



Bafazi Development Fund: Development Strategy Proposal

28 November 2022 (updated Jan 2023)

Background

The Bafazi Development Fund was established by the first South African Women's Team to a World Ultimate Championship - London 2016. Team Bafazi Bafazi did so to promote and support the inclusive development of women in disc sports and to remove financial barriers to doing so. Since its establishment in 2016, it has supported the participation of female players at various SA Nationals, All African Ultimate Championships, face-to-face workshops on women coaching and captaining, and the travel costs of South Africa's first female coach in a Mixed Division to the under-24 Champions with South Africa's Wild Dogs team in 2019, and the participation of female (and male) players of colour to the Wild Dogs trials held in 2022.

The specific aims of the Fund are to:

- Increase the diversity (socio-economic, racial and geographic) of Ultimate players;
- Increase participation of female ultimate players;
- Develop female athletes, coaches and leaders
- Increase the profile of female players
- Generate discussion and critical thinking about Ultimate and gender and race.

This proposal is focused in particular on the inclusion of women of colour in the Ultimate community (players, coaches and leadership positions) but not exclusively so and all applications for funding from hard-pressed players will be assessed.

Proposal¹

¹ This proposal was initially drafted by Kirsty Bobrow and tweaked by Marlise Richter and Sandra Jordaan. The draft proposal was circulated across South Africa and requested input from all provinces to strengthen. A big thanks to Travis Myburgh, Dharanidharan (Joe) Ramamurthy for incisive comments.

Establish short-, medium- and longer-term goals to support women's development in disc sports with a specific focus on increasing diversity and representation of women of colour.

Short and medium-term goals focus on marshalling financial resources for players to attend practice sessions and cleats (where needed), have online discussions and support on coaching and captaining, to attend national and regional tournaments and supporting events to showcase the sport. The primary long-term goal is to support the development of coaches by exposing trainee teachers to disc sports and supporting their development of frisbee coaching skills.

Why sponsor teachers?

Ideally, we want to encourage more women in sport and we're using Ultimate as one tool to do that. By focusing on supporting sports education we can achieve this and the more women in sport the more women who may be exposed to and pick up Ultimate . In addition, a teacher in a school has a much longer and deeper reach in terms of coaching than we have in our community (and we might be able to develop more frisbee coaches.) If we sponsored 3 teachers for 3 years (1 year each) we'd potentially have 9 new frisbee coaches which would be a remarkable growth rate and would likely foster the development of youth frisbee.

Short-term:

Enable women of colour players to attend Nationals by negotiating a waiver of player fees for the tournament and creating a fund which players can draw from (either up to a max amount or as much as is required.) Other components include:

- Support towards Club fees
- Support towards cleats
- Establish the Bafazi Challenge at League-level for fundraising
- Support towards transport fees for training
- Enable online support and discussion with data support where needed
- Support existing initiatives to attract players of colour such as at university events/ Open Days/ Festivals/ Hat tournaments in all provinces

Medium-term:

- Enable women of colour players to attend All Africa Champs
- Support events (virtual or live) which showcase disc sport participation from countries outside the global north. This includes purchasing viewing rights to game footage as well as supporting visiting players/teams.

Long-term:

Financial support through scholarships for self-identifying non-white female students studying Sports, Recreation, Exercise Science at an undergraduate level(as for example,

<https://www.uwc.ac.za/study/all-areas-of-study/departments/department-of-sport-recreation-and-exercise-science/undergraduate>).

This could be a partial scholarship initially and there would need to be some robust discussion as to which university we approach to assist with this (I am partial to UWC but UNISA has a much broader reach though it is largely through distance learning.) The "ask" could be something like in return the student attends the URCA conference annually, joins a local team (and has a mentor from the local frisbee community) and if we could swing it either completes an ultimate coaching certificate and attends an international competition. (Of course, we could also encourage interest and learning of other disc sports - disc golf has become incredibly popular during the pandemic and many ulti players have segued across and are very good disc golfers.)

As at Nov 2022, the Fund Advisory Committee consists of Marlise Richter, Sandra Jordaan, Kirsty Bobrow, Brogan Poulton and Eliza Stewart and will be expanded over time.

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Draft budget for comment and current income/expenses statement:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LZ4ggTC1tqLMSRR5XF0t71wMeT6xxVnsjMMgFsY2q_4/edit#gid=0