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each team has to field at least two goals in their five-a-side team. Then, all the matches are played without referees. If there's a dispute, the players discuss it and reach a solution. And after each match, the two teams meet and assess the game and they could award their opponents a bonus point for fair play.

Max Watson is the 17-year-old leader of the U.S. team. He says the idea is to help kids develop social skills that will be useful to them in later life.

Mr. MAX WATSON: Slightly different rules because we create the rules ourselves. There's questions such as corner kicks and how do we start play. But in the end, I enjoy how teams have to come to a consensus. It's not just an argument. And if it is, they will sit there until we sort it out ourselves.

Unidentified Man #3: (Foreign language spoken)

LONG: The tournament is being played in Alexandra, one of the poorest areas of Johannesburg. Step away from the football and you soon find yourself in a maze of corrugated iron shacks and slum housing.

The teenagers here say it's been an eye-opening experience for them to see the extremes of wealth and poverty that still afflict South Africa nearly two decades after the end of apartheid.

Once the tournament is over, the pitch will be left here for the locals to use, and FIFA is funding the construction of a community center next to it. The hope is that here in the dusty streets of Alexandra, soccer can be a catalyst for social change, long after the razzmatazz of the real World Cup is over.

Unidentified Man #3: (Speaking in foreign language)

NEARY: That was Gideon Long, reporting from Johannesburg, South Africa.

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