

Rural Women's Football Match: A Historic Moment for WAWCAS Lamjung Region 9

By Sangeeta Shrestha, Founder and Program Director, WAWCAS Nepal.

On the occasion of the 115th International Women's Day, WAWCAS Lamjung Region 9 organized a remarkable women's football match—a first-of-its-kind event for the women of the region. What made this match extraordinary was that none of these women had ever played football before. They had no knowledge of the rules, nor had they ever envisioned themselves on a football field. However, during their Annual General Assembly, an idea sparked—a desire to learn, play, and break barriers.



Determined to turn this vision into reality, the women sought support from a local youth club in Hille, where football was actively played. At first, the Youth Club's Chairperson doubted them.

He couldn't imagine these women, who had never kicked a football before, competing in a match. But as the women's enthusiasm grew, so did his faith in them. With the WAWCAS LINGO facilitating, the youth club taught the women the rules, explained the necessary materials, and guided them through practice sessions. Regional Committee (RC) members played a crucial role in ensuring the knowledge was spread across all interested groups.

The Competition: A Celebration of Strength and Determination

As the excitement built up, 10 women's groups registered for the match, eager to take on the challenge. The registration fee was 1000 rupees per group. Many more expressed interests, but registration had to be closed due to logistical constraints. The event carried real stakes—the first prize was set at NPR 10,000, and the second prize at NPR 5,000.



The commitment of these women extended beyond mere participation. Under Regional Committee 9, there are nine groups, and each group contributed NPR 3,000 to the Regional Committee (RC), demonstrating their dedication to this initiative. Proposals were also submitted to local authorities and other organizations to seek additional support, and they successfully received backing from local authorities.



Game Day: An Unforgettable Experience

The matches kicked off at 11:00 AM and lasted until 6:30 PM, filled with cheers, laughter, and moments of intense competition. The format was simple:

- Each team had 7 players.
- The matches lasted 25 minutes with a 5-minute break.
- For many teams, reaching the goalpost was a challenge, and several matches were decided by penalty shootouts.

The energy on the field was electric. The crowd roared in encouragement as the women, who had once hesitated to step onto the field, ran, passed, and defended fiercely. Their determination overshadowed their lack of experience, and their passion made up for any technical shortcomings.



Lessons Beyond Winning

Like any game, some teams won, and some lost—and not everyone took defeat easily. Disappointment flickered across the faces of those who didn't make it to the final round, but this was only the beginning.

The realization soon set in:

"We Played. We Learned. We Made History. And There's Always A Next Time!"

Two players sustained minor injuries, but their spirits remained high. They had proven to themselves and to the community that women, too, belong on the football field.

This match was more than just a game—it was a symbol of breaking barriers, of strength, and of the power of women to redefine their own narratives. The road ahead is long, but WAWCAS Lamjung Region 9 has taken the first step, and there is no turning back.

More Stories from the WAWCAS Women and Their Children

Every month, three WAWCAS women add a new blog to their story on the WAWCAS website. And also, one of our many Child Groups upload a monthly story. You can get insight into the daily struggles and happy moments in the lives of these women and children by clicking the link below.

[Meet the Women and Their Children • Wawcas International](#)