



FEDERAZIONE CRICKET ITALIANA

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C.O.N.I. – Disciplina Associata

Italian Cricket Academy

General Principles

The Italian Cricket Academy is born with a dual purpose. It has a short term objective, to be unearthed in April 2007, and a long-term one, to identify athletes deemed to have potential and follow them over a longer period so that these young cricketers will provide the back bone of the Italian youth and senior national teams in the years to come.

To begin with, the Academy can only cater for a limited number of athletes. The starting numbers should be limited to 16 but this should grow over time. There should be a minimum number per age group. Maximum numbers will have to be limited to the ability of the Academy to develop the athletes and tutor them over a sustained period of time. It would not be practical to start the Academy with many athletes then be unable to adequately support them over time.

Although the Academy shall be independent form the clubs at all levels, it must have some jurisdiction over the clubs in developing players who are part of the Academy. Consequently, if a club or athlete does not abide to the rules, they will be excluded from the Academy.

Financial Aspects and Funding Scenarios

By February 28 of each year at latest, a budget will be prepared and presented to the CF of the FCrI for approval. In the inaugural year and to set things in motion, the FCrI, directly and through the European Cricket Council Annual Support Program, will bear the great majority the costs.

Each athlete, accepted in the Academy, will be required to pay a participation fee directly or through his club.

Sponsorship and European Union social funding will be sought as possible sources of revenue.

Venue

The Academy shall be based in Grosseto, 180 km north of Rome, on the Tirrenian coast. It is hoped that in a relatively short time it shall have its own base totally independent from the clubs. Until then, the Academy shall be based at the best of the existing club facilities currently existing in Italy.



Logistics

All participants to the Academy shall reside at the Hotel Fattoria La Principina, distant for 4 km from the ground. Transport between hotel and ground shall occur by coach.



Aims

The Academy will pursue the following aims:

- to develop, within 5 years, a core of young cricketers in Italy capable of regularly winning U17 and U19 European tournaments;
- to improve the technical capabilities of the athletes by a structured training programme;
- to instil the love for the game so that they do not abandon later on;
- to give young cricketers a chance to play cricket, particularly against their own age groups.

Staff

The staff will consist of a Director and a minimum of 4 coaches. The coaching staff shall be co-ordinated by a Head Coach appointed by the Director jointly with the GITC, the Italian equivalent of ECB CA. Support staff will be provided from time to time and when needed by the F.Cr.I.

Director

The Director is appointed by the F.Cr.I. for a 4 year period. There are no limitations as to the number of terms. His role is to:

- prepare the yearly budget and submit it to the C.F.
- appoint the Head Coach
- select the assistant coaches in conjunction with GITC, Head Coach and ECC
- define the strategy for his period of tenure
- liaise with other Academies and Centres of Excellence
- co-ordinate the activity
- define the schedule of events
- approve all financial expenditure

Coaches

The Head Coach will assign specific tasks to each of the coaches based on the Academy's approved programme. This will ensure that the best use of the available resources will be made. He will also appoint a Senior Coach for each of the following areas with the aim of providing the athletes with coaching that cannot otherwise be gained at club level.

- Bowling
- Batting
- Wicket-keeping (to begin with this skill could be linked to fielding)
- Fielding (to begin with this skill could be linked to wicket-keeping)

The senior coaches can call upon other qualified coaches to assist in the training sessions so long as this is agreed upon with the Head Coach. The coaches will define the training programme for the Academy and for each individual athlete.

Each Academy coach will also act as tutor for a small group of athletes. His job will be to ensure that these athletes are given the correct coaching. They will be expected to conduct regular coaching sessions with their protégées.

Senior and assistant coaches must be approved by the Academy Director. A senior coach must be a level ECB III or higher whilst an assistant coach must be ECB II or higher. Exceptions must be approved by the Director.

All approved Academy coaches are expected and required to actively participate in all GITC events as well as in further coaching education activities.

Any decision taken by any of the Coaches that has any financial impact must be first approved by the Director.

Athletes

In order to pursue the targets detailed above the age group should be between 15 and 19. For 2007, the opening year, the Clubs in Serie A and B will be allowed to provide a maximum of 2 names, in order of preference. The ratio of a coach to athlete should be 1 to 4.

In the following years the Academy Staff will actively identify young cricketers of note to bring into the Academy.



Equipment

In order to function as an independent body the Academy will have its own resources, equipment and clothing. Included in the equipment will be a bowling machine and video equipment.

The Academy will have its own uniform which will help form a bonding between its members and clearly identify its independence.

Training

The coaches will act also as fitness trainers and give all athletes a personalised programme focused on fitness. This training programme will cover the entire year and set reasonable targets for each individual to be achieved. The Academy will organise at least 2 annual training check-points with the athletes to ensure that they are progressing according to plan. Failure to do so could result in the athlete being expelled from the Academy. The athletes will be expected to achieve minimum performance levels set by the Academy in each of the following:

- a) 100m;
- b) 400m;
- c) 1500m;
- d) high jump
- e) long jump

Any of the above can be changed based on the requirements of the coaching staff so long as a suitable replacement is found.

Link to ECC programme

The Italian Cricket Academy should maintain close contacts with the ECC to ensure that the development of cricket in Italy follows approved guidelines.

The Academy should have strong links with other Academies and the ECC development programmes. Exchange programmes should be actively pursued.

The Academy should also provide and identify athletes that should continue their development in the Italian Cricket Academy based in Melbourne.

Team

The Academy shall have its own team and play domestic and international matches during the season.