



INDIAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SEASONS 2026-40

Junior Development - Age 12-19

Year 2026-40

Innitiatives

Key Objectives	Innitiatives
Ensure a healthy flow of uninterrupted high level matches across youth development pathway	National Junior Development Programme with State Youth Leagues and National Youth Leagues running simultaneously
Best Teams to play against the best to optimise development through competitions	National Youth Leagues to be lengthened and introduced in every age category
Strive to get 40 matches over a 45 week engagement duration every year	Longer National youth leagues with over 30 matches within the zonal group stage
Robust scouting systems for early detection & elite talent to be fast tracked upwards	Data driven scouting and analytics systems with player performance tracked by AIFF Scouts and Perfomance data shared with respective academies
Nurture a network of monitored Academies to develop players across the country	AIFF Youth Scheme (Formerly AIFF Academy Accreditation)

Age Group	Competitions	Max Current Matches (2026)	Proposed Competitions	Target Matches
U13	State Youth Leagues	14	State Youth Leagues	18
U14	AIFF Sub Junior League	20	AIFF U20 National YL	39
U15	State Youth Leagues	14	State Youth League + AIFF U15 National YL	18+39
U16	AIFF Junior League	20	AIFF U16 National YL	39
U17	State Youth Leagues	14	State Youth League + AIFF U17 National YL	18+39
U18	AIFF Elite League	20	AIFF U18 National YL	39
U20	AIFF U20 National YL	-NA-	AIFF U20 National YL	39
Total		102		288

Key Features

- Duration : August - Feb (Final Rounds in April)
- Consolidated Centralised pool of funds for the National Youth Development Programme with contributions from the AIFF and the Rights Holder and overseen by the Governing Council
- Dedicated funds for conducting an expanded youth league competitions
- Centralised Pool of grants for all participating teams within the National Youth League Structure
- Dedicated Expanded State Youth League to act as a second tier to Youth Development
- Data Driven Scouting and Player Development platform
- AIFF FIFA TDS Academies to House elite Talent
- School competitions and Grassroots structures in each state to feed into U13 youth league academies
- National Football Curriculum from AIFF to standardise and improve Football Education