teams, with Brazil and Argentina being the only ones ensuring comprehensive medical attention in case of injury. This disparity underscores the need to standardize and improve medical care and recovery protocols in women's futsal at an international level.

Surprisingly, the level of demand on players is rated at an average of 7, a very high score considering that 52% of players report poor-quality training facilities. Similarly, 61% of players do not have any type of professional contract, meaning their lack health coverage in case of injury, preventing them from receiving optimal recovery for competition.

All of this makes it clear that the high demands placed on players do not always translate into greater job security. Instead, they lack minimum and standardized conditions that urgently need to be regulated by FIFA and continental confederations.



07.

COPA AMÉRICA

ANALYSIS OF THE PLAYERS' PATH TO THE COPA AMÉRICA PREPARATION, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES.





URUGUAY

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 3RD IN GROUP A
WITH 2 WINS AND 2 LOSSES.

PREPARATION TIME

3 MONTHS.

FRIENDLIES

**1 FRIENDLY AGAINST
THE U-17 MEN'S TEAM.**

**THE PITCH DID NOT MEET
OFFICIAL REGULATIONS.**

EVALUATION

50% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "AVERAGE"
43% AS "BAD"
7% AS "VERY GOOD".

CHALLENGES

78% OF PLAYERS STRUGGLED
TO BALANCE WORK OR
ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN
THE COPA AMÉRICA.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

**78% OF PLAYERS HAD
TO INVEST PERSONAL
RESOURCES TO PLAY
FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.**

PRIZE MONEY

NO FINANCIAL REWARD FOR
WINNING THE COPA AMÉRICA.

EQUALITY

71% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN THE
MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.



VENEZUELA

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 4TH
OVERALL.

PREPARATION TIME

9 DAYS.

FRIENDLIES

NONE.

EVALUATION

69% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "GOOD"
15% AS "VERY GOOD,"
8% AS "BAD,"
AND 8% AS "AVERAGE."

CHALLENGES

NO PLAYER REPORTED
DIFFICULTIES BALANCING WORK
OR ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

NO PLAYER HAD TO INVEST
PERSONAL RESOURCES TO
PLAY FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.

PRIZE MONEY

NO FINANCIAL REWARD FOR
WINNING THE COPA AMÉRICA.

EQUALITY

54% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN THE
MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.



CHILE

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 4TH IN GROUP A
WITH 1 WIN AND 3 LOSSES.

PREPARATION TIME

7 MONTHS.

FRIENDLIES

YES, THEY PLAYED
FRIENDLIES.

EVALUATION

57% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "VERY GOOD".
43% AS "GOOD".

CHALLENGES

**79% OF PLAYERS STRUGGLED
TO BALANCE WORK OR
ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION
IN THE COPA AMÉRICA.**

PERSONAL RESOURCES

57% OF PLAYERS HAD
TO INVEST PERSONAL
RESOURCES TO PLAY
FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.

PRIZE MONEY

NO FINANCIAL REWARD FOR
WINNING THE COPA AMÉRICA.

EQUALITY

**100% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN
THE MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.**



PARAGUAY

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 3RD IN GROUP B
WITH 2 WINS AND 2 LOSSES.

PREPARATION TIME

8 MONTHS.

FRIENDLIES

YES, THEY PLAYED
FRIENDLIES.

EVALUATION

90% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "GOOD"
10% AS "VERY GOOD".

CHALLENGES

27% OF PLAYERS STRUGGLED
TO BALANCE WORK OR
ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN
THE COPA AMÉRICA.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

**72% OF PLAYERS HAD
TO INVEST PERSONAL
RESOURCES TO PLAY
FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.**

PRIZE MONEY

YES, THEY RECEIVED FINANCIAL
REWARDS IF THEY WON THE
COPA AMÉRICA.

EQUALITY

**100% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN THE
MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.**



COLOMBIA

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 2ND IN GROUP A,
WON 3RD PLACE AGAINST
VENEZUELA ON PENALTIES (7-6).

PREPARATION TIME

15-20 DAYS.

FRIENDLIES

NOT MENTIONED.

EVALUATION

54% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "GOOD"
23% AS "VERY GOOD"
23% AS "AVERAGE".

CHALLENGES

23% OF PLAYERS STRUGGLED
TO BALANCE WORK OR
ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION
IN THE COPA AMÉRICA.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

23% OF PLAYERS HAD
TO INVEST PERSONAL
RESOURCES TO PLAY
FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.

PRIZE MONEY

NO FINANCIAL REWARD FOR
WINNING THE COPA AMÉRICA.

EQUALITY

85% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN
THE MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.

15% CHOSE NOT TO ANSWER.



ARGENTINA

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 1ST IN GROUP A.
COPA AMÉRICA RUNNERS-UP.

PREPARATION TIME

7 MONTHS.

FRIENDLIES

YES, THEY PLAYED
FRIENDLIES.

EVALUATION

55% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "GOOD"
27% AS "VERY GOOD"
23% AS "AVERAGE".

