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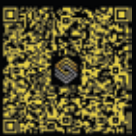


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Greetings

from
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy



*His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the UAE & Ruler of Abu Dhabi*



*His Highness Sheikh Mohammed
bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of
UAE & Ruler of Dubai*



*His Highness Sheikh Sultan
bin Mohammed Al Qasimi
Ruler of Sharjah*

*His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi Ruler of Fujairah
His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuami Ruler of Ajman
His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla Ruler of Umm Al Quwain
His Highness Sheikh Suad bin Saqr Al Qasimi Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah*

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CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, UAE	05
Message from the Founder & CEO of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, UAE	07
Message from the General Manager of Sharjah Cricket Stadium	09
Desert Cubs Profile	10-13
Desert Cubs Management, Coaches, Admin & Support Staff	15-18
Cricket Achievements 2025-2026	19-27
Global Council for Cricket Academies (GCCA)	29
Message from the Chairman of the Tour Committee	31
Message from UAE National Team Players	33
Desert Cubs Squads for Cricket Tour of UK 2026	35
Desert Cubs Tour Squads & Messages from Coaches	36-41
Desert Cubs Officials for Cricket Tour of UK 2026	43
UK Tour Itinerary & Match Schedules	45 & 47
Previous Tours	49
Desert Cubs Cricket Tour of Sri Lanka & GCCA T20 Academy Championship 2025	51-67
ECB U12, U15 & U18 National Academy League 2025-2026	69-75
Desert Cubs Sports Day 2025	77-83
Desert Cubs Cricket Tournaments 2025-2026	84-89
Cricket Awards for Season 2025-2026	91
Visiting International Teams	92-93
Messages from the Centres-In-Charge, Members & Parents	94-103
Desert Cubs Charity Drive 2025-2026	105-107
Photo Gallery	110-113
Our Sponsors	115
Thank you page	116



DESERT CUBS CRICKET ACADEMY

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(Environmental Management System)

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(Energy management System)



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Message from the Chairman of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

Dear Parents, Players, Supporters, and Friends of Desert Cubs,

As another rewarding season draws to a close, I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and congratulations to every member of the Desert Cubs family who has contributed to what has been a truly memorable year for our academy.

This season, our players have once again shown the qualities that define Desert Cubs — skill, discipline, hard work, and an unwavering love for the game. From our youngest Cubs taking their first steps in cricket, to our senior squads competing at the highest level, the progress we have made is something we can all take pride in. To our coaches, parents, volunteers, and supporters — thank you. Your

commitment is the foundation on which everything we achieve is built.

As we look ahead, our attention now turns to what promises to be one of the most exciting chapters in our academy's journey: the **Desert Cubs Cricket Academy Tour of England 2026 — the Home of Cricket Experience**, from 18th to 29th July 2026.

England is where cricket began. It is the land of Lord's, the spiritual home of our game, where the greats of every generation have walked, played, and left their mark. It is also the stage on which today's young stars — Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell, Shoaib Bashir, and Rehan Ahmed — are writing the next chapter of cricketing history, proving that with talent, hard work, and the right opportunity, age is no barrier to achievement at the highest level. Their journeys are a reminder to our own players that the path from academy cricket to international cricket is real, and it is closer than they think.

Soon, our own players will have the rare privilege of training at Lord's Indoor Centre, touring the iconic ground, and competing on English soil against quality schools and academies. This tour will be far more than a series of fixtures. It will challenge our players in conditions they have never experienced — swinging Dukes balls, green seaming pitches, cool English summer mornings, and competitive opposition with deep cricketing roots. It is exactly the kind of exposure that builds well-rounded cricketers, and I have no doubt our players will return to Dubai stronger, sharper, and more confident for the experience.

Beyond the cricket, the tour will offer our players and families an unforgettable cultural journey — exploring the history and energy of London, a guided tour of Lord's, a cruise along the Thames, the bustle of Oxford Street, and optional visits to Legoland and the Warner Bros Studios. These are memories that will last a lifetime.

Representing Desert Cubs on the international stage, and particularly in England, is a moment of immense pride. I have every confidence that our players will wear the Desert Cubs badge with honour, humility, and determination — as cricketers, as teammates, and as young ambassadors of our academy and our country.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our valued title sponsor, Siraj Finance, whose continued belief in our young cricketers makes tours of this scale possible. A special word of appreciation also goes to the organising team, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to plan every detail of this tour and ensure that the experience runs smoothly for our players and their families.

To every player travelling with us — enjoy every moment, embrace every challenge, and soak in everything that England has to offer. Opportunities like this come along rarely, and the experiences you gather over these twelve days will stay with you long after the final ball is bowled.

Here's to a truly unforgettable summer at the Home of Cricket.

With warm regards and great anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Kunal Seth
Chairman
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, UAE



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Message from the Founder/CEO of **Desert Cubs Cricket Academy**

Leading from the front and by example

I was getting ready for an important meeting and chatting with a staff member to understand roughly how many players have gone through our coaching channels, and I was surprised and proud to hear the staggering number: "Boss, not less than 16K players since 2007". I was quite taken aback by those numbers and only then understood the great service we have rendered to the UAE and the world cricket setup. From the academy's inception in 2007 until this year's tour to the UK, we have conducted many tours, tournaments, masterclass programmes, and various cricket

activities. Our intention was always to deliver the best and we led our players from the front in that aspect.

While planning the Siraj Finance Desert Cubs' seventh tour to the 'Home of Cricket', I am still reflecting on our first tour to England in 2010 and the last one in 2023. The first tour was the smallest, and the last one was the biggest and a record-breaking one, where we catered to around 400+ players, with the entire crowd totaling to around 500+. The Worksoop College main hall was packed with players from the UAE, USA, UK, India, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. I still remember it like it was yesterday: the way those players and supporters danced on the tables during the opening ceremony. Even though we are not conducting a tournament this year, we are excited to explore the cricketing opportunities and the English hospitality.

As the leading academy in the gulf region, we have contributed immensely to the development of the game for nearly 20 years. I can see that our systems have matured and gained recognition, and we plan things with proper and reasonable intentions. The cricket loving public in the UAE can witness this through our coaching tournaments, events and major international tours. I am happy that this fun, yet professional environment has brought positive results and happiness to our entire organisation. Most importantly, our top players are getting recognition from their respective schools, councils and the UAE national setup. This was our intention from the beginning and we are satisfied with the outcome.

Since the initial days our strength has been coaching, our coaching staff and their knowledge. I am happy to see the growing appreciation from all our members and the entire cricket community in the UAE. While we push our players to the top of the ladder, we encourage our coaches to upgrade and upskill themselves with the latest technologies and modern teaching methods. The game and the teaching methods are rapidly changing and we need to keep up-to-date to maintain the number one spot in the industry.

My sincere thanks to all the Principals, Operation Heads, and PE Heads of all the schools where our centers are located, their support and encouragement are very important to our operations. Thanks to all our loyal and valuable parents in the academy, for their commitment and support extended to our work. I express my gratitude to Mr. Rusan Fyrozee CEO & Partner of Siraj Finance, for his unwavering support provided as the title sponsor of our academy. In addition, my sincere thanks to all the other valuable sponsors and well-wishers of the academy.

I take this opportunity to wish all our players and coaches a successful tour of the UK. I look forward to seeing all the touring teams enjoying their cricket and learning the game to become more competitive for their future cricketing career.

Presley Polonnowita

Founder & CEO

Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, UAE



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Presley Polonowita
Director, Desert Cubs

26th June 2026

Dear Presley,

On behalf of Sharjah Cricket, we are delighted to learn that the Desert Cubs will once again be touring London, United Kingdom, from 18th to 29th July 2026. This marks the **seventh overseas tour** undertaken by the Desert Cubs over the years, which is a remarkable achievement.

The Desert Cubs have been true pioneers in junior cricket development in the UAE, rendering yeoman service in nurturing young talent and making a significant contribution to the growth of the game at the grassroots level.

It is heartening to know that **six teams**, comprising players from the Under-13 to Under-18 age groups, will participate in eight matches during the tour. Such international exposure provides invaluable experience, helping these young cricketers develop both their skills and character.

Your selfless dedication, commitment, and passion for developing young cricketers over the years deserve immense appreciation. The progress achieved by the Desert Cubs is a reflection of your vision and tireless efforts in shaping the next generation of cricketers in the UAE.

On behalf of everyone at Sharjah Cricket, we extend our heartfelt best wishes to the entire touring contingent. May the players enjoy a successful and rewarding tour, score plenty of runs, take many wickets, forge lasting friendships, and return home with wonderful memories and invaluable experience.

We wish you all a safe journey and every success.

With warm regards,

Mazhar Khan
General Manager
Sharjah Cricket Stadium

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W: www.sharjahcricket.ae Email: cricket@sharjahcricket.ae



The Journey begins as Cubs



Desert Cubs Cricket Academy is proud to be a far-sighted academy that nurtures young generation of cricketers into professionally successful sportsmen and sports women of the future.

Young players at Desert Cubs are trained to be stronger, to think and act as leaders and to equip themselves with self-confidence in the face of adversity on and off the field.

We aim to transform our Cubs into '**LEGENDS OF THE FUTURE**' and their journey begins, right here with us at Desert Cubs.

OUR MISSION

"To be the best Cricket Academy in UAE admired for its effectiveness, methods, quality and performance."

Desert Cubs envisions acting as an academy to effectively nurture and develop young and talented athletes for the future.

Our long-term goal is to set up a Sporting Centre of Excellence with training and coaching facilities for all major sports in the Gulf to produce '**LEGENDS OF THE FUTURE**', who can adapt to the current and future challenges in the domestic and international sports arena.

OUR MISSION

"To produce quality sportsmen and sportswomen who can respond well to the current and future challenges of Domestic and International Circuit."

We are dedicated to uplift the standard of sports in the UAE by producing well-talented athletes with all-round personalities.

We focus on embedding basic skills in young athletes who are right at the starting point of their careers to help them become competitive individuals and legends in their respective sports.

Our coaching curriculums are designed to gradually instil all the necessary skills and competencies in young athletes so that they are fully equipped for challenges of different forms of the games.

Our qualified coaches are dedicated to explore and deliver new dimensions of coaching which is one of our main strengths.



PRIDE

Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, the largest cricket academy in the Gulf region was born with a passion by Presley Polonnowita, Founder and Head Coach of the academy, to nurture young talents to become great sportsmen & sportswomen and Legends of the future.

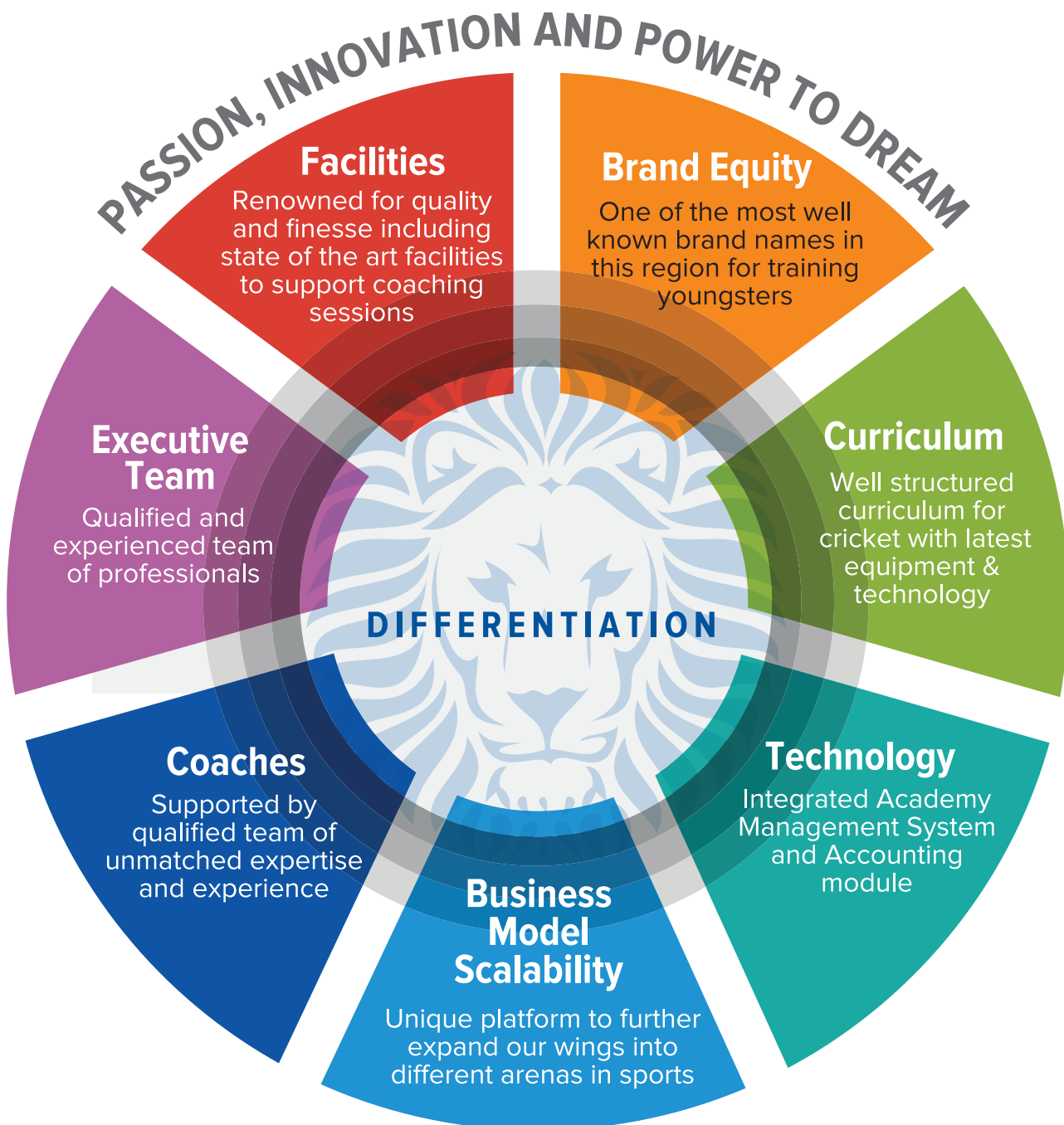
It was a modest establishment for us, at the beginning, at a corner net of Sharjah International Cricket Stadium's practice facilities with a group of 11 youngsters. Since then, our growth has been rapid and unstoppable, and today we are the largest, best equipped, registered cricket academy in the UAE. We are proud to establish ourselves as one of the pre-eminent academies in UAE for training over 3000 registered members in Cricket.

Our coaching techniques are renowned for their quality and finesse, inclusive of state-of-the-art facilities to support our coaching sessions and qualified coaches with First Aid certification to develop cricket amongst the youngsters in this region.

Expanding our wings into different arenas in sports has added several milestones to our journey. Apart from cricket coaching, Desert Cubs has been prominent in organising inbound and outbound international cricket tours, domestic cricket tournaments and facility management in reputed schools in UAE. Such initiatives have been taken by Desert Cubs in order to keep the younger generation physically fit to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



WHY DESERT CUBS





TRAINING CENTRES & FACILITIES

Our training centres provide state of the art facilities with top class coaching techniques which are renowned for their quality and finesses. We are the largest, best equipped and registered cricket academies in the Gulf region.

Desert Cubs currently conducts cricket coaching sessions in Sharjah and Dubai.



Sharjah English School - Maliha Road, Sharjah *(DC Northern Ninjas)*

- Natural grass ground.
- Six natural grass turf center pitches with floodlights.
- Digital scoreboard.
- Live streaming of matches.
- Pavilion for viewing.
- Seven side practice nets with natural grass turf and Astro turf pitches with flood lights.
- Bowling machine.
- Equipment for fielding drills.
- High speed and slow-motion video cameras for analysis.
- Auditorium facilities for psychological sessions and video analysis.
- Gymnasium for cardio, fitness and strengthening sessions with instructors.

Delhi Private School - The Gardens, Jebel Ali, Dubai *(DC DPS Southern Sharks)*

- Astro turf ground with Astro center pitch and floodlights.
- Three side practice nets with Astro turf pitches and floodlights.
- Pavilion for viewing.
- Bowling machine.
- Equipment for fielding drills.



Deira International School - Al Badia, Festival City, Dubai *(DC DIS Western Warriors)*

- Natural grass ground.
- One Astro turf center pitch.
- Four side practice nets with Astro turf pitches and floodlights.
- Bowling machine.
- Equipment for fielding drills.

Star International School - Al Qusais 3, Dubai *(DC SIS Eastern Eagles)*

- Astro turf ground with floodlights.
- Six side practice nets with natural grass turf and Astro turf pitches with flood lights.
- Bowling machine.
- Equipment for fielding drills.



Baseline Sports Academy - Dubai Investment Park 2, Dubai *(DC BSA Eastern Eagles)*

- State of the art modern indoor facility and one of a kind in the UAE.
- Equipped with five cricket lanes.
- Bowling machine.
- Equipment for fielding drills.
- High speed and slow-motion video cameras for analysis



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DESERT CUBS MANAGEMENT & STAFF 2025-2026



Seated L - R

Tiron Fernando, Gamini Gunasekara, Vishwa Fernandopulle, Priyantha Ganegoda, Kelum Fernando, Shanesh Weerawansha, Aruna Bandaranayaka, Murali Sockalingam, Presley Polonnawita, Farah Polonnawita, Anoj Silva, Prosanta Chanda, Muhammad Ejaz, Hashan Wickrama Silva, Chanaka Ediriweerage, Chaminda Wanninayake & Sangeeth Thennakoon.

