

Football Tournament

Foundation: Use sports to reach out to children

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KUALA LUMPUR: Children who take part in sports see an increase in self-confidence and learn good character traits, Educational, Welfare and Research Foundation (EWRFF) president Datuk A. Yogesvaran (pix) said yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of its nationwide sports programme, dubbed 'On the Pitch, Off the Streets', Yogesvaran credited sports with the drop in discipline problems and gang fights at participating schools.



"Schools that send students to our programmes have seen a drastic drop in discipline issues and gang fights, and even the teachers started reassessing their teaching methods once they found out these students were capable of focusing if taught the right way.

"The 'On the Pitch, Off the Streets' programme aims to keep young students away from the streets and instead keep them on the pitch where they may be better occupied by the positive values found in sports," he said at a media briefing at the Royal Selangor Club.

A project under the foundation's Civil Society Initiative arm, the initiative will use various sports to encourage students to improve their grades in school.

"In order to participate in our football programme, for instance, students must attend tuition organised by EWRFF, otherwise they will not be allowed to play," Yogesvaran said.

To kick off the nationwide initiative, EWRFF has organised an inaugural U-18 football tournament for 12 teams from various branches in the country, organising committee member Joshua

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