




**VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
SOCCER
FESTIVAL**



FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

» Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.« Nelson Mandela

The annual Vancouver International Soccer Festival (VISF) is a soccer festival organized by the One Team United for Peace and Development Society. With a big vision and an outstanding community track record, the festival strives to be one of the premier international tournaments in the world. The VISF provides local and international guests with an exceptional soccer and cultural experience that will benefit our city, country, and the world.

In previous years, VISF, ONE TEAM Society, and partners hosted teams from Israel and Palestine. This once in a lifetime opportunity saw Arab and Jewish athletes competing together as one team in the Vancouver International Soccer Festival. The team impressed and inspired members of the local community with their passion and cooperation towards a common goal. CBC soccer day in Canada and CBC the NATIONAL featured the tournament and Israel-Palestine teams in a special national broadcast.

In 2017, following the disappointment of being denied visas by the

US Embassy to attend the prestigious Dallas Cup in Texas, the VISF proudly hosted Tibet Women's Soccer Team making them the first ever women's Tibetan team to compete in any sport internationally. The story appeared in the BBC, The Guardian, The New York Times, The Times of India, NBC Sports, ESPN, CNN, MSNBC, CBC, Global TV, CTV, and many more. The Tibetan women competed in the tournament as special guests and Ambassadors of Peace.

The VISF is setting the stage for an inclusive world free of all types of discrimination. With emphasis on Inclusion, Equality, and Respect, we are striving to create a better world for all.

The festival also offers a place for organizations like Canadian Blood Services, Cops for Cancer, BC Cancer Society, Fair Trade Vancouver, UNHCR, ONE Campaign and the BC Newcomer Camp which supports Syrian Refugees in East Vancouver, to discuss their organizations and advocate for their causes by way of free table space throughout the event.

2019 Festival Highlights:

- A world-class multicultural soccer tournament including local, international, First Nations, Newcomers, and multi-ethnic soccer teams
- Recognized by Fairtrade Canada as one of the first Fair Trade accredited sporting events in Canada
- 32 Coed teams competing in 64+ matches played at a world class venue!
- Three days of soccer, music, food, entertainment, and fun!
- Food, beer, and wine gardens
- Friendly exhibition matches
- 50+ staff and volunteers
- Free admission

“Using the most popular sport on the planet to promote peace and tolerance.” CTV

2019 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Join us July 5, 6, and 7 at Empire Fields in Vancouver, BC, Canada as it promises to be our biggest and most exciting year yet.

GET INVOLVED TODAY: SPONSOR • DONATE • VOLUNTEER • ENTER A TEAM • SPREAD THE WORD!

WHY SOCCER?

Soccer is the biggest game in the world. The game is watched and played by billions of people worldwide; therefore, it's a powerful medium for change and for making a difference. The game transcends borders and barriers, and is among the most powerful tools for creating awareness about issues of global interest.

EVENT PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY

VISF has caught the attention of local and international media, receiving extensive promotion and editorial coverage through TV, radio, print, and other multi-media outlets.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

VISF is currently seeking major sponsorship aligned with the messages of sports, cultural harmony, and global peace and involvement in social change through soccer. We are seeking: funding partners, venue partnership, and media sponsors. VISF provides exposure by association opportunities, such as inclusion in press releases, event website, social media pages, exposure at the festival's site, inclusion of your logo or messaging on official uniforms, media wall, official match balls, site banners, and more.

CONTACT US

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“Palestinians and Israelis find freedom on the pitch” - Vancouver Courier

“Soccer Festival brings Team Tibet, Inclusion to Empire Fields” - Georgia Straight

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

Join us July 5, 6, and 7 at the Historic Empire Fields in Vancouver.

VISF, One Team For Peace & Development Soccer Society, and Official Partners invites people of all backgrounds and cultures to celebrate the VISF's 15th year anniversary by participating in a 3-day soccer festival full of festivities for the whole family! We are setting the stage for Canada's most exciting three days of soccer!

Be part of Canada's largest and most meaningful soccer and cultural celebration in one of the worlds most diverse and inclusive cities! VISF Soccer Tournament is all about having fun, living healthy, and promoting our core values of Equality, Respect, and Inclusion!

TOURNAMENT FORMAT:

- 32 Co-ed teams of 7-12 players. 16 spots available in the coed open division. 16 spots in the coed recreational division
- Each team will play a minimum of three games in the round-robin stage
- The top two teams from each group will move on to the playoffs

AWARDS & PRIZES

- The Coveted annual VISF trophy will be handed to divisional winners
- Draws will be held throughout the event with many prizes to be won
- You will be part of the most exciting soccer tournament this summer has to offer!

FOOD & BEVERAGES

- Food and beverages including sports drinks, and beer and wine, will be available on site for purchase
- Water will be available at the water tent. Please bring your own water bottle to gain access to the water supply and to reduce the garbage on-site!

REGISTRATION:

- We are growing and so are our staging costs. The registration fee helps us pay some of our staging costs required to put on a memorable festival!
- Register your team today and be part of The most exciting Soccer event in Canada!
- Registration for returning teams IN GOOD STANDINGS will open January 2019
- Registration for New teams opens March 2019
- Team fees are \$650 CAD, plus applicable taxes. Fee includes 12 official jerseys
- To enhance festival atmosphere, promote our core values, and acknowledge our official partners, ALL teams must wear VISF official uniforms. No political, religious, and or commercial messaging allowed on uniforms. Thank you for your cooperation.

“Soccer Festival Creates level playing field”

- Vancouver Courier

“Soccer brings cultures together”

- The Province

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