



JOB DESCRIPTION

Sports Manager, CFK Africa (Youth Development Network)

Location: CFK Africa Headquarters, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

CFK Africa seeks a strategic, entrepreneurial leader to serve as Sports Manager for the Youth Development Network (YDN). Reporting to the YDN Director, the Sports Manager provides overall strategic, technical, and operational leadership for YDN's sport-for-development portfolio — including oversight of CFK Africa's Kibera FCs — and leads the design and roll-out of the Slum Sports Digital Platform, East Africa's first digital system linking grassroots athletes to institutions.

Building on CFK Africa's 25 years of leadership in sport for development, including the historic 2025 national championship win by CFK's women's team, the Sports Manager will use sport as a vehicle to improve health behaviors, keep young people in education, open economic pathways, and strengthen the networks of parents and guardians around them. The role carries accountability for program strategy and growth, the digital platform, partnerships, resource mobilization, team leadership, financial stewardship, and demonstrable impact for young athletes and their communities.

Established in 2001, CFK Africa is a U.S. 501(c)(3), Kenyan-registered international non-governmental organization (NGO) and major affiliated entity of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that empowers youth in urban slums through locally led leadership development and innovative public health delivery and research. The organization maintains a team of 86 full-time employees who serve more than 200,000 residents annually on an annual budget of \$4 million USD.

CFK Africa's newest initiative, the Youth Development Network (YDN), links the organization's youth-facing programs — including TechCraft, the Slum Sports Platform, and the Youth Media Corps — into one network through which young people can move between opportunities in skills, work, sport, media, health, and education. The YDN will place youth in employment, enhance public health, improve educational outcomes, and showcase that when talent meets opportunity, slum youth can break from survival mode to purpose-driven pathways.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Sport-for-Development Programming & Kibera FCs

- Set and drive the strategic direction of YDN's sport-for-development work, overseeing soccer and multi-sport leagues, coaching, and youth participation across slum communities, with a focus on inclusion of girls and young women.
- Oversee CFK Africa's Kibera FCs — including team management, coaching standards, and competitive performance — building on the momentum of the 2025 women's national championship win and ensuring high standards of player welfare and safeguarding.

The Slum Sports Digital Platform

- Lead the design, launch, and continuous improvement of the youth-named and youth-branded digital platform, delivering league coordination, verified athlete profiles, health-behavior messaging, education and economic linkages, and a parent/guardian support network.

Partnerships & Resource Mobilization

- Build and steward partnerships with sporting federations, clubs, scouts, schools, universities, and scholarship providers, negotiating placement and scholarship arrangements that connect verified athletes to opportunity.
- Work with the YDN Director to develop compelling proposals and sustainability pathways — including sponsorship and platform-based models — that reduce long-term grant dependency.

Team Leadership, Financial Management & Impact

- Lead, motivate, and develop a high-performing, multidisciplinary team of program officers, coaches, coordinators, and volunteers.
- Hold overall accountability for sports-for-development budgets and donor compliance, and work with the MEAL team to define indicators capturing participation, retention, health, education, and talent-progression outcomes.

SAFEGUARDING

This role works directly with children and young people in sporting settings and manages a digital platform hosting youth athlete profiles. The Manager must actively promote a safe environment, uphold CFK Africa's safeguarding and child-protection standards — including data protection and consent for minors on the platform — and ensure that all staff, coaches, volunteers, and partners understand and comply with them. The successful candidate will be required to undergo relevant background checks.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Required & Essential:

- A master's degree in a relevant field (e.g. sports management, development studies, public health, education, or social sciences); a bachelor's degree with exceptional relevant experience may be considered.
- At least 7 years' progressive experience in sport for development, youth programming, or a related field, including significant senior leadership responsibility.
- Demonstrated success leading, growing, or transforming a program, ideally in informal-settlement or resource-constrained contexts.
- Proven track record managing multi-donor budgets and delivering against ambitious targets in compliance with donor regulations.
- Experience building partnerships with sporting, academic, or institutional stakeholders and mobilizing resources or winning funding.
- Experience commissioning or managing a digital product or platform, or working closely with a technical delivery team.
- Knowledge of Kenya's sporting ecosystem — federations, clubs, scouting, and scholarship pathways.

Preferred:

- Strategic and entrepreneurial thinker able to grow a proven model and launch new innovations.
- Strong people leader who builds, motivates, and develops diverse teams.
- Excellent partnership-building, negotiation, and representation skills.
- Sound financial acumen and rigorous, data-informed decision-making.
- Deep commitment to youth empowerment, gender inclusion, safeguarding, and CFK Africa's values, with cultural sensitivity to informal-settlement communities.

Application Instructions

To be considered for this position, applicants must submit the following materials via this [link](#):

- 1) a current resume, and
- 2) a cover letter directly stating your specific professional interests in CFK Africa and highlighting your experience leading sport-for-development programs and partnerships in resource-constrained contexts.

CFK Africa reviews applications on a rolling basis and encourages candidates to apply early. The final deadline for applications is Monday, September 7, 2026. Applications submitted via email will not be considered.