Standing L - R

Pushpa Kumar Thangavelu, Indika Pushpakumara, Dilukshan Perera, Judith Peter, Moin Sabir, Angelo Silva, Ruwan Jayakody, Manish Yadav, Pasindu Dayananda, Janaka Senevirathne, Lasantha Balasuriya, Shahzada Saleem, Prashan Amarasiri, Nipuna Rathnayake, Tiran Wijesuriya, Asanga Aluthgedara, Prayas Chauhan, Sumith Thebuwana, Nadeesha Senevirathne & Megeshwaran Muniyandi.

MANAGEMENT



Kunal Seth
Chairman
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy



Presley Polonnowita
Founder/CEO & Head Coach
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy
ACC LEVEL 3, PCB LEVEL 2
Coach Educator Level 2
Coaching 26+ years



Farah Polonnowita
Head of Administration &
Human Resources
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy



Anoj Silva
Director
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy
Head of Finance,
Tours & Events

DESERT CUBS CRICKET COACHES



Murali Sockalingam
Senior Cricket Coach

Deputy Head Coach
ICC Global Level 3
ACC Level 2
Head Coach - UAE
Women's National Cricket
Team (2016-2019)
First Aid Certified
16+ years



Prosanta Chanda
Senior Cricket Coach

DPS Centre In-Charge
ICC Global Level 3
Cricket Australia Level 2
Head Coach - Ajman CC
(2024-2026)
UAE Girl's Team Founder
Member
Master of PE
First Aid Certified
31+ years



Shanesh Weerawansa
Senior Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 2
First Aid Certified
18+ years



Aruna Bandaranayaka
Senior Cricket Coach

Winning Coach - ECB U19
National Academy League
(2019-2020)
ICC Global Level 3
Cricket Australia Level 2
Certified Umpire
First Aid Certified
17+ years



Kelum Fernando
Senior Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 2
First Aid Certified
14+ years



Priyantha Ganegoda
Senior Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 1
First Aid Certified
14+ years



Lasantha Balasuriya
Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 2
First Aid Certified
14+ years



Hashan Wickrama Silva
Senior Cricket Coach

DIS Centre In-Charge
Winning Coach - ECB U16
National Academy League
(2024-2025)
ICC Global Level 2
First Aid Certified
13+ years



Prayas Chauhan
Senior Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 2
Master of PE
First Aid Certified
18+ years



DESERT CUBS CRICKET COACHES

Chanaka Ediriweerage
Senior Cricket Coach

Sri Lanka Cricket Level 2
First Aid Certified
14+ years

Muhammad Ejaz
Senior Cricket Coach

SIS Centre In-Charge
ICC Global Level 2
PCB Level 1
First Aid Certified
12+ years

Vishwa Fernandopulle
Cricket Coach

Operations Officer &
Coordinator
ICC Global Level 2
Sri Lanka Cricket Level 1
Certified Umpire & Scorer
First Aid Certified
8+ years

Moin Sabir
Cricket Coach

PCB Level 1
First Aid Certified
7+ years

Ruwan Jayakody
Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 2
Sri Lanka Cricket Level 1
First Aid Certified
24+ years

Janaka Senevirathne
Senior Cricket Coach

SES Center In-charge
ICC Global Level 2
Sri Lanka Cricket Level 1
Certified Umpire
First Aid Certified
19+ years

Manish Yadav
Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 1
Master of PE
14+ years

Pasindu Dayananda
Cricket Coach

Sri Lanka Cricket Level 1
First Aid Certified
8+ years

Nipuna Rathnayake
Cricket Coach

Sri Lanka Cricket Level 2
13+ years

Shahzada Saleem (Qasim)
Senior Cricket Coach

ACC Level 3
ECB Coach - U13, U16 & U19
Development Squads
Head Coach - Al Ain CC (2014-2022)
Fielding Coach - UAE U19 Team
(World Cup 2018)
Assistance Coach - UAE National Team
(World Cup 2015)
First Aid Certified
30+ years

Judith Jose Peter
Cricket Coach

ICC Global Level 2
ECB Coach - Girls Development Squads
Represented UAE Women's
National Cricket Team
(2015-2023)
Master of PE
First Aid Certified
10+ years

Angelo Silva
Cricket Coach

BSA Centre In-Charge
Sri Lanka Cricket Level 1
Pool Lifeguard Certified
First Aid Certified
12+ years

Tiran Wijesuriya
Cricket Coach

Sri Lanka Cricket Level 1
First Aid Certified
8+ years

Asanga Aluthgedara
Trainer

Diploma in Sports Medicine -
From Ministry of Sports & Public
Recreation Sri Lanka
Amateur Int'l Boxing Association
(AIBA) 1-Star Coach
3 Dementional Coaching
First Aid Certified
22+ years

DESERT CUBS CRICKET ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT STAFF



Chaminda Wanninayake
Senior Admin
SES Centre



Prasan Amarasiri
Admin SIS Centre
IT Coordinator



Dilukshan Perera
Admin DPS &
BSA Centres



Nadeesha Senevirathne
Admin DIS &
SES Centres



Sangeeth Thennakoon
Finance Officer



**Gamini Gunasekara
Samarasinghe**
Head Curator SES



Tiron Fernando
Curator DIS Centre



Sumith Thebuwana
Curator SIS Centre



Indika Pushpakumara
Curator SES Centre



Megeshwaran Muniyandi
Curator SES Centre



Pushpa Kumar Thangavelu
Curator SES Centre



Vazeer Jahuffar
Official Videographer
for Desert Cubs



Desert Cubs Cricket Academy is proud of the following individuals and their achievement in Cricket.



U16 & U19 UAE National Teams Representation - Current

- Bazil Asim
- Mohamed Nafees
- Nameer Palekar
- Aiden Manian
- Jordan Alvares
- Liam D'Souza
- Ayaan Misbah (Former DCCA)
- Jaimeek Shah (Former DCCA)
- Aryan Thapar (Former DCCA)
- Arshil Husain (Former DCCA)
- Ishan Rajesh (Former DCCA)

U16 & U19 UAE National Teams Representation - Former

- Kirk Vedhasinghe
- Waruna Perera
- Ashley Lobo
- Ritik Bagchi
- Dhruva Praveen
- Shiv Mehra
- Nelukshan De Silva
- Kulith Rabel
- Renaldi Dias
- Aaron George Kattampalli
- Atharva Kavi
- Zafri Zafardeen
- Brandon Martis
- Niel Lobo
- Macneil Noronha
- Chethiya Gamage
- Owais Sajjid
- Glen Fernandes
- Aaron Benjamin
- Saneen Latheef
- Obaid Tauqir
- Deshan Wijesinghe
- Yash Sabnani
- Harit Shetty
- Hardik Pai
- Faiz Nakhwa
- Dhruv Parasha
- Jaiditya Malik
- Shrey Sethi

- Aryan Saxena
- Harsh Desai Parth
- Karan Dhiman
- Udish Suri
- Nemika Benthota
- Akshat Rai

UAE National Team Players - Current

- Aryan Lakra
- Tanish Suri
- Rahul Chopra (Former DCCA)
- Ayaan Afzal Khan (Former DCCA)
- Aryansh Sharma (Former DCCA)

UAE National Team Players - Former

- Karthik Meiyappan
- Ashwanth Valthapa

U19 UAE Women's Team Representation - Current

- Mehul Kulkarni
- Vaishnave Mahesh
- Janani Devi
- Neha Kumari
- Sai Thite
- Simran Sheth
- Uttara Iyer (Reserve)
- Subaneetha Saravanan (Reserve)
- Ishita Kumar (Reserve)

UAE Women's Team Players Current

- Esha Oza (Former DCCA)
- Heena Hotchandani (Former DCCA)
- Suraksha Kotte (Former DCCA)
- Mehul Kulkarni
- Simran Seth

UAE Women's Team Players - Former

- Kavisha Kumari
- Kyna Vedhasinghe
- Chaithrali Kalgutkar
- Petule Nader
- Danielle Morenas
- Dharini Ravi Shanker
- Prachi Kumar
- Shivani Sathe
- Humerah Khan

IPL Player

- Macniel Noronha

Ranji Player

- Shoun Rogers

CK Naydu Player

- Aditya Nair

International Honours

- Mahika Gaur
- Shoun Rogers
- Varun Nayanar

Coaches with international exposure

- Presley Polonnawita
- Murali Sockalingam
- Aruna Bandaranayaka
- Shahzada Saleem (Qasim)
- Judit Jose Peter
- Shalini Wanniarachchige (Former DCCA)
- K. G. Priyantha (Former DCCA)
- Ajith Weerakkody (Former DCCA)
- Jehan Jayman (Former DCCA)
- Tuan Ahamath (Former DCCA)
- Prajeev Jansze (Former DCCA)
- Dilisara Sasanka (Former DCCA)

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Khaleej Times

From Dubai to IPL: Macneil in CSK after mother quit job, father spotted talent

Macneil Noronha played in the UAE before moving to India in 2016.

Know the inside story of Dubai-born all-rounder Macneil Noronha who was picked by Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday for the rest of the IPL 2026 season

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By:
Rituraj Borkakoty

Dubai-born Macneil Noronha has signed for Chennai Super Kings.

Dubai-born all-rounder Macneil Noronha, who was picked by Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday for the rest of the Indian Premier League (IPL) season, would not have reached the world's biggest T20 tournament if not for his father's keen cricketing observation and his mother's sacrifices.

Macneil was signed by the iconic IPL franchise for the base price of INR 3 million to replace their injured all-rounder Ramakrishna Ghosh.

The 24-year-old caught the Chennai selectors' eye with his prolific scores in India's domestic cricket, especially at the Under 23 level, where he scored two triple centuries against Tripura and Uttarakhand last season.

But long before he started grabbing attention in India, it was his father who spotted the talent in him during impromptu games of cricket in the backyard of their Dubai house.

"Before moving to Dubai, my husband (Marcel) played cricket at the university level in India. So he knows the game. When Macneil used to play with his friends, my husband saw the talent in him," Helen Noronha, Macneil's mother, told the Khaleej Times over the phone from Bengaluru.

That talent for clean ball-striking also impressed Sudhakar Shetty, the head coach in Dubai's Max Talent Cricket Academy. "I think he was only six or seven when Marcel and Helen brought him to our academy. He was always a good learner and a versatile player who connected the ball very well," Shetty recalled. "His father had big dreams for him, and his mother dedicated her life to his cricket. That's why she moved back to India with him for his cricket career."

Making a mark in India

It was in 2016 — when Macneil was only 14 — that Helen decided to leave her job at Dubai Aluminium, so she could give her complete attention to his cricket. "My husband and my daughter stayed back in Dubai, but I moved to Bengaluru with Macneil for his cricket," Helen said.

"I moved because he was too small to adjust to life in India alone. My husband has a business in Dubai, so I decided to leave my job for Macneil's cricket dreams." Initially, it wasn't a bed of roses for Macneil in the highly competitive domestic cricket system of India. "It was challenging, the competition was very tough," Helen recalled. "But my son was very focused on his game. He worked extremely hard, and eventually he got into the state team of Karnataka."

Macneil not just played for Karnataka, he went on to win the BCCI Naman Award for being the highest scorer in the Col CK Nayudu Trophy, a premier Indian under-23 domestic tournament named after the first Test captain of India, CK Nayudu.

When Chennai Super Kings play Lucknow Super Giants on Friday with their playoff hopes still alive, Helen says she would not turn on the television even if Macneil, who also bowls off-spin, gets to make his IPL debut. "I can't watch him play, I get too nervous," Helen said. "Maybe if he gets to play and reaches his half-century, then I will watch."

For his father, Marcel, it was a 'big relief' to finally see him in the IPL.



"After all the hard work and sacrifices, he is finally in the IPL. It's a big achievement to be among the top 200 players in a country of 1.4 billion people," Marcel told the Khaleej Times. "I have seen the talent in him from the day I first threw a plastic ball at him when he was a small child; he hit it so hard that I was stunned. That's when I decided to send him to Max Talent Academy in Dubai."

Game built in Dubai

Macneil, who also completed his engineering degree, has built a formidable reputation in India's domestic cricket with his powerful shot-making. But Marcel says his son's hard-hitting game was built on the grounds of Dubai and Sharjah.

"I always encouraged him to play the big shots and clear the boundary. What the coaches in India have seen now is his power-hitting, which was built here in the UAE at the Max Talent Academy and Desert Cubs Academy," Marcel said.

But even more than the cricketer, Marcel is proud of the 'wonderful' person his son has become now. "He has a heart of gold. He is the perfect team man. Even in a mix-up while batting, he would sacrifice his own wicket to save his partner — especially if that teammate might not get another chance in the playing XI," Marcel said.

"I believe God has given him this IPL opportunity with Chennai Super Kings not just because of his cricketing talent, but because of who he is as a human being. He is a wonderful person."





ACHIEVEMENTS

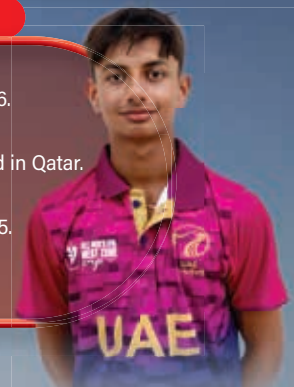


MOHAMED NAFEEES

- Currently in the UAE U19 camp set up 2025-2026.
- Selected by the Colts Cricket Club at the age of 17 to represent them in the U23 2 Day Premier Cup in Sri Lanka in June 2026.
- Represented the Lanka Tigers in the MCL Franchise League 2025-26 in Goa, India in March 2026.
- Finished the U19 Inter-Emirates tournament at 4th in the batting rankings with 300 runs in 4 innings, finished 2nd in the fielding rankings with 5 catches in 4 innings, and lastly finished 3rd in the MVP rankings in 2026.
- Scored 3 back-to-back centuries, including 2 in the U19 Inter-Emirates tournament: 108*115 vs Abu Dhabi, 123*119 vs Sharjah, and 101*74 vs Dunes CA in the ECB U18 National Academy League 2025-2026.
- Member of the UAE U16 National team that won the ACC Men's U16 West Zone Cup 2025 in Qatar. Scored a brilliant 127 off 114 balls against Oman in the last league game.
- Captained the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy team that won the ECB U16 National Academy League 2024-2025. Played a key role in scoring a 73 in the final.
- Member of the U16 Dubai Cricket Council team that won the U16 Inter-Emirates tournament 2024.

AIDEN MANIAN

- Currently in the UAE U19 camp set up 2025-2026.
- Member of U19 Dubai Cricket Council team that stood Runners up in the U19 Inter-Emirates tournament in 2026.
- Member of U19 ECB Development team (semi-finalists) in the prestigious Bukhatir League 2026.
- Member of the UAE U16 National Team that won the Asian Cricket Council Men's U16 West Zone Cup 2025 held in Qatar.
- Member of the U16 Dubai Cricket Council team that won the U16 Inter-Emirates Tournament in 2025.
- Member of the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy team that won the ECB U16 National Academy League 2024-2025.
- Member of the Desert Vipers Juniors team in 2025 and captained the team in 2024.
- Member of the U16 Ajman Cricket Council team for the U16 Inter-Emirates Tournament in 2024.

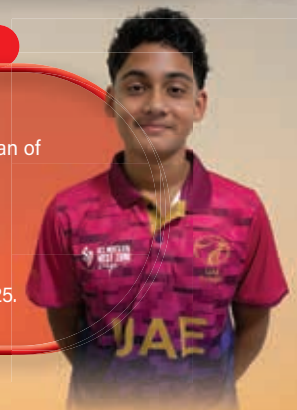


JORDAN ALVARES

- Currently in the UAE U19 camp set up 2025-2026.
- Represented the Dubai Cricket Council in the U19 Inter-Emirates tournament in 2026.
- Selected as a Reserve for the UAE U16 National Team that won the Asian Cricket Council Men's U16 West Zone Cup 2025 held in Qatar.
- Member of the U16 Dubai Cricket Council team that won the U16 Inter-Emirates Tournament in 2025.
- Member of the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy team that won the ECB U16 National Academy League 2024-2025.
- Member of the ECB Development Squad that competed in the U19 Inter-Emirates Cricket Tournament 2025.
- Member of the Dubai Cricket Council Vikings team that won the U19 Ramadan Youth League 2025.

NAMEER PALEKAR

- Currently in the UAE U17 Development Squad 2025-2026.
- Member of the UAE U16 National team that won the ACC Men's U16 West Zone Cup 2025 in Qatar. Earned the 'Man of the Match' award for the outstanding performance.
- Member of the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy team that won the ECB U16 National Academy League 2024-2025. Honoured as the 'Player of the Tournament'.
- Member of the ECB Development Squad that competed in the U16 and U19 Inter-Emirates tournament 2025.
- Member of the ECB Development Squad that competed in the U16 & U19 Inter-Emirates Cricket Tournaments 2025.



BAZIL ASIM

- Represented the UAE U19 National team at the ACC U19 Asia Cup 2025, claiming figures of 3/28 on international debut. Bowled an economical spell of 1-50 vs Pakistan taking a key wicket.
- Made the men's domestic debut in the D50 2024 at just age 17 bagging 6 wickets in 4 matches with best figures of 3/55 and progressed to debut across D10 and D20 formats for Ajman in the D-Series in 2025.
- Regular member of the Ajman Men's in the domestic circuit.
- Represented Ajman in the U19 Inter-Emirates tournament 2024.
- Featured in the prestigious ILT20 Schools Cup 2023, producing a standout innings of 90 runs.





