



ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION (AIFF)
ACADEMY ACCREDITATION 2020/21

Rules & Regulations

1. An integral part of AIFF's vision and mission is to improve playing standards and increase the possibility of success for participants at the top level of football. The development of aspiring young talents is at the core of these objectives, and the academy accreditation process introduced by AIFF is a step taken to strengthen and improve the youth development system in the country.
2. The AIFF, in close collaboration with its members – the various state football associations (hereafter referred to as SFAs), through this academy accreditation process grades the youth development structure of clubs and academies and offers them national recognition for the standards attained. Through the system, AIFF marks each club/academy that applies for accreditation on various criteria and gives a star rating based on the total points or marks received.
3. An academy/club is categorized under 2 separate heads:
 - (i) Residential
 - (ii) Non-Residential
4. Based on the categories, the criteria are set and the clubs/academies are requested to fulfil the same. Academies/clubs claiming to fulfil these criteria are required to upload necessary proof in form of official documents on the accreditation portal by a given deadline. After successful upload of all required documents by the prescribed deadline, the same will be assessed and reverted upon. The process will be followed by physical inspection at respective sites to verify the uploads. Points will then be allotted to each club/academy after inspection. The total points allotted will determine the eventual academy rating.
5. The following criteria are set for academy accreditation. **Criteria no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 & 9 are deemed mandatory and an academy/club applying for accreditation must secure minimum points separately for each of these criteria as indicated to pass the whole process.** An academy/club however cannot secure more than the maximum points indicated for each criterion. In case of compliance to a high degree with the concerned criterion, they'll only be allotted the maximum points for that category. Further, it is clarified that extra or



additional marks secured in one category may not be adjusted or used to bridge a gap in securing minimum points in any other category.

6. The supporting documents for each of the criterion must be submitted/uploaded on the AIFF accreditation portal for verification and then later be physically made available at the time of inspections.
7. Point allotment system per head: Points obtained [min (1) to max (6)] multiplied by Weightage. The Points Appendix for each criterion is given in the Appendix page at the end of the document.

Criteria 1.

7.1 Age-Group Teams:

(Weightage = 2; Maximum points = 8; Minimum points required = 4) – data from AIFF Centralised Registration System (CRS)

7.1.1 To pass the criteria:

- (i) The Academy/Club must have a minimum of two age-groups in the youth category (U-19 to U-13). However, academies are encouraged to have more than 2 (two) age groups for more engagement and participation in AIFF and other affiliated tournaments. Between 2 (two) age-groups, for evaluation purposes, the academy/club must not have a gap of less than 2 (two) years between successive age-groups. Eg. An academy/club cannot be evaluated on the basis of only an U-16 and an U-17 team; OR an U-14 and U-15 team, in the absence of other age-group teams, as the gap is of less than 2 years between the teams in such cases.
- (ii) The Academy/Club must have at least 20 registered players including 2 goalkeepers per operating age-group on AIFF CRS.

Criteria 2.

7.2 Technical Staff:

(Weightage = 5 for Head of Youth Development, Head Coach & Goalkeeping Coach; Weightage = 3 for Assistant Coach; Maximum points = 160; Minimum points required = 41) – Linked to AIFF Coaches Registration System

7.2.1 To qualify for Youth Leagues:



- (i) Academy/Club must have a Head of Youth Development with a minimum of an AFC B – Certificate.
- (ii) Head Coaches of respective age-groups of U-18/19, U-16/15 and U-14/13 must have a minimum of an AFC/AIFF C - Certificate.
- (iii) Assistant Coaches of respective age groups of U-18/19, U-16/15 and U-14/13 must have a minimum of an AIFF D - Certificate.
- (iv) A **one-time exemption will be allowed to only the first time applicants** if the club/academy has a Head of Youth Development with a minimum of an AFC/AIFF C - Certificate or Head Coaches with a minimum of an AIFF D - Certificate, provided the club/academy secures the minimum points required under the criterion. However, this exemption will not be applicable for any such first-time applicant who has any direct financial link to an existing club/academy already accredited with AIFF previously. AIFF reserves the right to examine any such matter and the decision of AIFF will be final and binding in such matters.

