

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION (AIFF)

ACADEMY ACCREDITATION 2023/24

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 "MAS"), through this instant 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 the basis of various criteria and gives a category rating based on the total points or marks achieved.
3. An academy/club is categorized under 3 separate categories:
 - (i) Basic;
 - (ii) Advanced; and
 - (iii) Elite.
4. Based on the above mentioned different 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 within duly notified deadline. After successful upload of all required documents within 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 academy accreditation and rating.
5. 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.

6. Point allotment system per head: Points obtained [min (1) to max (8)] multiplied by Weightage. The Points Appendix for each criterion is given in the Appendix page at the end of the document.

Criteria 1.

1.1. Age-Group Teams: (Mandatory Criteria)

[Weightage for Youth and Senior Transition age-groups = 2; Weight for Grassroots age-groups = 1; Maximum points = 12; Minimum points required = 4 (Basic), 6 (Advanced), 8 (Elite) – data from AIFF Centralized Registration System (CRS)]

1.2. To pass the criteria:

- (i) The Academy must have a minimum of the following age-groups for each of the Accreditation categories:

a. **Basic:** Must have 2 age-groups. (Either U-13 and U-15 or U-15 and U-17; the academy cannot have a transition gap of more than 2 years between two consecutive age-groups)

b. **Advanced:** Must have at least 3 age-groups under Advanced - U-13, U-15 and U-17 (U-19 is optional; However, if an academy does not have a U-13 age-group, it must show a U-19 age-group in place of it to qualify for the category of accreditation. The academy cannot have a transition gap of more than two years between two consecutive age-groups)

c. **Elite:** Must have at least 4 age-groups under Elite - U-13, U-15, U-17 and either only U-19 or both U-19 and U-21. (If an academy does not have a U-13 age-group, it must show a U-21 age-group in place of it to qualify for the category of accreditation. The academy cannot have a transition gap of more than two years between two consecutive age-groups)

Grassroot age-groups (U-12 and below) across the Advanced and Elite accreditation categories have been made optional for the season 2023/24.

- (ii) The Academy/Club must have at least **20** registered players including **2** goalkeepers per operating age-group on AIFF CRS.
- (iii) For Grassroot age-groups (U-12 to U-6), the academy must have at least **10** registered players per age-group team on the AIFF CRS.

Criteria 2.

2.1. Technical Staff:

[Weightage = 5 for Head of Youth Development, Head Coach & Goalkeeping Coach;

Weightage = 3 for Assistant Coach; **Maximum points** = 100; **Minimum points required** = 20 (Basic), 40 (Advanced), 70 (Elite) - Linked to AIFF Coaches Registration System]

2.1.1. To pass the criteria:

i. Head of Youth Development: (Mandatory Sub-criteria)

a. **Basic:** Academy/Club must have a Head of Youth Development with a minimum of an AIFF D-Certificate or equivalent.

b. **Advanced:** Academy/Club must have a Head of Youth Development with a minimum of an AFC B-Certificate or equivalent.

c. **Elite:** Academy/Club must have a Head of Youth Development with a minimum of an AFC A-Certificate or equivalent.

ii. Head Coach: (Mandatory Sub-criteria)

Head Coaches of respective age-groups for:

a. **Basic:** Must be AIFF D-Certified or equivalent for all age-groups or NIS Certified or a Former Senior International Player for India (Certificate/Letter issued by AIFF to be uploaded)

b. **Advanced:** Must be AFC C-Certified or equivalent for at least 2 age-groups and AIFF D Certified for 1 age-group

c. **Elite:** Must be AFC B-Certified or equivalent for 2 age-groups and AFC C- Certified or equivalent for rest.

iii. Assistant Coach

Assistant Coaches of respective age groups for:

a. **Basic:** Must be AIFF E-Certified or equivalent for all age-groups or NIS Certified or AIFF Former Senior International Player for India (Certificate/Letter issued by AIFF to be uploaded)

b. **Advanced:** Must be AFC D-Certified or equivalent for all age-groups

c. Elite: Must be AFC C-Certified or equivalent for 2 age-groups and AIFF D-Certified for rest.

iv. Goalkeeping Coach

The Academy is recommended (not mandatory) to have a registered dedicated Goalkeeping coach for its age-groups. Points for Goalkeeping coach is as per the certificate mentioned in points chart in Appendix

2.1.2. 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. RECC is issued by the **AIFF Coach Education Department**.