CHALLENGES

18% OF PLAYERS STRUGGLED
TO BALANCE WORK OR
ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN
THE COPA AMÉRICA.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

**54% OF PLAYERS HAD
TO INVEST PERSONAL
RESOURCES TO PLAY
FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.**

PRIZE MONEY

YES, THEY RECEIVED FINANCIAL
REWARDS IF THEY WON THE
COPA AMÉRICA.

EQUALITY

64% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN THE
MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.



BRAZIL

RESULTS IN THE CUP

FINISHED 1ST IN GROUP B,
COPA AMERICA CHAMPIONS.

PREPARATION TIME

7 DAYS.

FRIENDLIES

NONE.

EVALUATION

50% RATED THE PREPARATION
AS "VERY GOOD"
22% AS "GOOD"
14% AS "AVERAGE"
14% AS "BAD"

CHALLENGES

7% OF PLAYERS STRUGGLED
TO BALANCE WORK OR
ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN
THE COPA AMERICA.

PERSONAL RESOURCES

NO PLAYER HAD TO INVEST
PERSONAL RESOURCES TO
PLAY FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM.

PRIZE MONEY

YES, THEY RECEIVED FINANCIAL
REWARDS IF THEY WON THE
COPA AMERICA.

EQUALITY

**100% BELIEVE THEY RECEIVE
LESS SUPPORT AND
RECOGNITION THAN THE
MEN'S FUTSAL TEAM.**



08.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT AND
PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN'S FUTSAL IN THE CONTINENT



08. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

This comprehensive report on the Women's Futsal Copa América provides an in-depth analysis of the reality faced by national teams and their players. From demographic profiles to working conditions and tournament preparation, each aspect examined offers valuable insights.

The varied ages of the players reflect a unique mix of youth and experience in each national team. However, the competitive conditions in national leagues present challenges, with differing perceptions regarding the level of competition, organizational quality, and media visibility.

The analysis of working and sporting conditions in clubs reveals a stark contrast: players are expected to perform at a very high level but lack the necessary resources to develop as true professionals. This creates an evident imbalance between imposed expectations and the support provided to them.

The need for players to invest their own resources to compete in the Copa América, combined with the lack of financial compensation, raises concerns about the sustainability and overall development of women's futsal.

Tournament preparation highlights the great sacrifices and commitments made by players, who must contribute their own resources to represent their national teams. The lack of financial compensation for pre-tournament training and the absence of prize money underscore the financial challenges that need to be addressed at this level of competition.

08. RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout this report, we have explored in detail the experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by talented women's futsal players in South America.

From the International Players' Association, we recognize the need to implement concrete actions to improve and strengthen the landscape of women's futsal.

Below, we present a series of strategic recommendations that not only address the identified limitations but also aim to enhance existing strengths. These suggestions are designed to drive positive and sustainable change in the development of the sport, focusing on various aspects ranging from media visibility to financial support and comprehensive player development.

Through these recommendations, we aspire to contribute to the strengthening of the foundations of women's futsal, creating an environment conducive to growth, equity, and the recognition that every player deserves.



PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MEDIA PROMOTION AND COVERAGE:

Develop strategies to increase the visibility and media coverage of national women's futsal leagues.

Collaborate with specialized media outlets to highlight the achievements and challenges of the sport.

NATIONAL LEAGUES DEVELOPMENT:

Promote measures to improve the organization and efficiency of national leagues, ensuring active participation from clubs and players.

Develop national leagues and competitions to increase the number of licenses in women's futsal.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION:

Advocate for greater financial support to ensure fairer and more sustainable working conditions for the professional development of players.

TRAINING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Establish training and personal development programs for players, covering academic and professional aspects.

Provide access to resources and learning opportunities that contribute to the overall growth of players.

COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION:

Ensure that players have a voice and vote in decisions that directly impact women's futsal.

Establish effective communication channels between players, clubs, federations, and sports institutions.

Work on initiatives that promote equal recognition and support for women's teams in comparison to men's teams.

08. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all those who made this report possible.

First and foremost, we thank the national team players who actively participated in the survey, sharing their valuable insights and experiences. Their contributions were essential in enriching this analysis and improving futsal.

We extend our recognition to the members of national associations, coaching staff, and national team delegates who supported and facilitated the data collection process.

Additionally, we are grateful to the photographers who captured the essence and passion of women's futsal through their images, as well as the journalists who provided valuable information that enriched our understanding of each sporting context.

Finally, we want to emphasize the importance of collaboration. We firmly believe that by working together and sharing knowledge, experiences, and efforts, we can pave the way for the growth and expansion of futsal.

Together, we can build a promising future for women's futsal, where every voice matters and every achievement is celebrated.



WORLDFUTSALPLAYERS.COM

WORLDFUTSALPLAYERS@GMAIL.COM

+34 304 081 199

CALLE ALCALÁ, 68, MADRID, ESPAÑA