ACHIEVEMENTS

MEHUL KULKARNI

- * Selected for ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier 2026 to be held in Malaysia.
- * Represented the UAE U19 Women's ACC Premier Cup 2026 held in Malaysia in July 2026.
- * Represented the UAE Women's National Team for ACC Premier Cup 2026 and was debuted in the Senior team.
- * Part of the UAE Women's U19 and Senior National Team High-Performance Programme.
- * Selected as a UAE National cricket player in 2026.
- * Represented Dubai Cricket Council in the U19 Girls Inter-Emirates tournament 2026 and awarded Player of the Tournament for scoring most number of Runs - 189, Points - 364 (including batting, bowling and fielding).
- * Member of the winning Desert Vipers team in the Root Cup 2024 & 2025.
- * Awarded Player of the Match in ECB Women's U19 Development League 2023.



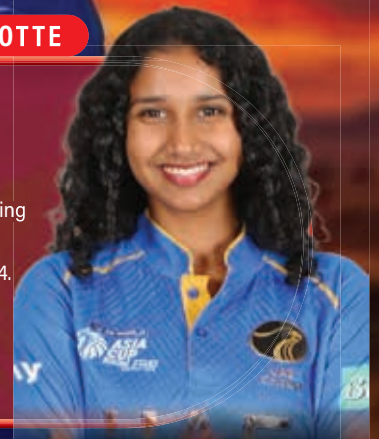
VAISHNAVEE MAHESH

- * Represented the UAE U19 Women's ACC Premier Cup 2026 held in Malaysia in July 2026.
- * Represented the UAE Women's National Team in the ACC Women's Premier Cup 2026 held in Malaysia in June 2026.
- * Completed 100 Women's T20 International (T20I) appearances during the ACC Women's Premier Cup 2026.
- * Became the first UAE Women's cricketer to take 100 Women's T20 International wickets, creating a historic milestone for UAE Women's Cricket.
- * Continued as the highest wicket-taker in UAE Women's T20 International cricket.
- * Finished as the Highest Wicket-Taker Globally in Women's T20 Internationals 2023, claiming 34 wickets during the 2023 calendar year.
- * Made her Women's T20 International debut for the UAE in 2019 at the age of 12, becoming the 6th youngest player in Women's T20 International history.



SURAKSHA KOTTE

- * Represented the UAE Women's National Team in the ACC Women's Premier Cup 2026 held in Malaysia.
- * Represented the UAE Women's National Team in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2025.
- * Recorded her maiden Women's One Day International (WODI) five-wicket haul with career-best figures of 5/20 becoming one of the youngest player to achieve that at the age of 22.
- * Regular member of the UAE Women's National Team across ICC and ACC international competitions from 2020 to 2024.
- * Made her Women's T20 International (WT20I) debut for the UAE in 2019, beginning her international career.



THEERTHA SATISH

- * Represented the UAE Women's National Team in the ACC Women's Premier Cup 2026 held in Malaysia.
- * Represented the UAE in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Global Qualifier 2026.
- * Represented the UAE in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2025.
- * Represented the UAE in the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2025 held in Thailand.
- * Regular member of the UAE Women's National Team, representing the country in major ICC and ACC international tournaments.
- * Captained the UAE Women's U19 Team, demonstrating exceptional leadership at a young age.
- * Represented the Falcons in the prestigious FairBreak Invitational T20 2022, sharing the field with some of the world's leading international cricketers.
- * Represented the UAE in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2022.
- * Represented the UAE in the GCC Women's Gulf Cup 2022.
- * Finished as the Leading Run Scorer in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier 2021.
- * Scored 46 runs on her T20 International debut in 2021 and was named Player of the Match.
- * Made her UAE Women's T20 International debut in 2021 at just 17 years of age.





DUBAI CRICKET COUNCIL

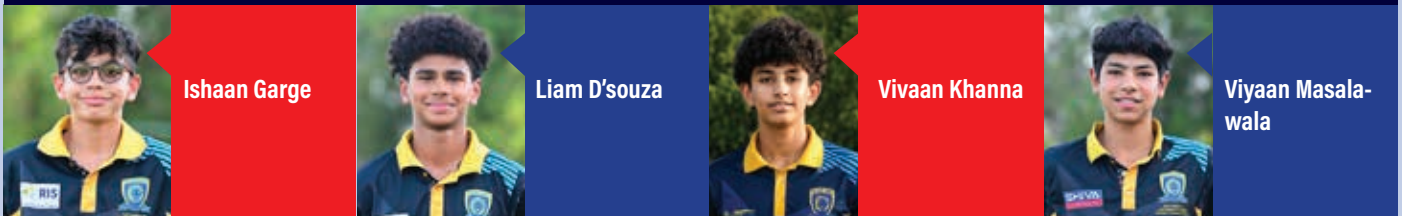
UNDER 13



UNDER 13 GIRLS



UNDER 16



UNDER 19



UNDER 19 GIRLS



SHARJAH CRICKET COUNCIL

UNDER 13



UNDER 13 GIRLS



UNDER 16



UNDER 16



UNDER 19 GIRLS





AJMAN CRICKET COUNCIL

UNDER 13



UNDER 16



UNDER 16



UNDER 19



ACHIEVEMENTS IN CRICKET

ABU DHABI CRICKET COUNCIL

UNDER 13 GIRLS

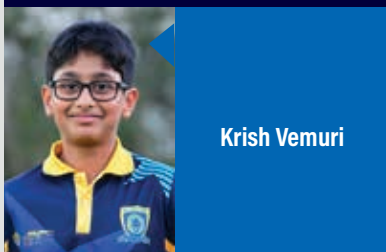


UNDER 19 GIRLS



EMIRATES CRICKET BOARD INVITATIONAL

ECB BLUE UNDER 13



ECB RED UNDER 13



ECB UNDER 16



ECB UNDER 19



EXTERNAL TOURNAMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS IN CRICKET



RUNNER UP
COACH
VISHWA
FERNANDOPULLE

ECB UNDER 12 NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026
DESERT CUBS NORTHERN NINJAS



ECB UNDER 15 NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026
DESERT CUBS WESTERN WARRIORS

RUNNER UP
COACH
MUHAMMAD EJAZ



EXTERNAL TOURNAMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS IN CRICKET



WINNER

COACH
NIPUNA
RATHNAYAKE

**UNDER 12 GULF CUP 2025-2026
DESERT CUBS NORTHERN NINJAS**



WINNER

COACH
PROSANTA
CHANDA

**UNDER 14 GULF CUP 2025-2026
DESERT CUBS SOUTHERN SHARKS**



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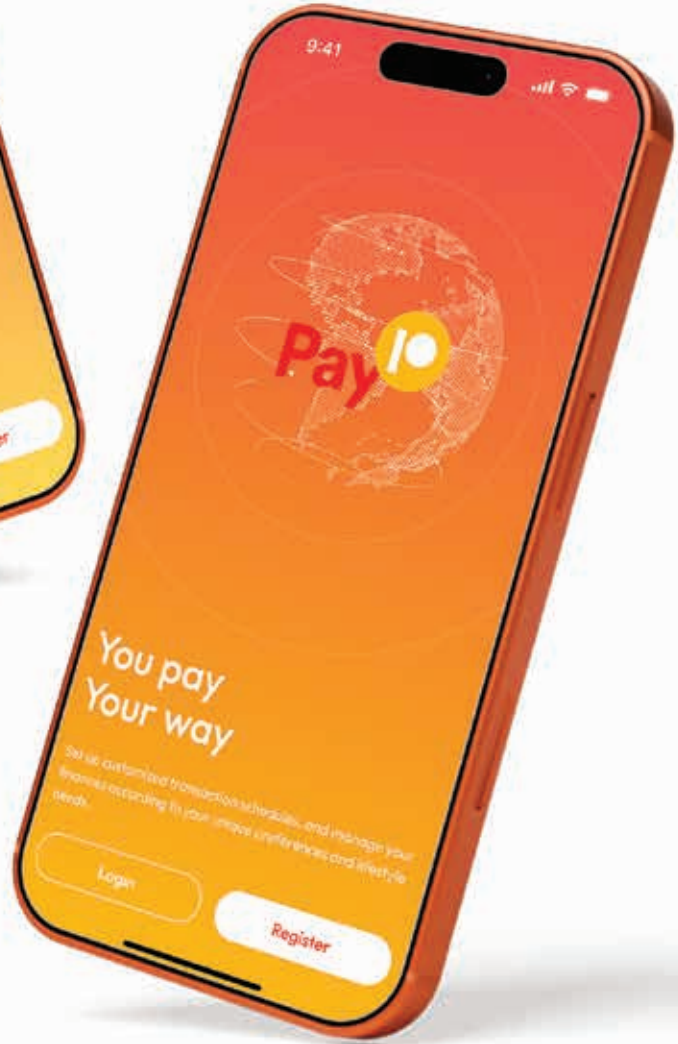


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Committed to Excellence

The Global Council for Cricket Academies (GCCA) was founded to create a council which would govern and facilitate in the development and growth of young aspiring international cricketers through the hosting and organizing of international tournaments, tours and Masterclass programs.

The GCCA platform provides young cricketers the opportunity to showcase their talents at a global stage at a young age. The players gain experience playing in different conditions with different players from across the globe which will result in recognition and careers in the sport they love.

Each year GCCA sanctioned tournaments across the world will be undertaken in different regions and to specific standard set out by the GCCA. The winners of regional tournaments are then invited to take part in the main GCCA International Championships.

Vision

To be the best junior international cricket tournaments and tour operations council in the world, achieved through commitment and love for the game of cricket.

Mission

To create a platform founded on sound principles to promote and elevate young aspiring cricketers to unlock their full potential and reach their cricketing dreams.



GCCA Moving Forward

GCCA organized and successfully conducted the following tournaments:

- ICCA Global Academy Championship held in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, UK in July 2023.
- ICCA Champions Trophy held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 2023.
- GCCA T20 Championship held in Sharjah, UAE in March-April 2024.
- ICCA Global Academy Championship held in Brisbane, Australia in July 2024 in association with Queensland Cricket.
- GCCA International Academy T20 Championship held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July 2025.

With GCCA members growing and global strategic partnerships, the GCCA will be the premier platform for kids and youth to launch and support their global cricketing ambitions.

GCCA Member Benefits

- Masterclass programs.
- Special tour rates and personal invitations to events and tournaments from the GCCA.
- Progress tracker and a database for all the players globally. Accessed by professional coaches and teams to give growth to players.
- Coaching plans and exchange programs.
- Coaching and participation certifications of specialized sessions conducted by the GCCA.
- Streaming and analysis globally.
- Equipment supplier keeping track of the latest trends.
- Assistance in the hosting of tournaments and games as well as the development of academies through the sharing of structural knowledge and expertise.
- Sponsorship opportunities and international exposure for the players and academies.
- Use of GCCA credentials in branding and marketing of your academy.



NEOTERRA
DEVELOPMENTS

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It is a privilege to support the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy
in their mission to nurture the next generation of sportsmen and sportswomen.

Best Wishes for a successful and memorable
DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF UK 2026

NEOTERRA DEVELOPMENTS



Message from the Chairman of the Tour Committee

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all our players, coaches, parents, and supporters to the Desert Cubs UK Tour 2026.

The Desert Cubs UK Tour, scheduled from 18th to 29th July 2026, marks another proud chapter in our academy's journey of nurturing young talent through international exposure and unforgettable experiences. This year, we are delighted to be taking a contingent of six teams, comprising one Under 11 team, two Under 13 teams, two Under 15 teams, and one Under 18 team. The enthusiasm, commitment, and passion shown by our young cricketers in earning this opportunity have been truly inspiring.

On behalf of the Tour Organizing Committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Sargia Holidays, under the leadership of its Chairman, Mr. George Paul, for managing the tour arrangements with professionalism and dedication. Their commitment and support have been instrumental in bringing this tour together.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the General Manager of Trident Travels, Mr. Gulshan Shaideen, for efficiently coordinating the airline travel arrangements for our entire group.

I would also like to place on record our sincere gratitude to our Senior Consultant Coach, Mr. Ismail Dawood, for his invaluable support and guidance in organizing the cricket fixtures and securing excellent venues for our teams.

A special word of gratitude goes to our coaches, whose tireless efforts, guidance, and mentorship continue to shape not only better cricketers but also responsible young individuals. To our players, thank you for your hard work, discipline, and commitment. You carry the hopes and pride of the Desert Cubs family, and I encourage each of you to embrace every opportunity this tour presents, both on and off the field. To our parents, thank you for your unwavering trust, encouragement, and sacrifices. Your support remains the foundation upon which our success is built.

Finally, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our valued sponsors and partners whose generous support has contributed significantly to making this tour a reality. In particular, we express our sincere gratitude to our main academy sponsor, Siraj Finance PJSC, for their continued trust, encouragement, and commitment to the development of youth cricket.

We have carefully curated an exciting and enriching itinerary for the tour. Our teams will participate in a strong schedule of cricket fixtures across all age groups, competing at some of the most beautiful and prestigious cricket facilities in and around London. These matches will provide invaluable exposure and opportunities for our players to test their skills in different conditions and create lasting friendships through the spirit of the game.

Beyond cricket, we have also arranged several memorable excursions for the entire group, including a tour of the iconic city of London, a river cruise along the historic River Thames, and a visit to the world-renowned university city of Oxford.

One of the highlights of this tour will undoubtedly be the opportunity for our players to participate in a practice session at the legendary Lord's Indoor Cricket Centre, followed by a guided tour of the historic Lord's Cricket Ground for the entire group. Often referred to as the "Home of Cricket," Lord's holds a special place in the hearts of cricket lovers around the world, and we are privileged to offer this unforgettable experience to our Desert Cubs family.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, let us remember that this tour is about much more than wins and losses. It is about learning, growing, building character, creating lifelong memories, and representing Desert Cubs with humility, sportsmanship, and pride.

I wish all our players, coaches, parents, and supporters a safe, enjoyable, and successful tour. May the Desert Cubs UK Tour 2026 be an experience that inspires our young cricketers to dream bigger, work harder, and continue their pursuit of excellence.

Best wishes for a wonderful tour.

Anoj Silva

Chairman – Tour Committee

Director – Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, UAE

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Message from a Player of the UAE Women's National Cricket Team



Best wishes to all the players who are set to embark on their annual Desert Cubs cricket tour! These tours play a vital part in the development of players and in their understanding of playing in overseas conditions. I myself was a part of a Desert Cubs Cricket Academy tour to Sri Lanka in 2016, and I can definitely look back and say that the experience helped shape me as a cricketer.

It's going to be an amazing experience where you will make new friends, visit new places, get challenged in different ways on the field and I am sure you will come back with memories that will last a lifetime. Make the most of this experience and enjoy every bit of it.

Well wishes to everyone!

Esha Oza

Captain of the UAE Women's National Cricket Team



Message from a Player of the UAE National Cricket Team

Being a part of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy is something I will always be grateful for. Some of my best childhood memories were made here, and it's where I truly fell in love with the game. More than just cricket, the academy taught me discipline, confidence, teamwork, and the value of working hard.

Seeing Desert Cubs take another group of young players to the UK is amazing. It's an opportunity many dream of, and I am sure it will be an unforgettable experience for everyone going. Playing in different conditions, facing new teams, and representing the academy overseas is something you will remember for the rest of your lives.

To all the players, enjoy every moment, back yourselves, learn as much as you can, and most importantly, have fun. Make your coaches, parents, and the entire Desert Cubs family proud. I have no doubt you will represent the academy with passion and sportsmanship.

Wishing the entire team and coaching staff a fantastic tour filled with great performances, unforgettable memories, and lots of success. All the very best—you've got this!

Aryansh Sharma

Proud Desert Cubs Alumnus





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DESERT CUBS UNDER 11 CHEETAHS UK TOUR SQUAD



It is a great privilege and honour to once again lead our Under 11 Cheetahs team on another exciting cricketing journey to the United Kingdom. Touring provides young players with an exceptional opportunity to experience the game beyond familiar surroundings, challenge themselves under different playing conditions, and continue developing both their skills and character.

Having previously travelled with our talented players during the UK Tour in 2023 and the Australia Tour in 2024, I have witnessed the remarkable growth, commitment, and determination shown by our young cricketers. Each tour has been a valuable learning experience that has helped shape them into more confident individuals and better team players.

This year's tour will once again provide our players with quality exposure, competitive opportunities, and unforgettable experiences. More importantly, it will teach them the values that cricket brings; discipline, teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, and resilience. Success in cricket is not measured only by victories, but also by the lessons learned and the memories created throughout the journey.

I am proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by our Under 11 squad, and I am confident that they will represent Desert Cubs with pride, passion, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the tour.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Desert Cubs management, coaches, support staff, parents, and everyone who continues to contribute towards the development of our young players. Your encouragement and support play a vital role in helping these children achieve their potential.

I wish all participating teams, players, and families a memorable, enjoyable, and successful UK tour.

Shanesh Weerawansa

Coach DC Under 11 Cheetahs Squad, Tour of UK 2026



Standing L - R

Thehan Senevirathne, Hashim Bin Syab, Imad Mahmood, Saim Suhail, Prabhav Goyal, Himanshu Utwani, Yaseen Butt, Troy Dias, Adil Faisal Dar & Nithun Ravi.