2.1.3. 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 alongwith the club/academy seal

2.1.4. 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

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

2.1.6. 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.

3.1. Approved Curriculum & Training Plan and/or Player Training and Development programme: (Mandatory Criteria)

(Weightage = 3; **Minimum & Maximum points = 12**)

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, by the deputed Technical Assessor of the MA. **For the Basic accredited academies, they may produce a document on basic player training and club development programme.**

3.1.1. The Curriculum must consist of the following for Advanced and Elite Accredited Academies:

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.

3.1.2. For all Basic accredited academies, the basic player training and development programme will consist of a monthly training programme along with the club/academy development plans for the season.

3.1.3. The curriculum/development plan must be uploaded in the system for verification.

Criteria 4.

4.1. Talent Identification & Recruitment: (Mandatory Criteria)

[Weightage = 3 for Head of Player Recruitment & Scouting Plan; Weightage = 2 for Dedicated Scouts; **Maximum points** = 20; **Minimum points required** = 6 (Basic), 9 (Advanced), 12 (Elite)]

4.1.1. The Academy/Club must have a **Head of Talent Identification and Player Recruitment**. The Head of Player Recruitment/Chief Scout of the Academy for:

- i. **Basic:** Must be AIFF D-Certified or equivalent for all age-groups or NIS Certified or AIFF Former Senior International Player for India (Certificate/Letter issued by AIFF to be uploaded).
- ii. **Advanced:** Must have a minimum of AFC C - Certificate
- iii. **Elite:** Must have a minimum of AFC B - Certificate

The staff has to be registered on the **AIFF Coaches Registration portal**. Professional Contract as the 'Head of Talent Identification and Player Recruitment' of the dedicated personnel must be uploaded on the system. If the club does not have a dedicated 'Head of Talent Identification and 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.

4.1.2. Scouting Plan: (Mandatory Criteria) A scouting plan has to be prepared and uploaded in the system. The scouting plan should consist of the following:

- (iv) Places (with states mentioned) covered in all scouting assignments
- (v) Duration of all scouting assignments
- (vi) 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.

4.1.3. 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 dedicated scouts must have a minimum of AIFF E-License for all categories and has to be registered on the **AIFF Coaches Registration portal**.

Criteria 5.

5.1. Player Progression (Only for Elite and Advanced Academies): Player Progression refers to the number of years/seasons a player is consecutively registered on AIFF CMS with the club/academy for his/her football development. (Weightage = 2; Maximum points = 12; Minimum points required = 0)

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

[Due to the lack of organized youth competitions in various states and by AIFF over the past 2 seasons (2020/21 till 2022/23), clubs which have not played any MA or AIFF competitions over the 2022/23 season will be assessed on their AIFF CRS data for the criteria for 2023/24.]

Criteria 6.

6.1. Facilities and Infrastructure (Non-Residential): (Mandatory Criteria)

[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 = 80; Minimum points required = 19 (Basic), 24 (Advanced), 30 (Elite)]

6.1.1. To pass the criteria:

- i. The Academy/Club must have one full sized football field for training and matches meeting the required FIFA dimensions (between 120m x 90 m and 90m x 45m); **For Basic Academies, the academy may show a minimum sized field of (60m x 40m).** A non-residential academy applying for an accreditation needs to confirm the branch location in the city while duly filling the form and will be assessed on all non-residential facilities and infrastructure at the location of the branch declared or

adjoining/adjacent to it.

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. An academy obtaining '0' in pitch quality for **its only pitch shown/declared** will fail the criteria.

iii. The Academy/Club must have a Football Discussion Room for indoor/classroom sessions.

