

## Saudi Arabian Football Federation establishes Women's U20 National Team

- *Saudi Arabian Football Federation launches a new Women's U20 National Team to nurture young talent and establish clear career paths in women's football*
- *The team is currently participating in its inaugural training camp in Riyadh*
- *Pauline Hamil appointed as the head coach, bringing over 30 years of experience in women's football to the team*

**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 7 December 2023:** The Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) has officially announced the formation of the Women's U20 National Team, a crucial step in enhancing the development of young female footballers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This initiative is part of the SAFF's broader strategy to create sustainable and clear career paths for aspiring women footballers, reflecting a commitment to the growth of the sport at all levels.

The team, comprising talented players from the senior national team and those advancing from the U17 squad, is already engaged in their first training camp. The training camp is currently taking place in Riyadh from 5 - 11 December 2023. This event marks the beginning of a new era in the development of women's football in Saudi Arabia and is a testament to the SAFF's dedication to fostering young talent.

"A new chapter in Saudi women's football begins today with the launch of the U20 National Team. This team is a beacon of hope and opportunity for our young athletes, illuminating the path to international success. We are confident that under the expert guidance of Pauline Hamil, these young women will not only grow as players but also become role models for future generations. Their journey represents our unwavering commitment to elevating women's football in Saudi Arabia and on the global stage." **Said Aalia AlRasheed, Head of the Women's Football Department at the SAFF.**

Pauline Hamil, the newly appointed head coach of the U20 team, brings a wealth of experience to the role. Her distinguished career includes playing for the Scotland National team, earning 141 caps over 18 years, and coaching various youth teams within the Scottish FA, including the U15s, U16s, U17s, and the Scotland Women's U19s National team. Her appointment is a significant boost to the team's prospects and reflects the SAFF's ambition to compete at the highest levels in future regional and international competitions.

The team is eagerly preparing for its first friendly match in March 2024, a key milestone in their preparation for future competitions.

For more news and information on Saudi football, please visit the [SAFF website](#) and follow the Federation's social channels.

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### **ABOUT THE SAUDI ARABIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION (SAFF)**

Established in 1956, the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) is a member of FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and the governing body for football in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia responsible for overseeing grassroots development and all aspects of the amateur and professional game.



The SAFF is in charge of elevating Saudi football to new heights, offering new opportunities across the ecosystem and inspiring the nation to participate and become an influential force for good within world football. SAFF currently administers 28 competitions across various age groups, most notably the annual King's Cup and Saudi Super Cup.

The SAFF manages nine national teams ranging from the U15 age group all the way to the first team, all of which compete in 23 regional and international competitions.

As part of its significant investment in women's football, the SAFF currently manages the senior national team as well as the U17, U20, and national futsal teams. SAFF is also responsible for the organisation of the SAFF Women's Premier League, the SAFF Women's First Division league, and the SAFF Women's Cup.

The SAFF is responsible for the development and upskilling of over 3,000 national coaches and 1,700 referees across the Kingdom.