7.2.2 To pass the criteria (i.e. only for qualifying through accreditation and not eligible for AIFF Youth Leagues)

- (i) Academy/Club must have a Head of Youth Development with a minimum of an AFC/AIFF C - Certificate.
- (ii) Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches of respective age groups of U-18/19, U-16/15 and U-14/13 must have an AIFF D - Certificate.

7.2.3 N.B. Any academy/club with an AFC/AIFF C - Certificate holder as the Head of Youth Development or AIFF D - Certificate holders as the Head Coach of the youth age-group teams will automatically be classified under the Basic star rating of the AIFF Accreditation Process, except the clubs/academies falling under the exemption provided under 7.2.1(iv).

7.2.4 For any technical staff presenting a non-AFC/AIFF course certificate, a Recognition of Coaching Competence (RECC) issued by AFC/AIFF in compliance with the RECC regulations must be submitted in due time.

7.2.5 Points will also be allotted for following licensed coaching staff:

- (i) Goalkeeping Coach



7.2.6 Contracts to be uploaded should have the following:

- (i) Designation and Job description of the employee; for Head/Assistant Coach, the concerned age-group must be mentioned
- (ii) Remuneration paid/payable and if not, clarification with regards to the same
- (iii) Contract term mentioning the period of employment and contract validity; if term is indefinite the termination clause must be specified
- (iv) Date of issue and signing
- (v) Signatures of the contracted staff and employment authority at the club/academy along with the club/academy seal

7.2.7 The following Technical Staff should be registered on the AIFF Coaches Registration Portal - **coaching.the-aiff.com**

- (i) Certified Head of Youth Development
- (ii) Certified Youth Head Coaches
- (iii) Certified Youth Assistant Coaches
- (iv) Certified Goalkeeping Coaches

7.2.8 Any contracted technical staff can hold **a maximum of only one (1) technical designation** besides any designation under Talent Identification/Recruitment criteria.

7.2.9 For any change of Technical Staff - the same must be informed in writing within 7 (seven) days of the staff's termination. Replacement of the same must be found and notified to AIFF within 30 days from the date of termination of the previous employee.

Criteria 3.

7.3 **Approved Curriculum & Training Plan:**

(Weightage = 3; Maximum points = 12; Minimum points required = 12)

7.3.1 The Academy/Club must produce a curriculum for each training age-group under Youth category. The curriculum will be considered valid or not, based on its content prepared, by the Technical Director, AIFF.

7.3.2 The Curriculum must consist of the following:

- (i) **Club/Academy Philosophy:** A single pdf document on Club/Academy letterhead describing the basic principles followed in developing players at the academy/club



across all age-groups. This must include the brand of football practiced at the academy/club (if any), talent identification processes (scouting principles), coaching methodologies, transition of players to higher age-groups. etc. - To be prepared and signed by the Head of Youth Development of the academy/club

- (ii) **Club/Academy Objectives:** Single document on Club/Academy letterhead consisting of objectives set by the academy/club for each age group to be achieved for following season– To be prepared and signed by the Head of Youth Development of the academy/club
- (iii) **Weekly Training Schedules:** Weekly Training Schedules on the club/academy letterhead for each age-group including all training sessions and games. (N.B. - time period for each session to be mentioned for each day. A minimum cycle of 4 weeks of training schedule has to be shared for each age group submitted). - To be prepared and signed by the Head Coaches of respective age-groups.

7.3.3 The curriculum must be uploaded in the system for verification.

Criteria 4.

7.4 Talent Identification & Recruitment:

(Weightage = 3 for Head of Player Recruitment & Scouting Plan; Weightage = 2 for Dedicated Scouts; Maximum points = 20; Minimum points required = 12)

7.4.1 The Academy/Club must have a **Head of Player Recruitment**. The Head of Player Recruitment/Chief Scout must have a minimum of AFC/AIFF C - Certificate and has to be registered on the **AIFF Coaches Registration portal**. Professional Contract as the “Head of Player Recruitment” of the dedicated personnel must be uploaded on the system. If the club does not have a dedicated Head of Player Recruitment or Chief Scout, then the contract of the technical staff designated with the responsibility has to be uploaded. The contract should mention the concerned designation and the respective job responsibilities in addition to his or her primary technical designation.