Seated L - R

Kethiswaram Singaravel (Manager), Shanesh Weerawansa (Coach), Manav Raj (Vice Captain), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnowita (Founder & Head Coach), Mohinth Kethiswaram (Captain), Murali Sockalingam (Deputy Head Coach) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

Absent

Mufaddal Vajhi & Rhys Athwal (UK).



DESERT CUBS UNDER 13 KINGS UK TOUR SQUAD

To the Land where Cricket was Born

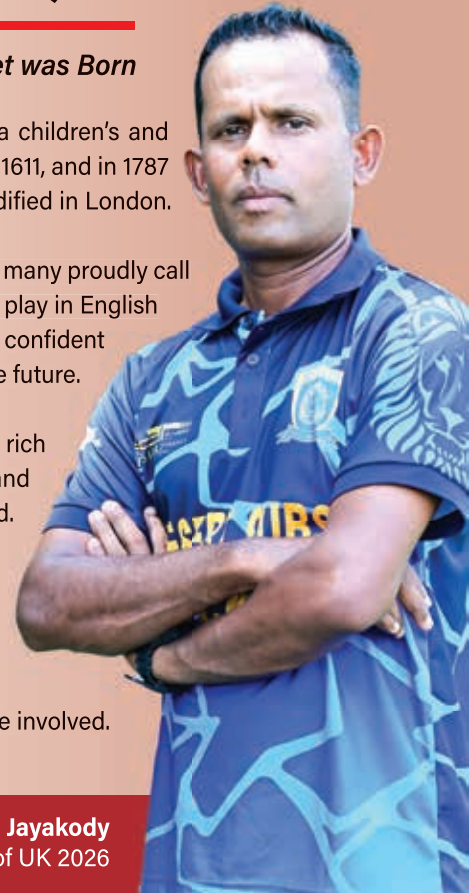
Cricket was first recorded in South East England in 1598 and is believed to have originated as a children's and farmers' game during the Saxon or Norman period. The first officially recorded match took place in 1611, and in 1787 the first written rules of the game — the Laws of Cricket were codified in London.

In July 2026, the Desert Cubs touring team will travel to the birthplace of cricket to experience what many proudly call the "funny old game." This tour will provide our young players with an unforgettable opportunity to play in English conditions, where swing and bounce challenge every cricketer and help build stronger, more confident players for the future.

However, this journey is about far more than cricket alone. It is also a chance to learn about the rich culture and history that England has to offer. The experience will help our players grow both on and off the field.

The key objectives of this tour are simple: to learn, to enjoy, and to represent ourselves with respect, humility, and discipline at all times.

I would like to wish the very best to all the players, parents, and members of the touring party. May this tour become a memorable and valuable experience for everyone involved.



Ruwan Jayakody
Coach DC Under 13 Kings Squad, Tour of UK 2026



Standing L - R

Aryan Jain, Parth Kewlani, Manvir Bhatia, Ibrahim Mahmood, Azhan Mughal, Maahir Bhatia, Uddhav Trikkadeeri & Samar Gurnani.

Seated L - R

Yasir Mahmood (Manager), Ruwan Jayakody (Coach), Prayan Gurnani (Vice Captain), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnowita (Founder & Head Coach), Krishay Seth (Captain), Murali Sockalingam (Deputy Head Coach) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

Absent

Sukeeth Venkateela (UK).



DESERT CUBS UNDER 13 WARRIORS UK TOUR SQUAD



As we prepare for our upcoming England Cricket Tour on 18th July 2026, I would like to wish all our players, coaches, and staff a memorable and successful experience.

Representing Desert Cubs Cricket Academy on an international tour is a truly special privilege. This tour offers our players a fantastic opportunity to experience English conditions, immerse themselves in a different culture, and test their skills against competitive schools and academies across the UK.

As the coach of the Under 13 Warriors team, I encourage every player to remain disciplined, support one another, and make the most of this incredible learning experience both on and off the field.

Ultimately, this tour is about much more than just cricket. It is a chance for our players to grow into more independent, responsible, and confident individuals while creating unforgettable memories and gaining invaluable life experiences.

A special thank you goes to all the parents and families. Your continuous support and sacrifices are what allow these young cricketers to chase their dreams.

Wishing everyone a safe, enjoyable, and highly successful tour!

Murali Sockalingam

Coach DC Under 13 Warriors Squad, Tour of UK 2026



Standing L - R

Jadon Devadason, Hridaan Mehta, Hurrair Qasim, Sumhar Jaswal, Atheeq Sheriff, Arhan Jain, Yansh Kapoor & Aditya Gadoya.

Seated L - R

Jonathan Devadason (Manager), Janaka Senevirathne (Coach), Shivay Kedia (Vice Captain), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnawita (Founder & Head Coach), Rishaan Suvarna (Captain), Murali Sockalingam (Deputy Head Coach) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

Absent

Sanuth Naranpanawe (USA), Laith Qayum (UK) & Branavan Maheswaran (UK).



DESERT CUBS UNDER 16 GLADIATORS UK TOUR SQUAD

It's time to embark on the UK Tour 2026 – away from home, testing ourselves in fast, swinging, and seaming conditions. This tour will give our young cricketers incredible exposure and experience. Playing in England is the ultimate challenge for any young batter or bowler, and I know this group will rise to it.

This will be my 6th cricket tour with Desert Cubs, and I am excited and proud to travel as coach of the Under 16 Gladiators team. The DC U16 Gladiators team is one of the strongest junior squads in the UAE. We will play hard, compete in the right spirit, learn from every session, and make this a successful and memorable tour.

I want to thank Desert Cubs management – Founder & Head Coach Presley Polonnowita, Anoj Silva, and Farah Polonnowita for their trust and support. Desert Cubs Cricket Academy is one of the largest and most professional academies in the UAE, and I am honoured to be a part of this family.

Wishing all touring teams, players, coaches, management, and parents a safe journey, great cricket, and lots of fun. Let's make memories that last a lifetime.



Muhammad Ejaz
Coach DC Under 16 Gladiators Squad, Tour of UK 2026



Standing L - R

Sahir Rajagopal, Madhav Krishna, Ayan Mughal, Ahaan Arora, Dev Chaudhary, Isa Farid & Laksh Raj.

Seated L - R

Siddharth Rajagopal (Manager), Muhammad Ejaz (Coach), Izyan Kaleem (Vice Captain), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnowita (Founder & Head Coach), Mayur Gurnani (Captain), Murali Sockalingam (Deputy Head Coach) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

Absent

Navnit Gurnani & Anay Mehta



DESERT CUBS UNDER 16 KNIGHTS UK TOUR SQUAD

Why the United Kingdom matters

Every sport has a birthplace, and for cricket it's the green fields of England — where the laws of the game were written and Test Cricket was born. To play here is to stand inside the history of the game itself. Years from now, long after the scores are forgotten, these boys will still say with pride: "I played cricket in England".

What our boys will gain

Living pitches. The ball swings and seams in ways our flat desert wickets never demand, returning a more complete, braver player.

Independence – Managing their own kit and teammates abroad is where boys quietly become young men.

The badge – Wearing Desert Cubs colours abroad, you represent your family, your academy and the UAE — the finest teacher of character there is.

Friendships for life – Shared nerves and lessons learned in defeat forge bonds that last for years.

A word to our parents

Fifteen years of touring have taught us to look after young cricketers far from home, with the care and discipline you expect under your own roof. Your sons are in good hands.

To the boys themselves

You have earned your place. Now go and earn your memories. Play hard but fair, win with humility and lose with dignity. Soak in every moment: the grass, the morning chill, leather on willow under English skies. Few cricketers ever get this chance. You are among them. Carry the Desert Cubs name proudly. Make us all proud. Onward to the home of cricket.

Aruna Bandaranayaka

Coach DC Under 16 Knights Squad, Tour of UK 2026



Standing L - R

Zuhair Qasim, Vansh Utwani, Saad Baig, Vedanth Ravikumar, Aamir Syed, Avyukta Karanjikar & Hamzah Khan.

Seated L - R

Mahendra Utwani (Manager), Aruna Bandaranayaka (Coach), Aaryan Krishnan (Vice Captain), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnowita (Founder & Head Coach), Sahil Kulkarani (Captain) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

Absent

Adithya Iyer, Sahana Seth (UK) & Aahil Ketekar (USA).



DESERT CUBS UNDER 18 LEGENDS UK TOUR SQUAD

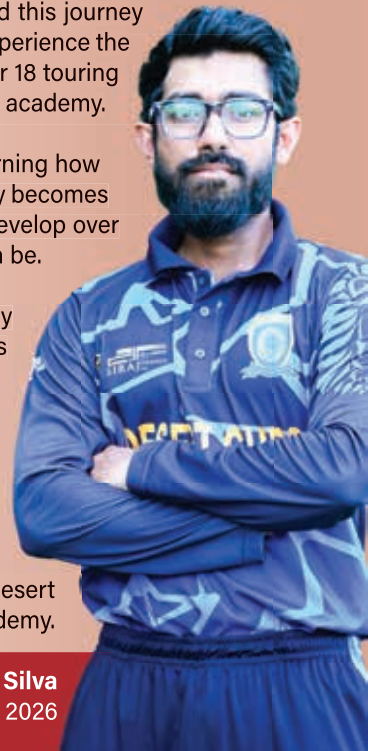
Representing Desert Cubs Cricket Academy on another international tour is always a proud moment, and this journey to the United Kingdom makes it even more special. Cricket was born there, and for our young players to experience the game in such historic surroundings is something truly valuable. I am honoured to take on the role of Under 18 touring coach as I embark on my 8th overseas tour with the academy.

Tours like these are about far more than just results. They are about growth, character, discipline, and learning how to compete in unfamiliar conditions. Every match, every training session, and every challenge along the way becomes part of a player's journey both as a cricketer and as a person. Having witnessed so many young talents develop over the years, I know how impactful experiences like this can be.

I am deeply grateful to the leadership of Desert Cubs, especially our Founder & Head Coach, Presley Polonnowita, for continuously creating opportunities like this for our players and coaches. Special thanks as well to Farah Polonnowita and Anoj Silva for their constant encouragement and trust throughout this journey.

To the boys representing us on this tour wear the Desert Cubs badge with pride. Play fearless cricket, support one another, and enjoy every single moment. Opportunities like this don't come often, and the memories you create here will stay with you forever.

We travel as a team, as a family, and with one goal to make this tour a memorable and successful one for Desert Cubs Cricket Academy.



Hashan Wickrama Silva

Coach DC Under 18 Legends Squad, Tour of UK 2026



Standing L - R

Sufian Bin Syab, Aayaan Bhasin, Ahmed Ali, Arham Jain, Rhomun Jaswal, Sean Sidharth, Fathhur Rahman & Ethan Carneiro.

Seated L - R

Aruna Bandaranayaka (Coach), Hashan Silva (Coach), Nameer Palekar (Vice Captain), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnowita (Founder & Head Coach), Mohamed Nafees (Captain), Murali Sockalingam (Deputy Head Coach) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

Absent

Ibrahim Ansari, Akein Amarajeewa (SL) & Rayyan Ketekar (USA).



JAH

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SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS UK TOUR OFFICIALS



Standing L - R

Vishwa Fernandopulle (Match Official), Murali Sockalingam (Coach - U13 Warriors), Ruwan Jayakody (Coach - U13 Kings), Muhammad Ejaz (Coach - U16 Gladiators), Aruna Banadaranaayaka (Coach - U16 Knights), Shanesh Weerawansa (Coach - U11 Cheetahs) & Hashan Silva (Coach - U18 Legends).

Seated L - R

Yasir Mahmood (Manager - U13 Kings), Kethiswaram Singaravel (Manager - U11 Cheetahs), Siddharth Rajagopal (Manager - U16 Gladiators), Anoj Silva (Tour Chairman), Kunal Seth (Chairman), Presley Polonnawita (Founder & Head Coach), Mahendra Utwani (Manager - U16 Knights), Jonathan Devadason (Manager - U13 Warriors) & Prosanta Chanda (Overall in charge of tour coaches).

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SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF UK 2026

Day-by-Day Itinerary



DAY 1 Departure & Arrival

Saturday, 18 July 2026

07:40 — Departure from DXB International Airport, Terminal 1 — Turkish Airlines TK763

16:40 — Arrival at London Heathrow - Turkish Airlines TK1971

Late Afternoon — Check-in — Radisson RED, Heathrow

Evening — Welcome Dinner for the group



DAY 2 Training & Oxford

Sunday, 19 July 2026

10:00 - 12:00 — Practice Session in Oxford.

Afternoon — Tour of Oxford



DAY 3 Match Day 1

Monday, 20 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs Indian Gymkhana Club @ Indian Gymkhana Club (TW7 4NQ) — 35 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) — 40 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs West Herts Cricket Club @ St. Mary's College Ground, Harrow (HA2 6NF) — 35 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 1 (UB2 4LW) - 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Wycombe Cricket Club (TW7 5PJ) - 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Vs New Community of Southall CC @ RTC Sports Centre (NE19 1HE) — 50 overs, 10:30am



DAY 4 Match Day 2

Tuesday, 21 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs West Herts Cricket Club @ St. Mary's College Ground, Harrow (HA2 6NF) — 35 overs, 11:00am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Slough Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 1 (SL3 7LT) — 40 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs Slough Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 2 (SL3 7LT) — 40 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Slough Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 3 (SL3 7LT) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Azteca Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Vs Azteca Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 1 (UB2 4LW) - 50 overs, 10:30am



DAY 5 Match Day 3

Wednesday, 22 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs Slough Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 1 (SL3 7LT) — 30 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Sunbury Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 1 (UB2 4LW) — 45 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs Slough Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 2 (SL3 7LT) — 40 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Ace Cricket Academy @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) — 45 overs, 11:00am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Slough Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 3 (SL3 7LT) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Morning 10:00-12:00 - Indoor practice session @ Wokingham Cricket Club Vs Windsor Cricket Club @ Windsor Cricket Ground (SL4 6HX) — 30 overs, 4:00pm



DAY 6 Match Day 4

Thursday, 23 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs Headstone Manor CC @ RTC Sports Centre (NE19 1HE) — 35 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Ace Cricket Academy @ RTC Sports Centre (NE19 1HE) — 45 overs, 11:00am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs Middlesex School Cricket @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) 40 overs - 10:30am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Cricket School of Excellence @ Gerrards Cross Cricket Club (SL9 7JZ) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Royal Ascot Cricket Club @ Royal Ascot (SL5 7LQ) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Vs New Community of Southall CC @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (SL9 7JZ) — 50 overs, 10:30am



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SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF UK 2026

→ Day-by-Day Itinerary →



DAY 7 Lord's & Thames River Cruise

Friday, 24 July 2026

Morning — Indoor Practice Session at Lord's & Tour of Lord's Cricket Ground, Lunch at Lords Tavern

Afternoon — River Cruise on the Thames & London City Tour



DAY 8 Rest Day

Saturday, 25 July 2026

All Day — Rest Day — Optional Tour to Chessington World of Adventures <https://www.chessington.com> and London City Attractions & Shopping



DAY 9 Match Day 5

Sunday, 26 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 1 (SL3 7LT) — 35 overs, 11:00am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Indian Gymkhana Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) — 45 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 2 (SL3 7LT) — 35 overs, 11:00am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Azteca Cricket Club @ Ockham Cricket Club (GU23 6NP) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Azteca Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 1 — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Vs Headstone Manor CC @ RTC Sports Centre (NE19 1HE) — 50 overs, 10:30am



DAY 10 Match Day 6

Monday, 27 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) — 35 overs, 11:00am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 1 (SL3 7LT) — 45 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 1 (UB2 4LW) — 45 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 2 (SL3 7LT) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 3 (SL3 7LT) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Wycombe Cricket Club (TW7 5PJ) — 50 overs, 10:30am



DAY 11 Match Day 7 — Awards & Farewell

Tuesday, 28 July 2026

- **U11 CHEETAHS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 2 (UB2 4LW) — 35 overs, 11:00am
- **U13 WARRIORS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 3 (SL3 7LT) — 45 overs, 10:30am
- **U13 KINGS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Osterley Cricket Club Ground 1 (UB2 4LW) — 45 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 GLADIATORS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 1 (SL3 7LT) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U15 KNIGHTS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Slough Cricket Club Ground 2 (SL3 7LT) — 50 overs, 10:30am
- **U18 LEGENDS** — Vs Wycombe House Cricket Club @ Wycombe Cricket Club (TW7 5PJ) — 50 overs, 10:30am

★ Evening: Awards Presentation and Farewell Dinner



DAY 12 Departure

Wednesday, 29 July 2026

Morning — Breakfast at the Hotel
Departure transfer to London Heathrow



16:55 — Turkish Airlines TK1986
departs London Heathrow



DAY 13 Arrival in Dubai

Thursday, 30 July 2026



06:10 — Arrival at DXB International Airport — Turkish Airlines TK762

GENERAL NOTES

- Breakfast is served at the hotel on all days.
- Dinner is served at the hotel or at outside restaurants.
- Lunches on match days are served at the match venues.
- Any changes to the itinerary will be communicated in advance.