Points are also allotted in the following categories:

a. Use of Floodlights (between 350 – 450 lux)

b. Small sized Pitches (between 35m x 20m)

c. Gymnasium

d. Swimming Pool



6.2. Residential Facilities (Only for Elite and Advanced): (Mandatory for Elite and those who applied for it under Advanced); [Weightage = 4 for Rooms & Facilities and School & Education; Weightage = 5 for Maintenance & Hygiene; Maximum points = 80; Minimum points required = 37 (Advanced), 50 (Elite)]

Residential Academy: A residential set-up on either rent agreement (for a minimum of 1 year - upcoming), lease or ownership that includes rooms with sleeping, bath, dining and leisure facilities for staff and players with compulsory schooling provision for registered players of at least 1 age-group (20 players) for the entire season (upcoming).

Academies applying for Elite and Advanced with Residential facilities must have the following:

a. Residential Rooms for players and staff

b. Washrooms for players and staff

c. Dining Room

d. Kitchen

e. Leisure/Recreation Room

f. 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 “Officials”.

Maintenance & Hygiene - The Academy/Club must ensure that the maintenance and hygiene of their residential facilities at least meet ‘**Average**’ standards for an Advanced academy and is ‘**Good**’ for an Elite Academy. Academies unable to meet the required standards will fail the criteria. All residential rooms under both Advanced and Elite categories must be fully furnished implying they **must** have the following facilities in the room:

a. Working Lights b. Working Fans or Air conditioner c. Beds with mattresses d. Study table for every player in the room e. Cupboards/Almirah

Criteria 7.

7.1. Medical Provisions: (Mandatory Criteria)

(Weightage = 5 for Physiotherapist & AED; Weightage = 3 for Doctor, Medical Provisions & Facilities and Medical Insurance for Players; Maximum points = 40; Minimum points required = 22)

7.1.2.To pass the criteria:

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.**

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 (covering the upcoming season) must be submitted by academy/club in Accreditation Portal for all players registered across all age-groups.

7.1.3. First Aid Kit and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) * - The academy/club must have first aid kit and access to **AED** 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 may be accepted. The purchase invoice or utilization letter or rent agreement 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.

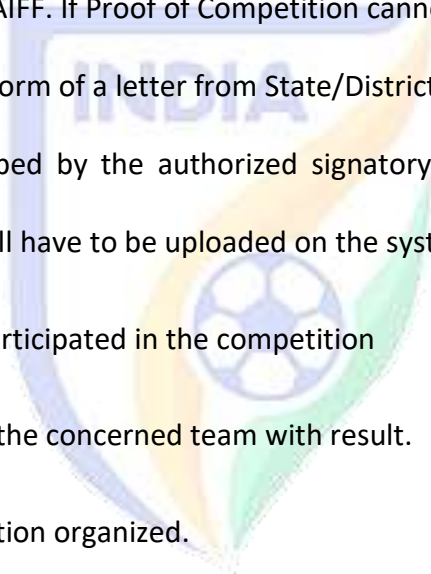
Criteria 8.

8.1. Competitions:

(Weightage = 5 for AIFF Grassroot Leagues Organization; Maximum points for AIFF Grassroot Leagues = 25; Minimum points required for AIFF Grassroot Leagues = 0; Weightage = 3 for AIFF Youth competitions; Weightage = 2 for State Youth Competitions; Weightage = 1 for District Youth Competitions; Maximum points for Youth Competitions = 50; Minimum points required for Youth Competitions = 0)

8.1.1. Grassroot Leagues Organization: Clubs/Academies organizing AIFF Grassroot Leagues will have to update all data on the concerned application. All matches organized in the grassroots leagues must be available & updated. Points for Grassroot Leagues will be given only as per data drawn from the relevant app.

8.1.2. Official Youth Competitions: Data for number of matches played in any Official Youth Competitions 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 authorized signatory, affiliating the competition with the following to be mentioned, will have to be uploaded on the system:

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- 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 organized.
 - iv. Age-Group of the competition.

8.1.3. For all youth competitions, points would only be allotted for matches played with a minimum regulation time of 90 minutes in U-15 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.

9.1. Administrative Support: (Mandatory Criteria) (Weightage = 2; Maximum points = 6; Minimum points required = 6)

9.1.1 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) An Academy Manager is responsible for overall operations and functioning of an Academy whereas a Team Manager looks specifically into the individual team requirements. A team manager may look after multiple teams in an academy.
- (iii) 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 terms 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.

