

# LIFE IS A BALL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2017



Life is a Ball Public Charitable Trust (LIAB), is a not for profit organization registered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, that mentors children through sport. The initiative was started in 2011. LIAB aims to transform the lives of underprivileged children by teaching them invaluable life lessons through sport and equip them with skills required to face the world with a smile on their faces and grit in their hearts. Life is a Ball currently touches the lives of 2500+ kids and is continuing to grow.

A new year always calls for raised spirits. January 2017 - a positive start for Life is a Ball, as we got our kids involved in more than just regular classes.

'GIFT A BALL' program kicked off mid-January, a program with the objective of providing each LIAB kid ownership of a football.

Also, the kids got a chance to participate in try-outs held by Manchester United Football Club in India.



### Past events...

**Adidas Uprising:** 3 teams from LIAB took part in the football tournament organised by Adidas in Chennai in October 2015, out of which 2 teams were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their respective categories.

**5-a-side Monthly Tournament :** LIAB organised two inter-LIAB tournaments on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov'16 and 27<sup>th</sup> Dec'16 in the U-14 and U-17 categories.

## Highlights of the month...

### GIFT A BALL

This year LIAB set out with a new initiative – GIFT A BALL. The goal is to give every child in our program their very own footballs. By doing this we believe that they will have the chance to play at will and ultimately improve their skills.



We got the ball rolling by organizing an event on 18 January 2017 at “Kick Off”, a futsal venue in Chamiers road, Chennai. We invited a team from each of our schools to participate in a skill challenge and some exhibition matches. The coaches and the kids enjoyed some healthy competition and took part fun challenges. We closed the

event by making the kids take an oath to take care of the balls and promise to use it to improve their skills. Our long-time supporters, actress superstar Regina Cassandra along with Tennis legend Somdev Devvarman, distributed balls to the 43 kids that participated. On the whole it was an awesome evening for our team, the coaches and most of all the kids.

### ROAD TO OLD TRAFFORD

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, Manchester United organised “Road to Old Trafford”, an opportunity for kids in India to get a chance to train at Old Trafford. We were invited to participate in the Chennai selection, and we took 15 of our best kids from programs across the city.

The selection involved a single comprehensive drill involving dribbling, shooting, kick ups etc. One of our kids got shortlisted for the final round in goalkeeping. This was an encouraging start for our kids, and undoubtedly a great learning experience for them. We try our best to expose our kids to opportunities where they can improve their skill in addition to understanding and appreciating the game better.