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Previous Tours of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

2008 – Malaysia & Sri Lanka

2009 – Sri Lanka

2010 – United Kingdom & Oman

2011 – United Kingdom

2012 – Sri Lanka, Malaysia &
India (Bangalore)

2013 – United Kingdom & Qatar

2014 – South Africa, United Kingdom,
Sri Lanka & India (New Delhi)

2015 – Australia

2016 – Sri Lanka & India (Bangalore)

2017 – United Kingdom,
India (Chennai) & Sri Lanka

2018 – Australia, India (Mumbai)
& Malaysia

2019 – Zimbabwe,
India (Chennai) & Nepal

2022 – South Africa

2023 – United Kingdom &
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2024 – Australia

2025 – Sri Lanka

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DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2025

Maintaining Standards and Offering the Best

Touring Sri Lanka after almost 10 years gave Desert Cubs Cricket Academy immense pleasure. Sri Lanka is always our preferred destination and we were eagerly waiting to plan a trip to the beautiful paradise island. Apart from the top-level cricket, the country is currently regarded as one of the top tourist destinations in the world. Many of the touring members had the opportunity to visit various tourist destinations during and after the cricket tour.

We started early and managed to attract 7 competitive junior teams. This early preparation gave us ample opportunity to organise this tour while maintaining quality standards. Our first stop was the beautiful southern coast of Sri Lanka where we gave our touring members a taste of coastal rural Sri Lankan lifestyle, combined with a luxury stay at the Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon in Hikkaduwa. Our three-night stay there felt much longer due to the level of hospitality from the hotel, match venues and the locals. The first leg concluded with a visit to the Yala National Park which is a wildlife sanctuary, with Kandy known as the heritage capital of Sri Lanka as our second stop. The next three memorable days were combined with high level cricket, cultural shows and evening parties at the beautiful Cinnamon Citadel, Kandy. The lovely poolside sing-songs, dancing and most importantly Doctor Sachin's cocktail varieties are still such fond memories from the tour. Our organisers saved the best for the last in Colombo, with the Cinnamon Lakeside being a fine example of that. Competitive cricket, first class cricket grounds, shopping trips, opening and closing ceremonies added high standards and glamour to the existing tour plans.

Siraj Finance Desert Cubs players were brave, committed and hungry for runs, wickets and victories. Our players performed extremely well and won many tough games, including the GCCA T20 Tournament titles across all the age groups. One example was Mohamed Nafees's 139 runs against Mahinda College U19, which was arguably the best inning during the tour. Mahinda College was playing in the schools' premier A division and their bowling attack was top-level. Apart from that hundred altogether, we had 11 hundreds scored during the 50 over matches and the T20 tournament. That was a commendable number against Sri Lankan bowlers. In the bowling department, we had two five-wicket hauls: Harsh Mehta and Nameer Palekar crossed the magic mark while unsettling many Sri Lankan batters.

Our main tour sponsor, HJ Real Estate and Kulcha King played a huge role in the tour's success. Without their help, it would not have been possible to maintain such standards and provide scholarships for our talented players. Also not forgetting our academy's title sponsor and the backbone of all our success, Siraj Finance. Many other sponsors played a vital role and our sincere thanks go to them as well. Additionally, hats off to Sargia Holidays, their Founder & CEO Mr. George Paul and his committed team for a great show and a successful tour.

Presley Polonnowita

Head Coach – Desert Cubs Tour of Sri Lanka 2025

DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2025

*Spin, Spice, and Safari: Inside the
Desert Cubs Under 18 Cricket Tour to Sri Lanka*

Our son, Shaurya started his cricketing journey with Desert cubs as a very young boy back in 2017. Working hard through his mental and physical skills, he always dreamt of being a part of an overseas tour. The first was the tour to Australia in 2024, which brought a massive change in his mindset, not only towards the game but also in his personal life. Then we geared up for the tour of Sri Lanka in July 2025.

For any young cricketer, an overseas tour is a rite of passage. It is the moment where the sterile, predictable conditions of indoor nets and synthetic wickets are replaced by the raw, unpredictable realities of international turf. For the Under 18 squad of the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, a 12-day tour of Sri Lanka offered exactly this transformation. Travelling through a landscape of coastal towns, misty mountain peaks, dense wildlife sanctuaries, and bustling urban centres, these young athletes experienced a gruelling but deeply rewarding masterclass in subcontinent cricket and cultural immersion. The itinerary was designed to test every facet of the players' skills and adaptability, taking them from Hikkaduwa through Yala National Park to Kandy and Nuwara-Eliya, and finishing in the capital city of Colombo.

The Coastal Crucible: Hikkaduwa

The journey began in Hikkaduwa, a vibrant town on Sri Lanka's southwestern coast known primarily for its surf breaks and coral reefs. However, Desert Cubs was not there for a beach holiday. The coastal humidity served as an immediate wake-up call. Stepping off the air-conditioned bus and onto the ground, the players were met with heavy, moisture-laden air that made every sprint feel twice as long and every over twice as taxing.

The pitches in the southern province provided the first major tactical challenge. Unlike the hard, true bounces typical of tracks in the UAE, the coastal wickets were slower and offered early moisture. The opening batsmen had to adjust their technique quickly, leaving the ball late and playing with soft hands to avoid giving catches to a suffocating close-in field.

Off the field, the team experienced the warmth of Sri Lankan hospitality, sampling local seafood and walking along the coast. This initial leg succeeded in breaking the ice, helping a squad of individual academy players bond into a unified touring unit.

Rest, Recharge, and Responsibility: Yala National Park
Midway through a gruelling 12-day tour, physical fatigue and mental exhaustion are inevitable risks. To counter this, the tour shifted south toward Yala National Park for a brief break from the cricket arena.

The transition from cricket fields to the rugged wilderness of Yala was stark. Sweating under helmets was replaced by tracking leopards, wild elephants, and crocodiles from the back of open-top safari jeeps. For 48 hours, conversations about strike rates, line, and length were replaced by quiet awe at the natural world.

This leg of the tour served a crucial developmental purpose. It allowed the players to decompress, nurse minor aches, and bond away from the competitive pressures of the scoreboard. Leadership groups within the squad emerged naturally during these long drives, and the shared awe of seeing a leopard in the wild cemented lifelong friendships. The young men returned to their cricket bags physically refreshed and mentally hungry for the final leg of the tour.



Battle in the Hills: Kandy

From the coast, the tour moved inland, climbing into the central highlands to the historic city of Kandy. The physical environment changed dramatically. Surrounded by tea plantations and cloaked in cooler, thinner mountain air, Kandy offered a completely different playing experience.

Here, the challenge was twofold: altitude and spin. The ball travelled differently through the air, and the local school teams—steeped in Sri Lanka's rich school cricket tradition—presented a ferocious level of competition. Matches against Kandy's elite school lineups exposed the Under 18 squad to a masterclass in spin bowling. Local finger spinners bowled with immaculate control, changing their pace and angles to exploit the drying turf.

The Desert Cubs batsmen had to learn on their feet. Out came the sweep shots, the decisive footwork down the pitch, and the gritty defensive shifts. The bowlers, too, had to adapt, finding that searching for swing in the humid mornings required different lengths than back home.

Between matches, the squad visited the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic and took in the panoramic views of the hill capital. The cultural excursion offered a vital mental break, teaching the young athletes how to switch off from the high pressures of the game and appreciate the country hosting them.

The Grand Finale: Colombo

The tour reached its competitive peak in Colombo, the commercial capital and the beating heart of Sri Lankan cricket. The squad was scheduled to play at prestigious venues, walking the same hallways and locker rooms used by international legends.

In Colombo, the cricket was fast, aggressive, and highly tactical. The pitches were hard, flat, and baked under a relentless sun, yielding high-scoring encounters that tested the death-bowling capabilities and chasing composure of the Desert Cubs players. Facing academies and club sides packed with future provincial players, the Under 18s had to execute their plans with absolute precision.

Each and every match provided the ultimate test of their developmental journey. Be it batting first or chasing a formidable total against a disciplined bowling attack, the players showcased the very traits they had picked up across the island: the patience learned in Hikkaduwa, the nimble footwork developed in Kandy, and the tight-knit team chemistry forged in Yala. The final match went down to an exciting finish, providing the kind of high-stakes drama that cannot be replicated in a standard weekend net session.

The True Value of the Tour

When the tour came to a close and the kit bags were packed for the flight home, the value of the tour was measured in far more than just runs scored or wickets taken.

Architecturally and culturally, the players grew up. They learned how to manage their own fitness, manage nutrition in a foreign country, and maintain emotional equilibrium through the inevitable highs of victory and lows of defeat. They encountered local players who played with minimal gear but immense passion, instilling a deep sense of perspective and gratitude in the touring squad.

The Desert Cubs Under-18 tour to Sri Lanka was a comprehensive success. It tested their technique against elite spin and pace, built up their physical stamina across changing microclimates, and broadened their minds through wildlife safaris and historical exploration. The young men who returned were not just sharper, more adaptable cricketers—they were more mature, worldly individuals ready to take on the next tier of their sporting lives.



As parents of Shaurya Kulkarni, we felt immense pride and gratitude towards the Desert Cubs family for this opportunity and it was a full-fledged treat. Be it picturesque locales, the exotic landscapes, the delicious meals, the immaculately chosen hotels, every aspect of the tour was well planned and organised. Not to mention the glittering award ceremony and the fun and frolic that followed after. A mesmerising evening with the local band and singers kept us all on our feet! We made new friends for life and bonded well with all the parent members and coaches. Special thanks to our Head Coach Presley for the all-round experience and Coach Hashan for being a mentor and leader of the team.

Let's keep our energy positive, respectful, and focused on backing their independence all season long.

Ajay Kulkarni

Manager DC U18 Legends Squad – Sri Lanka Tour 2025
Parent of Shaurya Kulkarni



















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DESERT CUBS TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2025 AWARD WINNERS



UNDER 11

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOUR
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOUR
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOUR
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOUR
BEST PLAYER OF THE TOUR

- JADON DEVADASON (DC PANTHERS)
- KARTHIK JOSHI (DC PANTHERS)
- ASHEN IDUWARA (DC CHEETAHS)
- IBRAHIM MAHMOOD (DC PANTHERS)
- DENITH PERERA (DC PANTHERS)

COACH - RUWAN JAYAKODY & PASINDU DAYANANDA

UNDER 13

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOUR - HAMZAH KHAN (DC KINGS)
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOUR - VISHANK KRIPALANI (DC WARRIORS)
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOUR - NISHAAN RANJITH (DC WARRIORS)
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOUR - DEVAM DESAI (DC WARRIORS)
BEST PLAYER OF THE TOUR - LOKESH REDDY (DC WARRIORS)

COACH - JANAKA SENEVIRATHNE & NIPUNA RATHNAYAKE



UNDER 15

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOUR
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOUR
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOUR
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOUR
BEST PLAYER OF THE TOUR

- KEVAN ABEYSEKERA (DC KNIGHTS)
- ISHAAN GARGE (DC KNIGHTS)
- ETHAN JUDE CARNEIRO (DC KNIGHTS)
- RISHITRAJ RONGKALI (DC KNIGHTS)
- HARSH MEHTA (DC GLADIATORS)

COACH - CHANAKA EDIRIWEERAGE & MUHAMMAD EJAZ

UNDER 18

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOUR - FAISAL SOUDAGAR (DC LEGENDS)
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOUR - NAMEER PALEKAR (DC LEGENDS)
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOUR - SHAURYA KULKARNI (DC LEGENDS)
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOUR - ZAIN HAQUE (DC LEGENDS)
BEST PLAYER OF THE TOUR - MOHAMED NAFEEES (DC LEGENDS)

COACH - HASHAN SILVA



BEST TEAM OF THE TOUR - UNDER 13 WARRIORS

COACH

- JANAKA SENEVIRATHNE

MANAGER

- RANIL DE SILVA

GCCA INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY T20 CHAMPIONSHIP 2025 AWARD WINNERS

UNDER 11

TEAMS

DESERT CUBS CHEETAHS
DESERT CUBS PANTHERS
MCA ACADEMY WHITES
MCA ACADEMY BLUES

- UAE
- UAE
- SRI LANKA
- SRI LANKA

CHAMPIONS - DESERT CUBS PANTHERS

RUNNER UP - MCA ACADEMY BLUES



BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT - KENUKA HIRUTH (MCA BLUES)
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT - LIVINU MINYUGA (MCA BLUES)
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT - IBRAHIM MAHMOOD (DC PANTHERS)
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - SHIVAY KEDIA (DC CHEETAHS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - JADON DEVADASON (DC PANTHERS)

UNDER 13

TEAMS

DESERT CUBS WARRIORS
DESERT CUBS KINGS
GOLDEN STARS CRICKET ACADEMY
ARS CRICKET ACADEMY

- UAE
- UAE
- SRI LANKA
- SRI LANKA

CHAMPIONS - DESERT CUBS WARRIORS

RUNNER UP - ARS CRICKET ACADEMY



BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT - LOKESH REDDY (DC WARRIORS)
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT - VIVAAN SHARMA (DC WARRIORS)
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT - RANULA DE SILVA (DC WARRIORS)
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - AKASH THILAKARATHNA (ARS CA)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - NITHISH PARAMITH (GOLDEN STARS CA)

UNDER 15

TEAMS

DESERT CUBS KNIGHTS
DESERT CUBS GLADIATORS
SERENDIB CRICKET ACADEMY
SHINE LIONS CRICKET ACADEMY

- UAE
- UAE
- SRI LANKA
- SRI LANKA

CHAMPIONS - DESERT CUBS GLADIATORS

RUNNER UP - DESERT CUBS KNIGHTS



BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT - ETHAN CARNERIO (DC KNIGHTS)
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT - ISHAAN GARGE (DC KNIGHTS)
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT - REHAN SHEHARA (SERENDIB CA)
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - KEVAN ABEYSEKERA (DC KNIGHTS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - FATHUR RAHMAN (DC GLADIATORS)

UNDER 18

TEAMS

DESERT CUBS LEGENDS
NWP COMBINED XI
SERENDIB CRICKET ACADEMY
MCA ACADEMY

- UAE
- SRI LANKA
- SRI LANKA
- SRI LANKA

CHAMPIONS - DESERT CUBS LEGENDS

RUNNER UP - SERENDIB CRICKET ACADEMY



BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT - FAISAL SOUDAGAR (DC LEGENDS)
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT - THEHAAN KARUNASEKARA (DC LEGENDS)
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT - MANIKYA (SERANDIB CA)
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - DHRUV PUNJABI (DC LEGENDS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT - JATHON WYMAN (MCA ACADEMY)





My Cricket Tour Experience with Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

By Ranula Luhan De Silva

Member of the GCCA Under 13 UAE Warriors Squad, Tour of Sri Lanka 2025



Hi, my name is Ranula Luhan De Silva, and I am a proud member of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy and feel honored to share some of my past and present memories with Desert Cubs. I am 13 years old and have been in this academy for the last 9 years. The experience and joyful moments I have gained are unimaginable. Desert Cubs is the most prestigious cricket academy in the UAE, always steps ahead building up their players and giving them ample opportunities to excel in their cricketing journeys.

Cricket is a sport that wherever you go in the world, the conditions are completely different. The scholarships that I and a few others have received from the academy don't happen often; you need to dedicate your hard work and commitment, show Desert Cubs what you are capable of, and they will do whatever it takes for our future development as cricketers. This includes the tours they invest their time and money on to make sure that we make it to the big stage in cricket, in hopes of someday playing for our country.

I have been on four international tours with Desert Cubs, these include South Africa, England, Australia and Sri Lanka. Every tour has been like nothing I have ever experienced - all these tours were top notch. The hospitality, matches, excursions and even rooming with your friends, is a whole new experience that Desert Cubs offers on such tours.

On our last tour to Sri Lanka in July 2025, we stayed in three beautiful hotels. The first hotel in Hikkaduwa was attached to a beach, the second hotel had beautiful views into the Kandy mountains and the third hotel in Colombo was right in the heart of the city! The food in all three hotels was more than exceptional. Eating at 5-Star hotels with healthy food options for players each day, and team talks discussing match plans for the next day, those are just a few of the many things Desert Cubs has to offer on their tours. Additionally, the matches were top standard. All the teams were fully supervised by our coaches to give us the best possible experience. Once the matches were complete, an Award Ceremony was held for all tour participants to commemorate the achievements of all the players. I was so proud to have scored a 113 not out in our final tournament game. Our team emerged as the Champions of the Under 13 GCCA International Academy T20 Championship 2025 and was also awarded the 'Best Team of the Tour', which was the icing on the cake.

All of this was amazing, but something that made me realize the true value of Desert Cubs was when I got injured and my coach called our physio, who was at a different match in another ground, to see to my injury. He came to treat me and was able to do so before our match started. This is who and what Desert Cubs is and I truly appreciate everything they have done for me and the whole academy in all age groups. I hope to see more players on the tours with their parents because this is a completely different experience you need to have and enjoy.





Sport Cricket

Dubai-born Ranula de Silva follows Jacob Bethell's advice and chases dream in UK

Teen cricketer is set to follow path of England's batting star as he prepares to attend Rugby School this summer

A Dubai schoolboy is hoping to follow the footsteps of an England batter to international cricket when he moves to the UK this summer.

Ranula de Silva has been invited to attend Rugby School after catching the eye at DESS College.

The 13-year-old wicketkeeper-batter is set to join the former boarding house of Jacob Bethell, who was given a scholarship to the school as a 12-year-old overseas student. Bethell, who is originally from Barbados, has since gone on to become a star for England, having scored centuries in ODI, Test and T20 internationals by the time he was 22. He is a role model for Ranula, who is also a diminutive – Bethell was described as “tiny” when he first relocated – left-handed batter.

