

Talent Identification- Technical Department

Categories: Boys & Girls, Youth & Senior National Teams

AIFF Selection Policy

The All India Football Federation conducts a Talent Identification program for its National Team Camps (both male and female teams) through a network of scouts managed regionally. Six regions have been systematically formed for efficient talent identification and development. Each region is managed by a Regional Head who oversees local talent and reports directly to the AIFF headquarters. The scouting program also provides opportunities for Indian passport holders residing overseas.

Scouting is conducted across competitions conducted by the AIFF, via Sub-Junior, Junior, and Senior NFC, which are competitions between State-teams; the Sub-Junior, Junior, and Elite Youth Leagues, which are competitions between licensed Academies/Clubs

- Scouts may be present at competitions conducted by District Football Associations affiliated with State Football Associations (FA), by University/School Education bodies and by private entities.

- Further, for talent identification, AIFF may conduct trials in different states on a periodic basis in association with the respective State FAs. State FAs are encouraged to ensure the attendance of potential talents from all districts within their State at these trials.

- From Indians living outside India, the scouting team invites videos and documents on scouting@the-aiff.com

The AIFF follows a systematic player evaluation process, where scouts submit detailed reports that are reviewed by the Regional Head and Scouting Manager. The scouts shortlist players from the above activities as per the requirements of the national team coach of the specific age group. Coaches may invite players to the Camp for further trials out of the recommendation list of Scouts. If the player meets the requirements of the coach, the player is asked to continue in the camp.

The scouting network also keeps track of players who may show potential / lack in certain attributes / have been part of NT camp in the past. The player may be recommended to the NT coach once the scout feels that the player is ready.

Senior Men C Women National Teams:

Men: Scouting is conducted at Indian Super League (ISL), I League and 2nd Div I League. Inter-university and Santosh Trophy tournaments also provide options. In most cases, players are observed in the above competitions by a senior team assistant coach or head coach before being invited to the National Team camp.

Women: Scouting is conducted at the Senior National Football Championship, Indian Women's League and Indian Women League 2 (IWL C IWL2). Senior team coaches/es also observe the

development of players in the U18/U19 National Team camp and call up players who are deemed ready for the Senior Women's NT camp. The U18/U19 NT camp is a key feeder to the senior team.

All final selection decisions are taken by the Head Coach of the respective team.

The Camp/Team selection documents are signed by the General Secretary for administrative sanctions.

AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy: Talent is decisively identified through a range of youth-level competitions, categorized by age group and gender. This thorough identification process takes place during key events such as the AIFF Open Trials, AIFF Youth Leagues, National Championships, School Games, and various state-level youth competitions across the country. Once potential players are recognized, they are efficiently placed into regional pools and invited to participate in the central trials. From these central trials, selected players advance to the final round. Later on, AIFF scouts, alongside the FIFA Talent coach and AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy coaches, conduct thorough evaluations to make the final selections.

Notes:

Aspiring players are strongly advised to continuously participate in local competitions like AIFF Baby League, inter-School, inter-College, etc. in order to increase the chances of selection into the zonal/district/State-level age-category teams. This in turn raises the chances of a player being signed by a Club to participate in AIFF Youth Leagues.

Aspiring players and their coaches are advised to be apprised of activities conducted by the State FA of the state of their residence, so that deserving players do not miss out on opportunities to play. The link to the State Association details is available on www.theaiiff.com.

Players, coaches, and parents are advised to stay in touch with the general developments in Indian football by following the AIFF's official social media pages/handles on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. All are encouraged to watch National Team matches in all categories, when/if possible, so as to become familiar with the technical, tactical aspects, and general level of the national teams.

* Players and parents are advised to be careful of unofficial agencies conducting 'National Team' scouting events or promising access to National Team Camps. These decisions are only taken by the Technical Staff of the National Teams.

* Talent Identification is often conducted in a covert manner. Players, coaches, parents, or agents may not seek access to AIFF scouts.

#Players must produce original documents (birth certificate, Aadhaar, Passport) whenever asked for by AIFF NT staff

Youth teams: Age-verification tests are conducted at various stages

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