7.4.2 A scouting plan has to be prepared and uploaded in the system. The scouting plan should consist of the following:

- (i) Places(with states mentioned) covered in all scouting assignments
- (ii) Duration of all scouting assignments
- (iii) Talent recruitment information through either of the following processes:



- (a) Number of Players signed and registered through transfers from other academies/clubs
- (b) Number of Players signed as unattached through open trials or external reference
- (c) Number of Players signed through progression from Baby Leagues organized by the Club/Academy

7.4.3 Dedicated Scouts: Professional Contract or Proof of employment of the respective personnel at the club/academy should be uploaded on the system with respective job responsibilities. All such dedicated scouts must have a minimum of AIFF D - License and has to be registered on the **AIFF Coaches Registration portal**.

Criteria 5.

7.5 Player Progression:

(Weightage = 2; Maximum points = 12; Minimum points required = 0)

7.5.1 Club/Academy will be allocated points for all players with a minimum of 2 years or more (consecutive) registration at the club/academy on AIFF CMS. Only data from AIFF CMS (i.e. only registered players in the respective AIFF youth competitions will be considered while calculating for player progression).

Criteria 6.

7.6 Facilities and Infrastructure:

(Weightage = 5 for Full sized pitch availability & Quality of pitches; Weightage = 3 for Small sized pitches & Floodlights; Weightage = 2 for Football Discussion Room, Gym & Swimming Pool; Maximum points = 130; Minimum points required = 19)

7.6.1 To pass the criteria:

- (i) The Academy/Club must have one full sized football field meeting the required FIFA dimensions (between 120m x 90 m and 90m x 45m)
- (ii) The quality of the surface must be good in terms of level/safety, uniform grass cover, maintenance and drainage. Points will be allotted on the mentioned factors.
- (iii) The Academy/Club must have a Football Discussion Room for indoor/classroom sessions.



7.6.2 Points are also allotted in the following categories

- (i) Use of Floodlights (between 350 – 450 lux)
- (ii) Small size Pitch (between 35m x 20m)
- (iii) Gymnasium
- (iv) Swimming Pool

7.6.3 **Residential Facilities:**

(Weightage = 3 for Rooms & Facilities and School & Education; Weightage = 5 for Maintenance & Hygiene; Maximum points = 60; Minimum points required = 32)

Academies applying through Residential category must have the following:

- (i) Residential Rooms for players & staff
- (ii) Washrooms for players & staff
- (iii) Dining Room
- (iv) Kitchen
- (v) Leisure/Recreation Room
- (vi) Schooling - Academies applying through Residential category must provide proper schooling to all players; Schooling may be at location or at Open Schools as per Indian education system. In addition to schooling, academies may also provide private tutors for the players. For residential clubs/academies, duly signed letters by authorized signatory from schools mentioning the updated names of players under the school letterhead addressed to AIFF have to be uploaded along with the terms and understanding with the club/academy. For private tutors, professional contract or proof of employment along with their education qualification must be uploaded on the system i.e. the **AIFF Coaches Registration portal** under the category of “Official”.
- (vii) Maintenance & Hygiene – The Academy/Club must ensure that the maintenance and hygiene of their residential facilities at least meet average standards.

Criteria 7.

7.7 **Medical Provisions:**

(Weightage = 5 for Physiotherapist & AED; Weightage = 3 for Doctor, Medical Provisions & Facilities and Medical Insurance for Players; Maximum points = 50; Minimum points required = 22)

7.7.1 **To pass the criteria:**

- (i) Academy/Club must have one (1) qualified physiotherapist



(Diploma/Bachelors/Master's degree)* - The appointed physiotherapist has to be registered on the **AIFF Coaches Registration portal** under the category of "Official". The education qualification certificate along with the professional contract of the employee must be uploaded on the system at the time of the registration. **Residential applicants must have a full-time physiotherapist with the club/academy.**

- (ii) Insurance is compulsory for all players registered with the Club/Academy. All players registered in AIFF CRS must be insured under a mediclaim, sports or accidental insurance coverage taken directly by the academy/club - Insurance copies must be submitted by academy/club in Accreditation Portal for all players registered across all age-groups.
- (iii) First Aid Kit and AED (Automated External Defibrillator).* -The academy/club must have first aid kit and an **AED (purchased)** under the academy/club for their training sessions and matches. Submission of a rent agreement or utilization letter issued by any authority for an AED will not be accepted. The purchase invoice of the AED under the name of the club/academy along with a photo of the device must be uploaded/submitted in the Accreditation portal. The same will further be checked at the time of inspections.