10.1. Girls Football: (Weightage = 3; Maximum points = 9; Minimum points required = 0) - data from AIFF CRS.

10.1.1. The Academy will be evaluated on a maximum of three age-groups in the Youth category (U-17 to U-13). However, for evaluation purposes, between two age-groups, the academy/club must not have a transition gap of less or more than 2 years between successive age-groups.

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

(If the entire academy is dedicated to only girls, then this criterion will not be considered for assessment.)

Criteria 11.

11.1. Events: (Weightage = 3; Maximum points = 10; Minimum points required = 0)

11.1.2. Certificate/Letter issued from FIFA/AFC/AIFF confirming the hosting of the activity to be uploaded in the system. Activities may include courses, seminars, workshops, educational programmes, grassroots festivals and events.

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

For eligibility to participate in the AIFF Elite Leagues 2023-24, a separate communication from the Competitions Department of AIFF will be shared later, based on the accreditation results and/or qualification results from State Youth Leagues for the 2023-24 season.

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

Criteria 12.

12.1. Community Engagement: (Weightage = 2; Maximum points = 10; Minimum points required = 0)

12.1.1. Any engagement programme or activity conducted with any NGO or Not for Profit organization or any recognized private or government institution for local communities or the society will be considered for points. Document stating the same on the NGO, Private or Government body letterhead signed by authorized signatory needs to be uploaded on the system.

Criteria 13.

13.1. Player Registrations: (Weightage = 1; Maximum points = 5; Minimum points required = 0)

13.1.1. An applicant will be allotted points to register youth players on CRS (more than 20 – including 2 goalkeepers which is the minimum required) in concerning age-groups as per the points table in appendix.

Minimum Requirement Summary Sheet:

Criteria Heads	Elite			Advanced			Basic		
	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	1 star	2 stars	3 stars
Age-group Teams	Minimum of 4 age-groups teams			Minimum of 3 age-group teams			Minimum of 2 age-group teams		
Technical Staff Licenses	Head of Youth (A); Head Coach (B) for at least 2 age-groups and (C) for rest			Head of Youth (B); Head Coach (C) for at least 2 age-groups and (D) for one			Head of Youth (D); Head Coach (D) or NIS or Former International player for all age-groups		
Approved Training Curriculum	Club philosophy, objectives and training schedule			Club philosophy, objectives and training schedule			Basic Training and Club Development programme is acceptable		
Talent Identification and Recruitment	Head of Talent Id (B); Scout (E)			Head of Talent Id (C); Scout (E)			Head of Talent Id (D) or NIS or Former International Player; Scout (E)		
Player Progression	Progression of players over 2 age-groups			Progression of players over 2 age-groups			Not applicable		
Facilities and Infrastructure	Residential			Residential or Non-Residential			Non-Residential		
Medical	Doctor, Physiotherapist (full time for residential), First aid kit and A.E.D.			Doctor, Full time Physiotherapist (full time for residential), First aid kit and A.E.D.			Doctor, Physiotherapist, First aid kit and A.E.D.		
Competitions	Youth Competitions and Grassroot Leagues			Youth Competitions and Grassroot Leagues			Youth Competitions		
Administration	Academy and Team Manager			Academy and Team Manager			Academy and Team Manager		
Girls Football	Points applicable only for Boys academy			Points applicable only for Boys academy			Points applicable for only Boys academy		
Events	Courses, Seminars, Workshops, Educational programmes, Grassroots Festivals and Events.			Courses, Seminars, Workshops, Educational programmes, Grassroots Festivals and Events.			Courses, Seminars, Workshops, Educational programmes, Grassroots Festivals and Events.		
Community Engagement Programmes	Community engagement programmes with NGOs, Private and Govt. Bodies			Community engagement programmes with NGOs, Private and Govt. Bodies			Community engagement programmes with NGOs, Private and Govt. Bodies		

Player Registrations	Minimum Registration of players to get the points (21-40 players)	Minimum Registration of players to get the points (21-40 players)	Minimum Registration of players to get the points (21-40 players)
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12. The following is the table for Accreditation Gradation under the Academy Accreditation process:

Categories	Star rating	Points
Basic	1 star	89 - 98
Basic	2 stars	99 - 108
Basic	3 stars	109 - 118
Advanced	1 star	119 – 139
Advanced	2 stars	140 – 160
Advanced	3 stars	161 - 179
Elite	1 star	180 – 245
Elite	2 stars	246 – 305
Elite	3 stars	306 and above

If an academy crosses the threshold of total number of points of a certain category of academy it had applied for, regardless of the number of points it accumulates, it would still come under the academy category it applied for. For e.g. If an Academy, namely 'X' has applied to become a 'Basic' accredited academy but it's points total comes under the Advanced accreditation bracket, it would obtain the highest points and rating of a 'Basic' academy. Similarly, if an academy is unable to obtain the minimum points required under a certain category of accreditation it had applied for, then it would obtain the accreditation corresponding to the points it has accumulated.

13. In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, the following requirements are also mandatory for Academy Accreditation application:

- (i) All Academies have to be affiliated or registered under the Member Association of its location for accreditation application.
- (ii) A non-residential academy applying for an accreditation needs to confirm the branch location in the city while duly filling the form and will be assessed on all non-residential facilities and infrastructure at the location of the branch declared or adjoining/adjacent to it. This is not applicable for Residential Academies.
- (iii) All accredited academies must adhere to the AIFF Child Safeguarding policies and framework once published.
- (iv) Every accredited academy in order to keep its accreditation must appoint/nominate a Child Safeguarding Officer as part of its adherence to AIFF Child Safeguarding Policies and

Framework.

- (v) All players registered under the academy/club must be registered with the AIFF Centralized Registration System (AIFF CRS).
- (vi) All coaches, medical staff and administrative support staff employed by the Academy/Club must be registered with the AIFF Coaches Registration Portal.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) Only one Academy/Club under a common umbrella/parent unit can get accredited from a city.
- (ix) 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.

14. Timelines:

- a. Academy Accreditation Criteria to be shared on **www.the-aiff.com** on **24th March, 2023**.
- b. The Online Application Window will be open from **25th March, 2023 till 15th April, 2023**.
- c. Online Applications to be submitted with the Non-Refundable application fee corresponding each category of accreditation as shown below:

Accreditation categories	Application Fees
Elite	Rs. 50000/- +GST
Advanced	Rs. 25000/- +GST
Basic	Rs. 10000/- +GST

- d. The online accreditation form must be duly filled, downloaded and printed out for signature of the authorized MA signatory.
- e. Once signed, the form has to be uploaded on the accreditation system and the payment of a non-refundable application fee corresponding to each category of accreditation as shown above has to be completed.
- f. The entire application procedure must be completed by **15th April, 2023**.
- g. All official documents, required under the accreditation process as mentioned above in these Regulations must be submitted on the accreditation portal by **5th May, 2023**.

h. Assessment of uploads/documents followed by inspections will be done over a period of 2-3 weeks from **6th May till 25th May, 2023**

i. Academies failing to comply with the criteria after submission deadline will be intimated on their shortcomings and will be given a final deadline of **31st May, 2023** for re-submission of all incorrect documents.

j. Announcement of results will happen by **5th June, 2020**.

All accreditation applicants will be assessed by officials deputed by concerning MAs

NOTE: Academy Accreditation may **not be the sole criteria** to participate in the AIFF Elite Leagues.

k. An Accreditation will be valid for 3 seasons only subject to successful renewal. The license post clearance of the accreditation process will have to be renewed for the following two (2) seasons by payment of the renewal fee and submitting a declaration (form to be shared later) on the changes (if any) or the lack of it. Based on the declaration and payment of fees, there will be further assessments on the same by the MA.

l. If an academy through its own assessment presumes that it can get itself upgraded to a higher level of accreditation, it may apply for fresh accreditation for the higher level paying the application fees. If an academy however gets downgraded, it has to also submit a declaration on the same enlisting the changes and **apply for fresh accreditation** for the lower level of accreditation.

m. All applications for renewals have to be placed at least **3 months** in advance before the expiry of the accreditation.

n. Renewals or fresh accreditations will only be acceptable if there are no sanctions or bans placed by the MA on the accredited academy.