The opportunity emerged after he was spotted at training at DESS College by Nick Tester, who taught at Rugby School in Warwickshire before moving to Dubai and coaching at Legends Academy. After Bethell scored a century against India in the T20 World Cup earlier this year, Tester put Ranula in touch with his one-time protege.

“Nick allowed me to send him a few messages,” Ranula said of Bethell. “I was telling him what an inspiration it is knowing he went from Barbados, then coming to England – same as me, an international journey. Then for him to become this big star, it’s pretty amazing. “He replied, and he told me not to worry about my height – I think Nick told him a bit about me – but to keep pursuing the dream because it will happen one day.”

Ranula has been impressing with his cricket ability almost since he learnt to walk.

“My earliest cricket memory was when I was three and a half and (Sri Lankan great) Aravinda de Silva was in town,” Ranula said. “My dad enrolled me into an academy. The first balls I’d been bowled were by Aravinda, a few underarm deliveries. I had a few people surrounding me, watching me. “I loved the attention. It was really enjoyable. I was able to play very well and then the crowd were supporting me, especially because I’m very small.”

He first started to aspire to a career in the sport after he began hardball cricket, following a break from cricket caused by the pandemic. “After I scored my first 50, the joy was unimaginable,” Ranula said. “After that I started working hard. I enjoyed the game a lot and that was the most important thing. But I wanted to show myself that I could do more than this.”

His formative years in the game were spent at Desert Cubs, the prolific coaching school that has produced a variety of UAE internationals, with whom he still plays most of his matches.

He has also had extra tuition with the Desert Vipers, as well as Legends Academy, who provide coaching services to a variety of schools in Dubai.

“In my first training session at DESS College, Nick watched me to bat for a few balls,” Ranula said. “He got some players to bowl at me and after this he came up to me and said, ‘Can I have your dad’s number, please?’”

“It caught me by surprise. Then he told us this whole idea. Jacob Bethell had just started popping off at the time, so it was very exciting, but obviously a little heartbreaking because I don’t want to leave my family as I love them very much. “It caught me by surprise, but I knew what a big opportunity it was and I can’t take it for granted. I know I have to work hard for this if I want to achieve my goals.”

Ranula’s new school has a close relationship with Warwickshire, the county side for whom Kai Smith, another Dubai-born wicketkeeper, now plays as a professional.

“It is a great opportunity for Ranula to be in a programme alongside players who are as talented as him,” said Dougie Brown, a former Warwickshire player and coach, who runs Legends Academy in Dubai. “He is a great kid from an awesome family who I think will fit in incredibly well at Rugby School.”

The idea of sending his young son off to school abroad is bittersweet for Ranula’s father, Ranil de Silva. “We’d never, ever thought about sending him to a boarding school, definitely not so early in his life,” said Ranil, who works in finance and has lived in Dubai for 19 years. “The more we thought about the whole process, I was convinced, only because I went there to see how that culture is. “Rugby is a lovely place, a small town, very controlled. We liked it, and also because rugby as a name is attached to me personally.”

Ranil is a former rugby player and referee whose own schooling was at Kingswood College, which pioneered rugby in Sri Lanka. His daughter, Naduli, has also represented Sri Lanka at age-group level as a scrum-half.

As such, the idea of sending his son to the school where rugby was created resonated strongly with him. He is hopeful Ranula, who is also an adept rugby player, guitarist and cook, will adapt to life in his new surroundings. “At a younger age he was timid,” Ranil said. “He would go and see whether his favourite coach was there, and if not, he would not go for training. “That has all changed, but I’m concerned because being too nice in an unknown territory could be an issue.

“But once he’s settled down, he’s going to make friends. I’ll be surprised if he doesn’t start cooking for the boarding house in three months’ time.”



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THINK BEFORE YOU PRINT & SAVE A TREE



ECB National Academy Leagues 2025/2026

The ECB National Academy League 2025/2026 season was another memorable and successful chapter for Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, with outstanding participation and performances across multiple age categories.

The season began in October 2025 with the ECB Under 15 and Under 18 tournaments, both played in a 30-over format. Desert Cubs once again demonstrated its strong commitment to youth cricket development across the UAE through large-scale participation and competitive performances throughout the season.

In the Under 15 Boys tournament, Desert Cubs entered five teams — the highest number of teams entered by a single academy in the competition. Desert Cubs Under 15 Western Warriors was formed as the main combined squad, consisting of selected players from all five Desert Cubs centres, while the remaining four teams represented the academy on a centre-wise basis.

All teams performed admirably throughout the competition, gaining valuable match experience and competing at a high level. The standout achievement came from Desert Cubs Under 15 Western Warriors, who finished as Runners-up in a highly competitive tournament featuring 59 teams from across the country.

In the Under 18 category, Desert Cubs once again recorded the highest number of entries by a single academy, participating with four teams. Similar to the Under 15 structure, Desert Cubs Under 18 Western Warriors was formed as the main combined squad, alongside three additional center wise teams.

The tournament featured 35 teams divided into four groups. Despite strong performances, two of our teams narrowly missed qualification for the quarter-finals after finishing third in their respective groups, with only the top two teams progressing to the knockout stage.

The ECB also revived the Under 15 Girls tournament after many years, which was played in a 20-over format, marking an important step forward for girls' cricket development in the UAE. Desert Cubs proudly participated with one team, continuing the academy's efforts to support and encourage young female cricketers.

In April 2026, ECB introduced the Under 12 tournament for the very first time in its history. The competition was conducted in a 25-over format across three divisions — A, B, and C. Desert Cubs once again entered the highest number of teams in the tournament, participating with five teams.

Desert Cubs entered two teams each in the A and B divisions, while one team participated in the C division. Desert Cubs Western Warriors represented the academy as the main combined team, while the remaining teams represented different academy branches.

The academy delivered impressive performances in the tournament, with one of the teams reaching the semi-finals in the highly competitive A Division, while another team finished as Runners-up in the C Division. The tournament provided excellent exposure and match experience for young players across all levels and highlighted the academy's growing strength in junior cricket development.

The ECB National Academy League 2025/2026 season showcased the continued growth, depth, and dedication of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy. Beyond results and trophies, the academy remains committed to providing opportunities, exposure, and competitive experiences for young cricketers across all levels.

Vishwa Fernandopulle

Operation Officer & Coordinator
Desert Cubs Cricket Academy





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ECB NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026



U12
Western
Warriors



U12
Northern
Ninjas



U12
Southern
Sharks

ECB NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026



U12
Western
Wizards



U12
Eastern
Eagles



U15
Desert
Roses



ECB NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026



U15
Western Warriors



U15
Northern Ninjas



U15
Southern Sharks

ECB NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026



U15

**Western
Wizards**

U15

**Eastern
Eagles**



U18

**Western
Warriors**



ECB NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE 2025-2026



U18
Northern
Ninjas

U18
Southern
Sharks



U18
Western
Wizards





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DESERT CUBS SPORTS DAY 2025

The annual Desert Cubs Sports Day was held on Sunday 07th December 2025. Once again it was one of the best times of the year to celebrate and enjoy as one family. Desert Cubs has been conducting Sports Days since 2011 and every year we have added many new features along the way. The event was carried out with the intention of providing our members an opportunity to have a relaxed and enjoyable day accompanied by a year ending Christmas party.

We conducted a six-a-side cricket softball event for players of all age groups, parents and coaches from all our centres to make sure that our cricketers did not stay idle and had enough options to spend the entire day playing cricket. The participants also had the opportunity to take part in badminton, athletics races and various other fun events organised for the whole family. As usual our voluntary parents group conducted and managed all the fun events while the coaches and admin staff attended to the main cricket events.

The day ended with a Talent Show and prize distribution. Members young and old were happy to see Santa Claus and dance with him while collecting the chocolates and sweets distributed by him to celebrate the occasion.

This is an iconic event in the Desert Cubs calendar and we are looking forward to our next sports day event in December 2026.

Desert Cubs Admin



DESERT CUBS GOT TALENT

1ST PLACE	SARANG ANILKUMAR
2ND PLACE (JOINT)	VARAKINI & MOHINTH KETHISWARAM + SHIVDEV VITTAL
3RD PLACE	AARAV MASKARA

BADMINTON AWARDS

BADMINTON CHAMPIONS	RAMASUBRAMANIAM GIRI & RINITH GIRI
BADMINTON RUNNERS-UP	MARTIN RAYMOND & MARWEL DIVYANSH

ATHLETICS AWARDS

50M BEGINNERS - 1ST PLACE	SANGNYAJA GUDIKANDULA
50M BEGINNERS - 2ND PLACE	KESHHAV KUMAR
50M BEGINNERS - 3RD PLACE	THEHAN METHUM SENEVIRATHNE
50M UNDER 11 - 1ST PLACE	KEMINDU NITHIJAYA
50M UNDER 11 - 2ND PLACE	BURHANUDEEN NASIR
50M UNDER 11 - 3RD PLACE	MUHAMMED DIHYAH FAZLY MUHAMMED
100M UNDER 13 - 1ST PLACE	IBRAHIM MAHMOOD
100M UNDER 13 - 2ND PLACE	SRIDEV RAMANATHAPURAM SIVAKUMAR VITTAL
100M UNDER 13 - 3RD PLACE	MYIESHA TALHA
100M UNDER 16 - 1ST PLACE	AIDEN BEVIN MANIAN
100M UNDER 16 - 2ND PLACE	SIDDARTH ANAND
100M UNDER 16 - 3RD PLACE	ANSEL D'SOUZA
100M UNDER 19 - 1ST PLACE	AIDEN BEVIN MANIAN
100M UNDER 19 - 2ND PLACE	MOHAMED NAFEEES
100M UNDER 19 - 3RD PLACE	RISHITRAJ SINGH RONGKALI
100M PARENTS (MEN) - 1ST PLACE	MAHESH LUCKY
100M PARENTS (MEN) - 2ND PLACE	SUBASH JAPOR
100M PARENTS (MEN) - 3RD PLACE	FAZLY MOHAMMED
100M PARENTS (WOMEN) - 1ST PLACE	ANURADHA JAYARATHNA
100M PARENTS (WOMEN) - 2ND PLACE	ALEKHYA MARAM
100M PARENTS (WOMEN) - 3RD PLACE	PRATHIMA GUELA



DESERT CUBS SPORTS DAY 2025 – CRICKET AWARD WINNERS

<u>UNDER 11 – SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT</u>	
WINNER	DIS LEGENDS
RUNNER-UP	DPS GIANTS
PLAYER OF THE FINAL	ISHAAN KOLLIPARA (DIS LEGENDS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT	MOHINTH KETHIISWARAM (DIS LEGENDS)
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT	YEVIN METHSUKA THARUL SILVA (DIS LEGENDS)
<u>UNNDER 13 – SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT</u>	
WINNER	SES WARRIORS
RUNNER-UP	DIS LEGENDS
PLAYER OF THE FINAL	EHAN PARKAR (SES WARRIORS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT	RANULA LUHAN DE SILVA (DIS LEGENDS)
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT	JAYDEN SHENUL PERERA (SES WARRIORS)
<u>UNDER 16 – SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT</u>	
WINNER	SES WARRIORS
RUNNER-UP	DIS VIKINGS
PLAYER OF THE FINAL	LOKESH REDDY KASIREDDY (SES WARRIORS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT	LOKESH REDDY KASIREDDY (SES WARRIORS)
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT	AIDEN BEVIN MANIAN (DIS VIKINGS)
<u>SENIORS – SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT</u>	
WINNER	DIS LEGENDS
RUNNER-UP	DIS VIKINGS
PLAYER OF THE FINAL	ARHAAN CHOPRA (DIS LEGENDS)
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT	MOHAMED NAFEEES (DIS LEGENDS)
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT	MOHAMED NAFEEES (DIS LEGENDS)
<u>PARENTS VS COACHES – T10 HARD BALL</u>	
WINNER	DESERT CUBS COACHES
PLAYER OF THE MATCH	NIPUNA RATHNAYAKE (DC COACHES)
<u>BEST BRANCH</u>	
WINNER	DPS / BSA



OUTSTANDING CRICKET ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2024-2025

Awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding hard work, passion, and relentless drive to excel in cricket

MOST COMMITTED & DISCIPLINED JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR	REYANSH RAJESH PILLAI
MOST COMMITTED & DISCIPLINED SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR	JORDAN ALVARES
DESERT CUB JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR	LOKESH REDDY KASIREDDY
DESERT CUB SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR	MOHAMED NAFEEES
DESERT CUB FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR	MYIESHA TALHA









SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS TOURNAMENTS

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
JUNIOR CUBS BEGINNERS CRICKET
TOURNAMENT 2025



WINNER
DC DIS GREEN

COACH
PRIYANTHA GANEGODA

RUNNER-UP
DC DPS MAROON

COACH
MOIN SABIR

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- DEV MENON (DIS GREEN)
- OM NIVAS JAGTAP (DPS MAROON)
- LEKH SANKET JAIN (DIS GREEN)
- HRIDAAN NAKUL LOLAYEKAR (DIS GREEN)
- AAROHI SHARMA (SES BLUE)
- AARUSH ARORA (DPS MAROONS)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
EMERGING LEAGUE 2025-2026
UNDER 12



WINNER
TELLICHERRY CA

COACH
RASOOL AMIN

RUNNER-UP
DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH
PROSANTA CHANDA

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- AYDIN RAYN (TELLICHERRY CA)
- AYDIN RAYN (TELLICHERRY CA)
- MIKHAIL OUMAR (LEO'S CA)
- RAYAN RIYAS (TELLICHERRY CA)
- AYDIN RAYN (TELLICHERRY CA)
- SAIANGSH SARMA (TEAM RHINOS)
- AAYUSHMAN SAHNI (TEAM RHINOS)
- GURLEEN ANAND (DC DESERT ROSES)
- SAVYA DAKHERA (TEAM RHINOS)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
EMERGING LEAGUE 2025-2026
UNDER 14



WINNER
DC EASTERN EAGLES

COACH
MUHAMMAD EJAZ

RUNNER-UP
DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH
CHANAKA EDIRIWEERAGE

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- IBRAHIM MAHMOOD (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- MUHAMMAD ABUBAKKAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- RAYYAN AZMAT (TELLICHERRY CA)
- SHREYANSH VASHISHT (TELLICHERRY CA)
- AKSHAT VISHWAKARMA (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- ISHAAN SEN (LEO'S CA)
- ATHARVA THAKUR (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- SHRIYA SHETTY (TELLICHERRY CA)
- DANIAL HAQUE (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
PREMIER LEAGUE 2025-2026
UNDER 11

WINNER
VICTORIA CA

RUNNER-UP
G FORCE CA

COACH
BISANDU ADAMBARAGE

COACH
GOPAL JASAPARA
VIJAYA KUMAR

- PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
- ADITHYA VEERANAN (VICTORIA CA)
 - JIHAAN MEHTA (VICTORIA CA)
 - AARHAM AKASHE (VICTORIA CA)
 - IMAD MAHMOOD (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
 - HEYAN SHIVARAMAKRISHNAN (VICTORIA CA)
 - JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
 - JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
 - KANISHKA RANA (VICTORIA CA)
 - MOHINTH KETHISWARAM (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
PREMIER LEAGUE 2025-2026
UNDER 13

WINNER
G FORCE CA

RUNNER-UP
TEAM RHINOS

COACH
GOPAL JASAPARA
VIJAYA KUMAR

COACH
ABHISHEK SAHA

- PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
- SARANSH TIWARI (G FORCE CA)
 - YUVAAN NATARAJAN (TEAM RHINOS)
 - PAARTH MULCHANDANI (G FORCE CA)
 - USMAN JR (G FORCE CA)
 - KRIYANSH DEB (TEAM RHINOS)
 - SHANNON SALDANHA (G FORCE CA)
 - SHANNON SALDANHA (G FORCE CA)
 - ISHITA SAINIK KUMAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
 - REYANSH PILLAI (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
PREMIER LEAGUE 2025-2026
UNDER 15

WINNER
G FORCE CA

RUNNER-UP
DC NORTHERN NINJAS

COACH
GOPAL JASAPARA
VIJAYA KUMAR

COACH
JANAKA SENEVIRATHNE

- PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
- ADVAY KUMAT (G FORCE CA)
 - JAIMEEK SHAH (G FORCE CA)
 - ADVAY KUMAT (G FORCE CA)
 - AARAV VORA (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
 - NISHAAN RANJITH (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
 - JAIMEEK SHAH (G FORCE CA)
 - LOKESH REDDY (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
 - YUV KAPOOR (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)



UK 2026

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF



SIRAJ
FINANCE
PJSC



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
WINTER CUP 2025
UNDER 14



WINNER

DC EASTERN EAGLES

COACH

MUHAMMAD EJAZ

RUNNER-UP

DC NORTHERN NINJAS

COACH

JANAKA SENEVIRATHNE

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- MOHAMMAD ABU BAKKAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- RANULA DE SILVA (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
- ISA FARID (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- AVYUKTA KARANJIKAR (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
- ADNAN ZAINUL ABEDIN (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- MICHAEL KINGSLEY (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- DEVAM DESAI (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- THRIVED SANDADI (DC EASTERN EAGLES)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
WINTER CUP 2025
UNDER 16