Criteria 8.

7.8 Leagues & Competitions:

(Weightage = 5 for AIFF Golden Baby League participation; Maximum points for AIFF Golden Baby Leagues = 25; Minimum points required for AIFF Golden Baby Leagues = 0; Weightage = 3 for Elite Youth – AIFF competitions; Weightage = 2 for Elite Youth – State competitions; Weightage = 1 for Elite Youth - District competitions; Maximum points for Elite Youth Competitions = 50; Minimum points required for Elite Youth Competitions = 0)

7.8.1 Clubs/Academies participating in AIFF Golden Baby Leagues will have to update all data on the AIFF Golden Baby League App. All matches participated in the baby leagues must be available & updated in the AIFF Golden Baby League App. Points for Baby League will be given only as per data drawn from AIFF Golden Baby League App.

7.8.2 Data for number of matches played in any Official Elite Youth Competition participated in will be drawn from the AIFF Competition Management System (CMS) operated by District FA/State FA/AIFF. If Proof of Competition cannot be obtained from CMS, then participation confirmation in the form of a letter from State/District FA under their respective letterhead duly signed and stamped by the authorised signatory, affiliating the competition with the



following to be mentioned, will have to be uploaded on the system:

- (i) Number and names of Teams participated in the competition
- (ii) Schedule of matches played by the concerned team with result.
- (iii) Date and Name of the competition organised.
- (iv) Age-Group of the competition.

7.8.3 For elite youth competitions, points would only be allotted for matches played with a minimum regulation time of 90 minutes in U-14 and above age category competitions. However, for U-13 age category of competitions, points would be allotted for matches played with a minimum regulation time of 70 minutes.

Criteria 9.

7.9 Administrative Support:

(Weightage = 2; Maximum points = 6; Minimum points required = 6)

7.9.1 To pass the criteria:

- (i) An Academy/Club must employ an academy manager and a team manager (separately). Both the academy manager and the team manager must be registered on the AIFF Coaches Registration portal - **coaching.the-aiff.com** as an “Official” of the club/academy.
- (ii) Contracts of all personnel employed under Administrative and Medical structure should include the following:
 - (a) Remuneration
 - (b) Designation with Job description
 - (c) Contract term mentioning the period of employment and contract validity; if term is indefinite then termination clause must be specified
 - (d) Date of issue and signing
 - (e) Signatures of the contracted staff and employment authority at the club/academy along with the club/academy seal

Criteria 10.

7.10 Girls Football:

(Weightage = 3; Maximum points = 9; Minimum points required = 0) – data from AIFF CRS

7.10.1 The Academy will be evaluated on a maximum of three age-groups in the Youth category



(U-18 to U-13). However, for evaluation purposes, between two age-groups, the academy/club must not have a gap of less than 2 years between successive age-groups

7.10.2 The Academy/Club must have at least 15 registered players including 2 Goalkeepers per operating age- group on AIFF CRS;

Criteria 11.

7.11 Events:

(Weightage = 3; Maximum points = 25; Minimum points required = 0)

7.11.1 Certificate/Letter issued from FIFA/AFC/AIFF confirming the hosting of the activity to be uploaded in the system.

7.11.2 Certificate/Letter issued from the AIFF confirming the league operator as a recognised AIFF Golden Baby League operator to be uploaded in the system.

7.12 In order to pass the Academy Accreditation Criteria, an academy/club must secure a minimum total of **116** points overall besides securing the minimum points required for each criterion. An academy/club cannot secure more than **567** points overall.

7.13 For eligibility to participate in the AIFF Youth Leagues 2020-21, a separate communication from the League Department of AIFF will be shared later, based on the accreditation results for the 2020-21season. Participation in respective age-group leagues will be confirmed through formulation, using star ratings.

