

## Where Your Passion Becomes Power

National Soccer Championship for Players with Intellectual Disabilities – JATCO Cup 2025



"That was tough, we lost! Let's face off again next year!"

"You've gotten stronger!"

Players exchange high-fives after the match. Applause and smiles naturally rise from the stands.

Right beside them are JATCO volunteers, supporting the event with expressions as passionate as the players in uniform.

Recently, the National Soccer Championship for Players with Intellectual Disabilities – JATCO Cup 2025 – was held at the Tokinosumika Sports Center

in Gotemba, under the watchful eye of Mt. Fuji. This event, supported by JATCO, is more than just a social contribution activity.

During the tournament, someone's passion becomes someone else's strength, creating a feeling of "I want to come back." It was a special time filled with warmth.



Caption: JATCO Cup 2025 held in a stunning location.

## **The Moment You Get Hooked on Social Contribution**

The charm of JATCO's social contribution activities is that anyone can join easily—no special qualifications required.

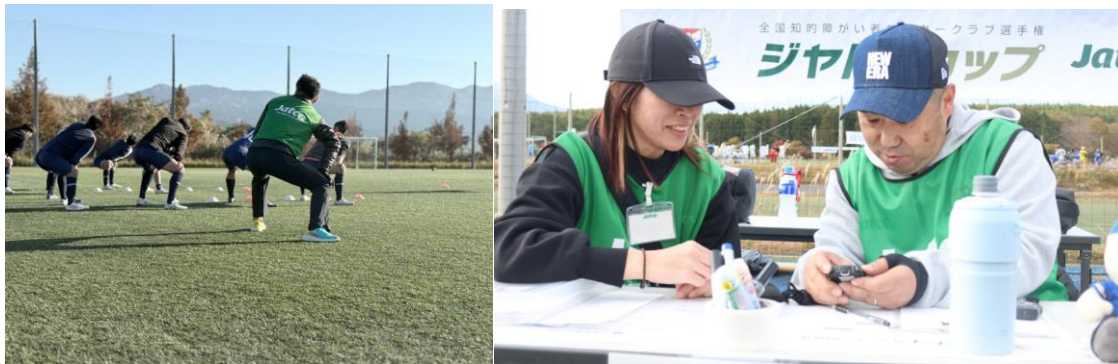
"I'm curious." "Sounds fun." "I'd like to help." That's all you need. Your position or job role doesn't matter.

People who join once often come back with new friends.

We call this phenomenon "getting hooked on social contribution."

The words of gratitude you receive spread in your heart, and you naturally think, "I want to join again."

It's hard to explain in words, but there's a real sense of "addiction" here.



Even executives are equal on the field of social contribution. Meeting people you wouldn't normally interact with is a unique joy.



Pre-match team huddle

Team Support

## Creating a Stage for Players to Shine

There are said to be about 6,000 soccer players with intellectual disabilities across Japan. This tournament, launched in 2015 with Yokohama F. Marinos,



aims to provide a place for them to showcase their skills and connect with teammates.

This year, about 20 JATCO employee volunteers participated each day, supporting teams, refereeing, and managing operations like scorekeeping.

Over three days, six top teams from Hokkaido to Kagoshima competed fiercely, with every match full of excitement.



Feeling the intensity from the special seats is another charm of this activity.

### **Another Key Force – Yokohama F. Marinos**

The success of this tournament wasn't just thanks to JATCO volunteers.

Behind the scenes, the staff of F. Marinos Sports Club played a crucial role.

Interestingly, F. Marinos doesn't have a dedicated department for disability sports. They handle venue arrangements, accommodations, meals, team coordination, and prize preparation—all alongside their regular duties. Their effort is truly inspiring.

What makes this tournament special is that it's not a "same every year" event.

Venues, schedules, and even invited teams often change. Each time, the

JATCO × F. Marinos team discusses from a "players-first" perspective to create

the best rules and operations for that year.

Rather than sticking to "this is how it's done," they constantly improve based

on what's best for the players.

This commitment ensures the tournament grows stronger every year.

While the competitive level of teams rises each year, the unity and passion of

the JATCO × F. Marinos operations team remain unmatched. Their willingness

to embrace change is the true source of this tournament's strength and

appeal.

Supporters also shared their voices:

"This tournament continues thanks to those who support it behind the scenes.

Truly grateful!"

"It gets better every year. Can't wait for the next one!"

And when players say "See you next year!" after the match, it reflects not only

their effort but also the strong desire of supporters to make the next

tournament even better.



Caption: Referee team formed by F. Marinos × JATCO is perfectly in sync.

## **Volunteers Create the Value of "Being Part of the Team"**

JATCO volunteers actively communicate with players and staff at accommodations and before and after matches, building warm connections off the pitch.

Every year, Mr. Nishijima, who supports the Yokohama F. Marinos Futuro team, earns deep trust from coaches and players. Before matches, he stands at the center of the team circle, joining hands as everyone shouts his nickname, "Nisshi!" In that moment, volunteers feel like true teammates.

Even after the tournament, Nishijima keeps in touch with players through

social media, cherishing the bonds formed here.



Yokohama F. Marinos Futuro team member "Nisshi"

## Take the First Step

If you've never joined a social contribution activity, give it a try. It's easier and more fun than you think—and before you know it, you'll be hooked on this "addiction." Bring your passion to a place where it becomes someone's strength.

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