WINNER

DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH

TIRAN WIJESURIYA

RUNNER-UP

DC EASTERN EAGLES

COACH

MUHAMMAD EJAZ

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- GAUTAM BHATIA (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- ETHAN CARNEIRO (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- SUFIAN SATTI (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- YUVRAJ MATHUR (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- SAHIR RAJAGOPAL (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- NAVNIT GURNANI (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- AIDEN MANIAN (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
- YUV KAPOOR (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUPER LEAGUE 2026
UNDER 11



WINNER

VICTORIA CA

COACH

PRASANNA

RUNNER-UP

DC NORTHERN NINJAS

COACH

SHANESH WEERAWANSHA

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- ADITHYA VEERANAN (VICTORIA CA)
- ADVIK GUPTA (SPSA AVENGERS)
- RAGHAV (VICTORIA CA)
- AHAN MOGHE (SPSA AVENGERS)
- AAYUSH BHATTACHARYA (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- KANISHKA RANA (SPARTANS CA)
- SAVYA DAKHERA (SPSA AVENGERS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUPER LEAGUE 2026
UNDER 13

WINNER
G FORCE CA

RUNNER-UP
DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH
GOPAL JASAPARA
VIJAYA KUMAR

COACH
CHANAKA EDIRIWEERAGE
PROSANTA CHANDA

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- SHANNON SALDANHA (G FORCE CA)
- REYANSH PILLAI (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- IMRAN PARKAR (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- REYANSH PILLAI (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- KHUSH TEWARI (G FORCE CA)
- AARYAN KRISHNAN (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- SHANNON SALDANHA (G FORCE CA)
- KANISHKA RANA (SPARTANS CA)
- AGASTYA NAIR (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUPER LEAGUE 2026
UNDER 15

WINNER
DC EASTERN EAGLES

RUNNER-UP
SPSA EAGLES

COACH
MUHAMMAD EJAZ

COACH
JITHU BABUJI

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- NAVNIT GURNANI (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- GLENN FABIO (SPSA EAGLES)
- ISHAAN SAYAL (SPSA EAGLES)
- SHREYANSH DUTTA (SPSA EAGLES)
- DEGVEER SINGH (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- DEVAHANS SAHOO (MSYTCA CA)
- KEVAN ABEYSEKERA (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- RUJULA CHHABRA (MSYTCA CA)
- LOKESH REDDY (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUPER LEAGUE 2026
UNDER 18

WINNER
DC NORTHERN NINJAS

RUNNER-UP
TELLICHERRY CA

COACH
JANAKA SENEVIRATHNE

COACH
VIVEK

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST WICKET KEEPER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- WAMIQ ASIM (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- NAMAN BHATT (DUNES CA)
- RAJVEER GULATI (TELLICHERRY CA)
- RAJVEER GULATI (TELLICHERRY CA)
- KUSHAGR CHAUDHARY (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- MOHAMED NAFEEES (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
- MOHAMED NAFEEES (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
- VIYAAN MASALAWALA (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS CRICKET TOUR OF



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
DC JUNIOR CUBS BEGINNERS
RAMADAN TOURNAMENT 2026



WINNER
DC DPS MAROON

COACH
MOIN SABIR

RUNNER-UP
DC DPS ORANGE

COACH
LASANTHA HEMAL

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATSMAN OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- NEEL CHHATBAR (DC DPS MAROON)
- BHAARAT MITTAL (DC DPS MAROON)
- BRENDEN PINTO (DC BSA PURPLE)
- SAMIP KADU (DC DPS MAROON)
- ANVI SINGH (DC DPS MAROON)
- URUV BUDHIRAJA (DC DPS ORANGE)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
JUNIOR CHALLENGE TROPHY 2026
UNDER 12



WINNER
DC NORTHERN NINJAS

COACH
VISHWA FERNANDOPULLE

RUNNER-UP
DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH
RUWAN JAYAKODY

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- AARUSH VISHWAKARMA (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- DISHANT KADAM (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- GANDHARV GHAVNALKAR (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- HASHIM SATTI (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- ARHAAN JAIN (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- AKSHIT PRADAN (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- KHARTHIKA RAGHUNATH (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- ASHEN INDUWARA (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
JUNIOR CHALLENGE TROPHY 2026
UNDER 14



WINNER
DC EASTERN EAGLES

COACH
MUHAMMAD EJAZ

RUNNER-UP
DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH
CHANAKA EDIRIWEERAGE

PLAYER OF THE FINAL
BEST BATTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MASTER BLASTER OF THE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT
MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- MUHAMMAD ABUBAKKAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- MAAYAN HARIA (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
- GARVIT MALHOTRA (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- MICHAEL KINGSLEY (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- RAJVEER SONI (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
- MUHAMMAD ABUBAKKAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
- DAANYA FAZLY (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
- KRISH VEMURI (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUMMER BASH 2026
UNDER 11



WINNER

DC NORTHERN NINJAS

COACH

SHANESH WEERAWANSHA

RUNNER-UP

TELLICHERRY CA

COACH

MUKESH PANDEY

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)

- KANISHKA RANA (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)

- EHSAAAN (TELLICHERRY CA)

- ADTYA AJAY (TELLICHERRY CA)

- JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)

- DAKSHITA VASHISHT (TELLICHERRY CA)

- RAVAN RIYAS (TELLICHERRY CA)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUMMER BASH 2026
UNDER 13



WINNER

G FORCE CA

COACH

GOPAL JASAPARA

RUNNER-UP

DC SOUTHERN SHARKS

COACH

RUWAN JAYAKODY

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FEMALE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- EISA SHARIQ DIVAKER (G FORCE CA)

- LAKSH BUDHIRAJA (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)

- VAIBHAV GAIKWAD (G FORCE CA)

- AADYA CHATURVEDI (G FORCE CA)

- AARYAN KRISHNAN (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)

- ISHITA KUMAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)

- SAHIR RAJAGOPAL (DC EASTERN EAGLES)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUMMER BASH 2026
UNDER 15



WINNER

G FORCE CA

COACH

GOPAL JASAPARA

RUNNER-UP

DC NORTHERN NINJAS

COACH

JANAKA SENEVIRATHNE

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- KYRON HUBERT (G FORCE CA)

- LOKESH REDDY (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)

- SIDDHARTH KOLLIPARA (DC EASTERN EAGLES)

- LOKESH REDDY (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)

- SHRREYANSH DUTTA (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)

- KEVAN ABEYSEKERA (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)

SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
SUMMER BASH 2026
UNDER 18



WINNER

TELLICHERRY CA

COACH

VIVEK MENON

RUNNER-UP

SWANTONS CA

COACH

SATISH CHAVAN

PLAYER OF THE FINAL

BEST BATTER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST BOWLER OF THE TOURNAMENT

BEST FIELDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

MOST PROMISING PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- PRANAY (TELLICHERRY CA)

- NAMEER PALEKAR (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)

- SHRAVAN (TELLICHERRY CA)

- NAYAZ ALI KHAN (SWANTONS CA)

- SYED REHAN THANVEER (TELLICHERRY CA)

- NAMAN DASH (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)



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Established:

2000

2003

2021



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CRICKET AWARDS FOR SEASON 2025-2026

DESERT CUBS BEST PLAYERS IN MAJOR EXTERNAL TOURNAMENTS 2025-2026

UNDER 12	BEST BATSMAN	- LAKSH BUDHIRAJA
	BEST BOWLER	- DENITH PERERA
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- JADON DEVADASON
UNDER 13/14	BEST BATSMAN	- NAVNIT GURNANI
	BEST BOWLER	- ISA FARID
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- LOKESH REDDY KASIREDDY
UNDER 15/16	BEST BATSMAN	- YUV KAPOOR
	BEST BOWLER	- MADHAV METHIL
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- VIYAAN MASALAWALA
UNDER 18/19	BEST BATSMAN	- FAISAL REHMAN SOUDAGAR
	BEST BOWLER	- RISHITRAJ SINGH RONKALI
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- MOHAMED NAFEEES

BEST PLAYERS IN DESERT CUBS ORGANIZED EXTERNAL TOURNAMENTS 2025-2026 A DIVISION

UNDER 11	BEST BATSMAN	- MOHINTH KETHISWARAM (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)
	BEST BOWLER	- RAGHAV (VICTORIA CA)
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- JADON DEVADASON (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
UNDER 13	BEST BATSMAN	- AARYAN KRISHNAN (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
	BEST BOWLER	- VAIBHAV SUDHIR GAIKWAD (G FORCE CA)
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- SHANNON SALDANHA (G FORCE CA)
UNDER 15	BEST BATSMAN	- SHRREYANSH DUTTA (SPSA EAGLES / DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
	BEST BOWLER	- KEVAN DIHEIN (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- LOKESH REDDY KASIREDDY (DC NORTHERN NINJAS)
UNDER 18	BEST BATSMAN	- SYED REHAN THANVEER (TELLICHERRY CA)
	BEST BOWLER	- RAJVEER GULATI (TELLICHERRY CA)
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- MOHAMED NAFEEES (DC WESTERN WARRIORS)

BEST PLAYERS IN DESERT CUBS ORGANIZED TOURNAMENTS 2025-2026 B DIVISION

UNDER 12	BEST BATSMAN	- AKSHIT PRADAN (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
	BEST BOWLER	- AAYUSHMAN SAHNI (TEAM RHINOS)
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- AYDIN RAYN (TELLICHERRY CA)
UNDER 14	BEST BATSMAN	- DANİYAL HAQUE (DC SOUTHERN SHARKS)
	BEST BOWLER	- IBRAHIM MAHMOOD (DC EASTERN EAGLES)
	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	- MUHAMMAD ABUBAKKAR (DC EASTERN EAGLES)

VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEAMS



ANCHOR SPORTS (SWEDEN) VS DC WESTERN WARRIOR



ANCHOR SPORTS (SWEDEN) VS SOUTHERN LIONS



ANCHOR SPORTS (SWEDEN) VS EM CRICKET CLUB



VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEAMS



ANCHOR SPORTS (SWEDEN) VS DC SOUTHERN SHARKS



ANCHOR SPORTS (SWEDEN) VS UUDS LIONS



ST. AMBROSE U15 (UK) VS DC SOUTHERN SHARKS U15



Message from the Centre In-Charge of Desert Cubs Sharjah English School Centre (DC SES Northern Ninjas)



As the Centre In-Charge of the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy's Sharjah English School (SES) Branch I am proud to see our centre continue to grow and thrive with young cricketers training regularly and developing their skills in a professional and positive environment.

The SES Centre has become a hub for cricket development, providing excellent facilities that allow our players to train, compete, and progress throughout the year. From structured coaching sessions and skill-development programs to competitive practice matches and tournaments, the centre offers young cricketers every opportunity to learn and excel.

One of the highlights of our branch operations has been the successful organization of numerous tournaments and competitive fixtures on turf pitches under floodlights throughout the year, giving young players invaluable experience. These events not only enhance technical and tactical skills but also build confidence, discipline, teamwork, and a true passion for the game.

The commitment shown by our players and parents has helped create a vibrant cricketing community at SES. Watching our young athletes improve with every session and showcase their talents during tournaments is a testament to the quality of coaching and facilities available at the centre. I look forward to many more exciting matches and continued growth at the SES Centre.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all our dedicated and hardworking coaches who tirelessly invest their time, knowledge, and energy into the development of every player. Your passion and commitment continue to inspire the next generation of cricketers.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to our support staff for their invaluable contributions behind the scenes, ensuring the smooth operation of every training session, practice game, and tournament.

Finally, I would like to thank the management of Sharjah English School for their continuous support, excellent facilities, and partnership in helping us provide a first-class cricketing environment for our young players.

I take this opportunity to wish all participants of the UK touring teams a successful, enjoyable, enriching and memorable cricketing experience.

Janaka Senevirathne

Center In-Charge

Sharjah English School Centre (DC SES Northern Ninjas)





My Training Experience at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

By Devam Desai

Member of the Under 15 Squad at
Sharjah English School Centre (DC SES Northern Ninjas)

I started my cricket journey with Desert Cubs Cricket Academy in 2016 at the age of 5. My journey began with rubber ball cricket, where I learned the basic skills of the game and slowly developed my love and passion for cricket. Over the years, Desert Cubs has helped me improve not only as a cricketer, but also as a disciplined and confident individual.

The training sessions at Desert Cubs are always well organized and focused on developing every player step by step. The coaches constantly motivate us to work hard, stay dedicated, and believe in ourselves. Their guidance and support have helped me sharpen my batting, bowling, fielding, and overall understanding of the game.

A very special thanks to Coach Shanesh, who shaped my basics beautifully and built a strong foundation for my cricket journey. His patience, support, and coaching played a huge role in helping me grow as a young cricketer. I will always be grateful for everything he has taught me.

One of the most memorable parts of my journey has been representing Desert Cubs on international tours. I had the opportunity to tour the UK and Sri Lanka, where I was proud to captain the team on both occasions. These tours were amazing learning experiences, as they taught me leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and how to handle pressure in different playing conditions. Competing against strong teams also helped me gain confidence and improve my game further.

I am proud that our team won the 'Best Team of the Tour' award twice. Winning the GCCA International Academy T20 Championship tournament in Sri Lanka was another unforgettable achievement that made me and my teammates very proud. These experiences motivated me to continue working harder and aim higher in cricket.

Desert Cubs Cricket Academy has been like a second home to me throughout my cricketing journey. The academy has helped me grow both on and off the field and has given me many unforgettable memories and experiences. I would like to sincerely thank all my coaches, teammates, staff members, especially Coach Shanesh, for their constant support and encouragement. Special thanks as well to Head Coach Presley, for providing us with such wonderful opportunities and always backing us.



Parents' view on Desert Cubs Cricket

A Journey of Resilience

Witnessing our son, Michael, evolve from a six-year-old enthusiast at Desert Cubs into the resilient sportsman he is today has been a privilege and joy.

Initially, Michael's batting was a steady climb; he learned the invaluable skill of patience, transitioning from 20-run sparks to consistent half-centuries by the Under 11 level. This progress was not solitary; it was nurtured lucidly through the disciplined guidance of his coaches and his father's unwavering support.

Michael has developed into a steady presence behind the stumps. As he grows taller, he has become a highly capable wicketkeeper batsman; his physical stature allows him to leap with remarkable agility.

This development extended far beyond the crease. Travelling independently for tours in South Africa in 2022 at the tender age of eight, Australia in 2024, and Sri Lanka in 2025 molded him into an incredibly adaptable character. He has experienced diverse pitches and weather conditions, learning that cricket is as much about mental fortitude as technical skill. Even when facing stern critiques, Michael chose respect over frustration, demonstrating the emotional maturity of a true sportsman.

Today, he enjoys every match with guidance from his coaches and team mates, developing his craft.

Desert Cubs Cricket Academy has provided a safe environment with world class facilities, highly qualified coaches and staff that have shaped his progress as a player and human being.

We wish Desert Cubs Cricket Academy the very best for the upcoming England tour and future endeavours.

Aroshanie & Melvin Kingsley

Parents of Michael Kingsley

Sharjah English School Centre (DC SES Northern Ninjas)





Message from the Centre In-Charge of Desert Cubs Delhi Private School, Dubai Centre (DC DPS Southern Sharks)



The Desert Cubs Cricket Academy at Delhi Private School (DPS), The Gardens, Jebel Ali was established on the 07th of February 2019. This centre was established with a vision to become a budding ground for developing young talents who can proudly carry the legacy of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy when they play cricket at every level in the future, anywhere in the world.

It has been an honour being appointed as the DPS Centre In-Charge, where I have made every endeavor to ensure that we instill DCCA's vision and objectives as set out by our Founder & Head Coach Presley. We ensure that cricket ethics in true spirits, with skill development, is imparted to our young cricketers' training at the DPS Centre.

I feel extremely privileged to be able to lead a dedicated, experienced and qualified team of coaches and would like to thank Coaches Chanaka, Ruwan, Moin, Lasantha, Judith & Tiran who work tirelessly with me within the DCCA family at DPS Centre. We thrive on our commitment and drive to develop young talents from the ages of 5 to 19. We guide and teach them the fundamentals of the game to sharpen their skills, with the end goal being to help them to become the best at each level.

Having said that, we take pride in the fact that it is not only the skills related to this wonderful game that we focus on. We pay particular attention to discipline, fitness and most importantly ensuring that our little legends of the future understand the value of being team players and playing the game in the right spirit, irrespective of the result. We firmly believe that discipline and the right attitude, which is part & parcel of our training, are the most important aspects required to thrive at every level of life.

As the head coach & centre in-charge of DCCA DPS, it is my vision and objective to ensure that our members learn to play hard and fair while rejoicing in winning and being graceful in defeat.

I am pleased that our centre has grown exponentially from its inception in 2019, which is a clear reflection of our coaches' hard work and commitment towards quality coaching. We conduct many tournaments for junior cricketers.

I take this opportunity to wish the best of luck to all our little champions and coaches who will be touring the UK this summer. I am proud that I have been a part of the previous Desert Cubs cricket tours to South Africa, UK, Australia, and Sri Lanka. I am very optimistic and firmly believe that each player will gain good international exposure and become more mature when they complete their forthcoming UK tour.

I would like to thank the DPS Management, Ground & Security personnel and most importantly the parents for their tremendous and continuous support as we progress on our journey.

Finally, I am grateful to our Founder & Head Coach Presley for his guidance and support and look forward to many more successful seasons ahead as we continue to create 'Legends of the Future'!