7.14 The AIFF reserves the right to alter, amend, remove from and/or add to these rules as and when necessary.

7.15 The following is the appendix for Star Gradation under the Academy Accreditation process:

(i) **Basic star** – 116 – 191 points

(ii) **1 star** – 192 – 266 points

(iii) **2 star** – 267 – 341 points



- (iv) **3 star** – 342 – 416 points
- (v) **4 star** – 417 – 491 points
- (vi) **5 star** – 492 or more points

7.16 In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, the following requirements are also mandatory for accreditation application:

- (i) All Academies have to be affiliated or registered under the State Football Association of its location for accreditation application.
- (ii) All players registered under the academy/club must be registered with the AIFF Centralised Registration System (AIFF CRS).
- (iii) All coaches, medical staff and administrative support staff employed by the Academy/Club must be registered with the AIFF Coaches Registration Portal.
- (iv) Any contracted staff (i.e. Technical, Medical or Administrative) employed with a club/academy cannot be employed in any football position or capacity for another club/academy on AIFF CMS to prevent conflict of interest.
- (v) Only one Academy/Club under a common umbrella/parent unit can get accredited from each state.
- (vi) Academies with a good record of star rating in the past season might be exempted from the inspection procedure in the next season, at the discretion of AIFF, provided accurate updates are provided through documents online.
- (vii) Academies must inform AIFF within 7 days of any staff's termination. Replacement of the same must be found and notified to AIFF within 30 days from the date of termination of the previous employee.

8. Timelines:

- 8.1 Academy Accreditation Criteria to be shared on **www.the-aiff.com** on **10th January, 2020**.
- 8.2 Academy Accreditation Workshops will be held between **20th and 29th February, 2020**.
- 8.3 Application Window will be open from **10th January, 2020 till 31st March, 2020**.
- 8.4 Application has to be submitted with a Non-Refundable fee of Rs. 25,000/- (demand draft in favour of All India Football Federation – payable at New Delhi) and with a duly filled and signed application form available at <https://www.the-aiff.com/documents> - under the “Developing The Game” section by **31st March, 2020**.



- 8.5 All official documents, required under the accreditation process as mentioned above in these Regulations must be submitted in the accreditation portal by **31st March, 2020**.
- 8.6 Assessment of uploads/documents followed by inspections will be done over a period of 3-4 weeks.
- 8.7 Academies failing to comply with the criteria after submission deadline will be intimated on their shortcomings and will be given a final deadline of **10th May, 2020** for re-submission of all incorrect documents.
- 8.8 Announcement of results will happen by **10th June, 2020**.
- 8.9 **NOTE:** Academy Accreditation is **not the sole criteria** to participate in the AIFF Youth Leagues.
- 8.10 The Accreditation will be valid for 1 season only. Fresh applications will be accepted for next season.
9. **Grievance/ Dispute Redressal:**
- 9.1 In the case of any grievance related to the overall score or score in any individual criteria of a Club or Academy, the concerned Club/Academy may write to the AIFF and request for the matter to be examined by the AIFF Academy Accreditation Grievance Redressal Committee.
- 9.2 The AIFF Academy Accreditation Grievance Redressal Committee, to comprise of individuals belonging to various AIFF departments, shall examine whether the due process of accreditation, including steps required to be taken for the accreditation process to be concluded, have been conducted or not, and accordingly convey their views to the concerned Club/Academy.
- 9.3 It is clarified that the AIFF Academy Accreditation Grievance Redressal Committee shall only examine the proper conduct of the underlying accreditation process as mentioned above in these Regulations, and shall not examine the subjectivity of any marks allotted.
- 9.4 In the case of any dispute between a Club or Academy and a Player, the aggrieved party may write to the AIFF and the matter may be referred to the concerned Committee in accordance to the provisions of the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 9.5 In the case of any dispute between a Club or Academy and a Technical Staff or Medical Staff or Administrative Support Staff, the aggrieved party may write to the AIFF and the matter may be referred to the concerned Committee in accordance with the provisions of the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, if provided.
10. By entering into Academy Accreditation process of AIFF, the academy/club is deemed to have authorised AIFF to make relevant details including but not limited to results,



Academy/Club names, registered address and contact details public, as necessary.