Accreditation categories	Accreditation Renewal Fees
Elite	Rs. 20000/- +GST
Advanced	Rs. 10000/- +GST
Basic	Rs. 5000/- +GST

15. Grievance/ Dispute Redressal:

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. 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.
- 15.4. 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.
- 15.5. 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.
- 15.6. By entering into Academy Accreditation process of AIFF, the academy/club is deemed to have authorized AIFF to make relevant details including but not limited to results, Academy/Club names, registered address and contact details public, as necessary.
- 15.7. MAs reserve the right to conduct spot checks at any time during and after the Academy Accreditation till the start of next Academy Accreditation cycle.
- 15.8. AIFF also reserves the right to amend the result of Academy Accreditation of such academies/clubs wherein the report of the official representative of a concerned MA 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.

15.9. The rules and regulations thus laid supersede all other prior regulations.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q.1. Does obtaining accreditation guarantee competition participation under the MA?

A.1. It does not however it does make the academy eligible to participate in the age-group competitions it has been accredited for. The academy may have the opportunity to participate in concerning age-group competitions on a different platform if not under the MA it is registered under. The authority on final eligibility to participate in State and Elite Leagues rests with the MA and AIFF respectively.

Q.2. What are the eligibility criteria for AIFF accredited academies to play in AIFF Elite (Zonal) leagues?

A.2. For eligibility to participate in the AIFF Elite Leagues, a separate communication from the Competitions Department of AIFF will be shared later, based on the accreditation results and/or qualification results from MA (State) Youth Leagues.

Q.3. What are the age-group cut-offs for participation in the concerning age-group leagues?

A.3. The age-group cut-offs for MA and AIFF Elite Leagues will correspond directly to the National age-group team cut-offs for AFC and FIFA competitions for that season. The same will be duly intimated by the AIFF Competitions dept and also through the MA it is registered under

Q.4. Can an academy be barred from participating in State or Elite leagues after securing AIFF Accreditation?

A.4. Yes, it can be if the academy is facing an MA or AIFF Disciplinary sanction or ban on any disciplinary, ethical or legal grounds that will be duly intimated to them by either the MA or AIFF.

Q.5. What if an AIFF accredited academy chooses to play a league under a different MA to that it is registered under?

A.5. It may opt to play in a league organized by a different MA to that it is registered under however, the academy must obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the MA it is registered under following which it can apply to play in a league organized by a different MA, duly informing AIFF about it.

Q.6. Does an academy need to undergo the AIFF Accreditation process if it gets or is accredited under a State level system?

A.6. An academy may skip to get accredited under AIFF if it secures a MA level accreditation however it will not be eligible to participate in any AIFF organized league (Elite leagues) and may choose to only participate in leagues organized by the MA it is registered under. In order to play in AIFF Elite (Zonal) leagues, an academy must get accredited under the AIFF accreditation system.



APPENDIX

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/NIS Certificate/Certificate of Representation in International Football for India	1
	AIFF E-Certificate	2
	MA Goalkeeping Certificate	3
	AFC Goalkeeping B-Certificate	4
	AFC Goalkeeping A-Certificate	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
	Basic Monthly Training schedule and Club Development plan (Only applicable for Basic)	3
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	4
	Lease	3
	Rent/Revenue Sharing	2
	Free access with permission to use	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
	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
	Master's Degree	2
	Bachelor's 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/Rented/Utilization access	1
	Medical Insurance for Players	Points
	Insurance taken by the club/academy	3
Cr. 8	Leagues & Competitions	
	Organization of Grassroot Leagues	
	Participating Teams	Points
	8-12 Teams	3
	13-19 Teams	4
	20 or more Teams	5
	Participation in Youth Competitions	
	Matches per age-group teams	Points
	6-10	3
	11-16	4
	17-22	5
	23-28	6
	29-34	7
	35 or more	8
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 Organized	Points
	Festivals or Grassroots Celebrations	2
	Courses/Seminars/Workshops	3
Cr. 12	Community Engagement Programmes	Points
	Community Engagement with 0-100 people	2
	Community Engagement with more than 100 children	3
Cr. 13	Registration of Players on CRS	Points
	21-40 players	2
	41-60 players	3
	61-80 players	4
	81 - 100 and more players	5