

Football returns for a new season to the refugee camps of Za’atari and Azraq

Translated in English from original version

Source: laliga.com

Date: 04.02.2026

A new edition of the LALIGA and LALIGA FOUNDATION sports competition has kicked off in Jordan, engaging more than 430 boys and girls. In collaboration with AFDP Global (Association Football Development Programme), LALIGA and its Foundation continue the football leagues they have been running since 2018 in the Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps.

As part of the LALIGA Za’atari & Azraq Social Project, the initiative uses football as a tool to promote the positive values of sport, enhance psychological wellbeing, strengthen resilience and improve social relationships among participants.

This season, 430 young players are taking part, divided into 42 teams competing in 166 matches across both camps. In Za’atari, 286 boys and girls form 26 teams playing 106 matches. In Azraq, 144 participants make up 16 teams contesting 60 matches.

The competition is structured into four categories: boys’ U14 and U16, and girls’ U15 and U18. The extension of the boys’ category to U16 allows continued engagement for participants from previous seasons, supporting their personal and sporting development. Given the strong interest in football in both camps, the kit draw and opening matches have generated great excitement.

Sixteen LALIGA clubs are represented in the competition through donated kits: Atlético de Madrid, Burgos CF, Cádiz CF, CD Leganés, CD Tenerife, Getafe CF, Granada CF, Real Racing Club, RC Celta, RC Deportivo, Real Betis, Real Zaragoza, SD Eibar, UD Almería, Valencia CF and Villarreal CF — demonstrating the clubs’ generosity and commitment to the programme.

The competition follows the “Values to Win” methodology, awarding 10 points per match: 3 for sporting performance and 7 for socio-educational merits, promoting sportsmanship, respect, teamwork and tolerance. This system measures not only performance on the pitch but also attitudes and behaviours that contribute to participants’ holistic development.

As programme socio-sports technician Gonzalo Muñoz explains, “Competition is an excuse to work on key aspects such as coexistence, emotional management and respect for rules. The scoring system helps boys and girls understand that their attitude and behaviour carry the same weight as the match result.”

New this season are individual evaluations for all players, assessing both sporting performance and alignment with the project’s values. Coaches will also be evaluated on technical performance and socio-educational leadership. The process includes individual interviews and personalised objectives to foster comprehensive development. Socio-sporting coach Javier García highlights: “Individual evaluations allow us to better support each player and coach, identify strengths and set tailored objectives. We want football to be a genuine tool for learning and personal growth.”

With the launch of this new season, LALIGA and the LALIGA FOUNDATION reaffirm their commitment to football as a tool for inclusion, education in values and social transformation,

creating opportunities for personal and community development in highly vulnerable environments.