11. AIFF reserves the right to conduct spot checks at anytime during and after the Academy Accreditation till the start of next Academy Accreditation cycle.
12. AIFF also reserves the right to amend the result of Academy Accreditation of such academies/clubs wherein the report of the official representative of AIFF who has conducted the spot checks, have reported irregularities against the documents and information submitted by the academy/club in their Academy Accreditation application. The amendment can be of any form, including but limited to change of star ratings, cancellation of the Accreditation for the season, etc.
13. **The rules and regulations thus laid supersede all other prior regulations.**



Criteria No.	Accreditation Points Appendix	
Cr. 1	Training Age-group Teams with Registered Players	
	Age-group	Points
	Points per age group	1
Cr. 2	Technical Staff	
	License	Points
	AFC Pro Certificate	5
	AFC A-Certificate	4
	AFC B-Certificate	3
	AFC/AIFF C-Certificate	2
	AIFF D-Certificate	1
	AFC Goalkeeping Level-1	3
	AFC Goalkeeping Level-2	4
	AFC Goalkeeping Level-3	5
Cr. 3	Approved Curriculum & Training Plans	
	Submissions	Points
	Club/Academy Philosophy	1
	Club/Academy Objectives	1
	Weekly Training Schedule of all operating age-groups	2
Cr. 4	Talent Identification & Recruitment	
	Scouts	Points
	Head of Player Recruitment/Chief Scout	3
	Other Dedicated Scouts	
	1-3	1
	4-6	2

	7-9	3
	10 or more	4
	Scouting Plan	1
Cr. 5	Player Progression	
	No. of Players	Points (for 2 years or more in CMS)
	1-4 Players	1
	5-9 Players	2
	10-14 Players	3
	15-19 Players	4
	20 or more Players	5
Cr. 6	Facilities & Infrastructure	
	Football Pitch Availability	Points
	Ownership	3
	Lease	2
	Rent/Revenue Sharing	1
	Football Pitch Quality	Points
	Level/Safety	2
	Uniform Grass Cover	1
	Maintenance	1
	Drainage	1
	Other Rooms & Facilities (Available)	Points
	Football Analysis & Discussion Room	2
	Gymnasium	1
	Swimming Pool	1
Floodlights	2	
Residential Facility		
Accommodation Type	Points	
Semi Private Room (2-3 pax)	3	

	Multiple Occupancy (4-6 pax)	2
	Dormitory (7 or more pax)	1
	Furnishing	Points
	Fully Furnished	3
	Semi Furnished	2
	Unfurnished	1
	Washroom to Player/Staff Ratio	Points
	5 players/staff or less	3
	10 players/staff or less	2
	11 players/staff or more	1
	Other Rooms & Facilities (Available)	Points
	Recreation/Leisure Room	1
	Dining Room	1
	Kitchen	1
	Maintenance & Hygiene	Points
	Excellent	3
	Good	2
	Average	1
	Poor	0
	Schooling & Education	Points
	Admission at local School/Open Schooling	3
	Private Tutor	1
Cr. 7	Medical Provisions	
	Physiotherapist Qualification	Points
	Masters Degree	2
	Bachelors Degree/Diploma	1

	Medical Doctor	Points
	Full Time	2
	Consulting	1
	Medical Provisions & Facilities	Points
	Ambulance	3
	Furnished Medical Treatment Room	2
	Medical Kit	1
	Automated External Defibrillator	Points
	Purchased	1
	Medical Insurance for Players	Points
	Insurance taken by the club/academy	3
Cr. 8	Leagues & Competitions	
	AIFF Baby Leagues	
	Participating Teams	Points
	8-12 Teams	1
	13-19 Teams	2
	20 or more Teams	3
	Elite Youth Competition	
	Matches per age-group teams	Points
	6-10	2
	11-16	3
	17-22	4
	23-28	5
	29-34	6
35 or more	7	
Cr. 9	Administrative Support	
	Administrative Staff	Points
	Academy Manager	2

	Team Manager	1
Cr. 10	Girls Football	
	Age-group	Points
	Points per age group	1
Cr. 11	Events	
	FIFA/AFC/AIFF Events Organised	Points
	Courses	3
	Seminars	5
	Baby Leagues	6