Prosanta Chanda

Centre In-Charge

Delhi Private School Centre (DC DPS Southern Sharks)





My Training Experience at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

By Laksh Budhiraja

Member of the Under 13 & 15 Squads at Delhi Private School Centre (DC DPS Southern Sharks)



Hi, I am Laksh Budhiraja, and I proudly play for both the Under 13 and Under 15 teams of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy at the DPS Centre.

My journey at Desert Cubs started in 2019 and has been filled with growth, discipline, and unforgettable cricketing moments. I have earned titles such as 'Player of the Final,' 'Best Batsman,' and 'Most Promising Player' in tournaments such as the U13 DC Ramadan T20 Bash, U13 DC Summer Cup, U13 Gulf Cup, DC Winter Cup, and the DC Super League. These achievements inspire me to keep improving every day.

I also had the honour of representing Desert Cubs in the U12 ECB National Academy League as the wicket keeper for the DPS Southern Sharks Centre, which was a major milestone in my cricketing journey.

Training at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy has shaped me both as a cricketer and as a person. Our sessions focus on skills, fitness, mindset, and teamwork, and the coaches constantly push us to aim higher. The academy teaches important values like respect, discipline, and perseverance, which help us on and off the field.

What I love most about DCCA is the strong sense of team spirit and support. Whether it's intense drills, match simulations, or team building activities, we always motivate each other. It truly feels like a family where everyone wants you to succeed.

Looking back, I am grateful for the opportunities, friendships, and confidence I have gained at the Academy. Desert Cubs is not just a cricket academy — it's a place where young players like me learn to dream big and chase those dreams with passion.

I want to thank my first mentors, coaches Prosanta and Hashan, and my current mentors, coaches Prosanta, Chanaka, Ruwan, Janaka, and Nipuna for guiding me throughout my journey. A special thanks to Head Coach Presley for always believing in my potential.

Parents' view on Desert Cubs Cricket

As parents, we are very happy with Arhan's journey at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy. Through his individual coaching sessions with Coach Chanaka, group coaching at DPS, and participation in the summer tours to Australia and Sri Lanka, we have seen tremendous growth in both his cricketing abilities and his character.

What stands out most is how Desert Cubs emphasizes the importance of discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, skill development and a strong work ethic. The coaches genuinely care about the children and create an environment that challenges them while building their confidence and love for the game. Kudos to Head Coach Presley and the entire coaching team!



At age 10, Arhan started attending the overseas tours with Desert Cubs. They were both incredible experiences for Arhan, not only from a cricketing perspective, but also in helping him become more independent, resilient, and responsible.

The tours were exceptionally well organised, and the staff took excellent care of the children, giving parents

complete peace of mind while ensuring the children had a memorable and enriching experience.

We are truly grateful to the entire Desert Cubs team for their dedication and commitment to nurturing young cricketers and helping them grow both on and off the field.

Manali Desai and Ramit Jain

Parents of Arhan Jain

Delhi Private School Centre (DC DPS Southern Sharks)



Message from the Centre In-Charge of Desert Cubs Dira International School Centre (DC DIS Western Warriors)



As I step into my 14th year with the Desert Cubs family, I look back with immense pride and gratitude at the incredible journey we have shared together. What began as a passion for developing young cricketers has now become a deeply fulfilling mission of shaping future athletes and individuals through the game of cricket.

The Deira International School (DIS) Centre continues to grow from strength to strength since its establishment, and today it stands as one of the most vibrant and promising centres within Desert Cubs Cricket Academy.

The energy, commitment, and enthusiasm displayed every day create an environment that constantly motivates us as coaches to strive for excellence.

Over the years, one of our greatest achievements has been seeing players from our centre progress to national level cricket. Watching these young talents rise through the ranks and represent their countries is a proud moment not only for our coaching staff, but for the entire Desert Cubs community. It is a reflection of the hard work, discipline, and strong cricketing culture that has been built consistently over the years.

As a senior coach working with the Under 13, Under 16, and Under 19 squads, I have been fortunate to witness countless inspiring journeys. Every player who walks through our gates carries a dream, and it is our responsibility to guide, support, and prepare them for the challenges ahead, both in cricket and in life.

Among the many memorable moments in my coaching career, leading the Desert Cubs U16 team to victory in the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) National Academy League 2024-2025 remains especially significant. Achievements like these are built on teamwork, dedication, resilience, and the willingness to believe in one another even during difficult moments.

None of this success would be possible without the unwavering support of our coaching staff, administrative team, and everyone working tirelessly behind the scenes at the DIS Centre. Their professionalism and commitment continue to play a crucial role in creating the best possible environment for our players to develop and succeed.

I would also like to sincerely thank the management of Deira International School, the ground and security staff, and our supportive parents for their continued trust and encouragement. Your contribution to the growth of our players and the success of the centre is truly invaluable.

The journey continues, and I am excited for what lies ahead for our players, our centre, and the entire Desert Cubs family.

Hashan Wickrama Silva

Center In-Charge

Deira International School Centre (DC DIS Western Warriors)





My Training Experience at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

By Arham Jain

Member of the Under 18 Squad at Deira International School
Centre (DC DIS Western Warriors)



I joined Desert Cubs Cricket Academy in 2017 at the age of 8 at the JBS center under Coach Priyantha. Starting off with the plastic ball as a base, I soon moved onto leather ball under Coach Dilsara, finally spending my senior years under Coach Hashan.

My experience at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy has been both exciting and rewarding. Training under Coach Hashan has helped me grow as a cricketer by improving my skills, discipline, and confidence on the field. His guidance and constant

encouragement have motivated me to work harder and push myself to become a better player every day.

The training sessions at Desert Cubs are always well-organized and challenging. Each session focuses on improving different aspects of the game, from technical skills to match awareness and fitness. The coaches create a positive environment where players are encouraged to learn, compete, and support one another. This has helped me develop not only as a player, but also as a team member.

One of the best parts of being at Desert Cubs is the opportunity to play competitive matches and tournaments. These experiences have taught me how to stay calm under pressure, adapt to different situations, and continue learning from every game. The academy has given me many valuable memories and experiences that have strengthened my passion for cricket.

I am thankful to Coach Hashan and all the coaches at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy for their support, dedication, and belief in me. Their mentorship has played an important role in my cricketing journey, and I look forward to achieving more with the academy in the future.

Parents' view on Desert Cubs Cricket

Our son Aarav's cricketing journey with Desert Cubs Cricket Academy began in 2017, and looking back, it has been one of the most rewarding decisions we have made as a family. What started as a young boy's passion for the game has, over the years, blossomed into a disciplined, skilled, and confident cricketer — and much of that credit goes to the incredible environment that Desert Cubs has created.

As one of the largest and most reputed cricket academies in the UAE, Desert Cubs has consistently impressed us with its world-class infrastructure, coaching standards, and the genuine care its coaches show for every child. From the very first session, Aarav felt welcomed, supported, and motivated to push his limits. The structured coaching system ensured that he developed not just technically, but also in terms of game awareness, mental resilience, and sportsmanship.

Over the years, Aarav has grown into a competitive cricketer, currently representing the Under 16 team. We are proud to share that he has earned recognition for his performances, including 'Best Bowler' honours and 'Man of the Match' awards — achievements that reflect both his hard work and the high-quality training he has received at the academy. These wins would not have been possible without the unwavering guidance and encouragement of the Desert Cubs coaching staff.

One of the greatest highlights of Aarav's journey has been the international tours organized by the academy. He has had the privilege of touring South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Australia — three incredible experiences that have shaped him immensely, both as a cricketer and as a young individual. These tours exposed him to different playing conditions, diverse cultures, and a level of competition that truly tested and elevated his game. Beyond cricket, they taught him independence, teamwork, and adaptability — life lessons he will carry far beyond the boundary rope.



We are deeply grateful to the entire Desert Cubs team — the management, coaching staff, and the Founder/CEO — for their unwavering commitment to nurturing young talent and providing a platform where children can dream big and achieve bigger. The academy has not just developed a cricketer in Aarav; it has helped shape a better, more confident human being.

Thank you, Desert Cubs, for everything.

Amit & Kosha Vora

Parents of Aarav Vora

Deira International School Centre
(DC DIS Western Warriors)



Message from the Centre In-Charge of Desert Cubs Star International School Centre (DC SIS Eastern Eagles)



As the Centre In-Charge of the Desert Cubs Star International School, Al Qusais, Dubai Centre, it is my absolute pleasure to share a few words in this year's Desert Cubs magazine.

The SIS Centre burst onto the scene, inaugurated by the legendary Sri Lankan Former Test Cricketer Marvan Atapattu on 16th October 2022. Our goal was to ignite a passion for cricket and empower young athletes from all walks of life to embrace this beautiful sport and chase their dreams.

We are incredibly proud of the vibrant cricket community we have built over the years. Each age-group is thriving, pushing boundaries, and showing incredible talent. I am happy that all the children have gotten ample opportunities to participate in a number of internal and external tournaments throughout the season, which is a much-needed exposure for them. Through this experience they have gained knowledge about the beautiful game of cricket and the passion to excel in a sport.

Over the last 4 years, we have developed many cricketers competing at the UAE domestic level. Eight of our players have been selected for Inter-Emirates U13 and U15 teams, and three players are currently in the UAE U16 camp – a proud milestone for our centre.

This progress is only possible because of our coaching staff and their commitment to professional coaching, skill development, match awareness, fitness, and mental toughness which has taken this centre to the next level. In addition, thank you to the admin and ground staff at SIS for your tireless support. Lastly, my sincere gratitude goes to the Star International School management for their continuous support, and the Desert Cubs members and parents for their support in the growth and success of the

SIS Centre.

Desert Cubs truly stands as one of the largest and most professional academies in the UAE, and I am honoured to be a part of this powerhouse. We strive to continuously provide high quality coaching for the betterment of our young cubs, and to bring their abilities to the highest level possible.

Muhammad Ejaz
Center In-Charge
Star International School Centre (DC SIS Eastern Eagles)





My Training Experience at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

By Mayur Gurnani

Member of the Under 15 Squad at Star International School
(DC SIS Eastern Eagles)



My cricket journey began at the English College Dubai (ECD), where I first picked up a bat under Coach Ejaz. His passion for the game ignited a fire in me. As I trained and grew, we moved to Star International School (SIS), where I continued to learn and refine my skills under Coach Ejaz's watchful eye.

My journey didn't stop there. Through Desert Cubs, I have had the incredible opportunity of touring the world's cricketing heartlands – South Africa, England, Australia, and Sri Lanka. Each tour was a new chapter of growth and adventure, filled with unforgettable matches, new friendships, and the chance to play on iconic pitches.

I am proud to have been a member of the teams that won 4 championship titles on international tours; the Best Team award in the Desert Cubs Cricket

Academy Tour of South Africa 2022, Champions of the Under 13 ICCA Global Academy Championship 2023 in the United Kingdom, Champions of the Under 13 ICCA Global Academy Championship 2024 in Australia, and Champions of the Under 15 GCCA International Academy T20 Championship 2025 in Sri Lanka.

Under the local recent achievements, we have emerged as Champions of U15 DC Super League 2026 tournament under my captaincy. In addition, I won 2 Player of the Match awards in this tournament. I also represented the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy in the Under 15 ECB National Academy League 2025-2026, during which our team won all the league matches to reach the Final and emerged as Runners up of the tournament. This was a memorable moment for the entire team.

I am very excited for another UK tour with Desert Cubs in July 2026. I believe it's going to be my best tour yet – for learning, for competition, and for creating more great memories.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Head Coach Presley and Coach Ejaz for their unwavering support and guidance. Without them, this journey would not have been possible.

Thanks to everyone at Desert Cubs, I have grown a lot as a cricketer and as a person.

Parents' view on Desert Cubs Cricket

As parents of two boys, Ibrahim (12) and Imad (9), we have had a fantastic experience with Desert Cubs Cricket Academy and have been incredibly impressed with the positive impact it has had on them, both as cricketers and as young individuals.

Our older son, Ibrahim, joined the academy two years ago when he first started playing cricket, and our younger son, Imad, followed a year later. Since then, both boys have developed tremendously, not only in their cricketing abilities but also in their confidence, discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Both boys regularly attend the academy's group coaching sessions, which combine net practice with match-based training, and they also benefit from individual coaching sessions focused on specific aspects of batting, bowling, and fielding. The coaches are knowledgeable, encouraging, and genuinely invested in helping each player reach their potential.

One of the things we value most are the opportunities the academy provides for players to compete. Both Ibrahim and Imad have represented Desert Cubs in various inter-academy competitions and Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) tournaments, giving them invaluable match experience and helping them grow as cricketers.



A particular highlight was the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy tour to Sri Lanka in 2025. The boys had the opportunity to play against strong local opposition on excellent grounds while experiencing a different cricketing culture. As parents, we also enjoyed travelling with the group, meeting other families, and exploring the beautiful country. It was a fantastic experience that created lasting memories for everyone involved.

Over the years, we have seen significant progress in both of our sons, and much of that is down to the dedication and professionalism of the Desert Cubs coaching team. We are grateful to be part of the Desert Cubs family and look forward to many more years ahead.

Yasir Mahmood & Rabbia Yunus

Parents of Ibrahim & Imad Mahmood

Star International School Centre (DC SIS Eastern Eagles)



Message from the Centre In-Charge of Desert Cubs Baseline Sports Academy Centre (DC BSA Southern Scorpions)



On 20th September 2025, we officially launched the first indoor facility of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, at the Baseline Sports Academy (BSA) located in DIP 2.

With great pride, I can say that this facility provides an outstanding environment for our young and energetic cricketers to improve their game throughout the year. No matter the weather conditions, we are committed to ensuring that training and development continue without interruption, helping players maintain their rhythm and progress consistently.

On behalf of Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors and the indoor BSA facility management for their continuous support and belief in our vision.

Special thanks to the Desert Cubs Management for taking this academy to a higher level across the UAE and Gulf region. Your dedication and leadership continue to inspire excellence.

I would also like to thank all our coaches, admin staff, and ground staff for their tremendous hard work behind the scenes. Your efforts and commitment play a major role in building quality players for the future.

Last but certainly not least, my deepest respect and gratitude go to all our players and their parents for trusting us and being part of this journey. Your support, dedication, and belief in Desert Cubs Cricket Academy motivates us to keep growing stronger every season. Together, we continue to build not only better cricketers, but stronger individuals for the future.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all the young cricketers embarking on the UK Tour 2026. This journey is not only an opportunity to showcase your cricketing talent, but also to learn, grow, and develop character through discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Represent your academy with pride, respect the spirit of the game, and make every experience count. May this tour inspire you to dream bigger, work harder, and return stronger both on and off the field. Wishing you success, memorable experiences, and a wonderful tour ahead.

Thank you all once again, and we look forward to an even greater season ahead!

Angelo Silva

Center In-Charge

Baseline Sports Academy Centre (DC BSA Southern Scorpions)





My Training Experience at Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

By Yaseen Sheeraz Butt

Member of the Under 11 Squad at Baseline Sports Academy (DC BSA Southern Scorpions)



Before I joined Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, my dad taught me how to bowl in our living room at home. I also started playing tape ball cricket at school when they introduced it about two years ago. Then my dad signed me up for Desert Cubs in October last year, and since then my cricket journey has been amazing, hard-working, fun, and exciting at the same time.

One thing I really love about Desert Cubs is that training is always fun. We do everything — batting, bowling, fielding, fitness, matches, and tournament games. I used to only play with tape balls at school, so using a leather ball at training felt scary at first, but now I really enjoy it and feel much more confident.

At the beginning, I thought my bowling was already good, but once I started training properly, I realised I was making a lot of mistakes without even knowing it! Coach Angelo helped me improve my bowling so much by teaching me the correct techniques and always giving me pointers when I made mistakes instead of getting angry. He is really kind, knows a lot about cricket, and gives everyone one-to-one time even when the groups are big. I also had no idea how to bat or field properly before joining the academy, but now I have improved so much because of all the coaches and the training sessions at different grounds.

Another cool thing is that we train at many different places, so you get experience in different environments. We also get cricket kits and chances to play tournaments, which makes you feel like a real cricketer.

One thing I will always remember is that even during the war, when schools were closed and most activities stopped, Desert Cubs kept their training going. It helped us get out of the house, stay active, and be able to continue doing something fun instead of being stuck indoors all day.

Desert Cubs has helped me improve my cricket a lot, but most importantly, it has made me enjoy the game even more every single week.

Parents' view on Desert Cubs Cricket

Living the Dream: How Desert Cubs BSA Transformed My Sons' Cricket Journey

Every parent wants to give their children the opportunities they never had. Growing up, I had a burning passion for cricket. I dreamed of stepping onto the pitch, hearing the crowd, and mastering the perfect cover drive. Unfortunately, due to the high expenses of professional training back then, that dream remained unfulfilled. But life has a beautiful way of coming full circle. Today, I am living my childhood dream through my boys, and it's all thanks to the Desert Cubs Cricket Academy.

Our journey with the Desert Cubs family began in 2023 when I enrolled my elder son, Devarsh, at the Delhi Private School (DPS) branch. From day one, it was clear this wasn't just about hitting a ball; it was about building character. Devarsh grew leaps and bounds, absorbing crucial cricketing techniques, sharpening his focus, and understanding the true meaning of discipline. His dedication was truly tested during the 2024 Summer Camp. Braving the intense summer heat, Devarsh showed the grit of a true sportsman, turning up to practice every day with an unyielding smile.

Inspiration is contagious. Watching his older brother transform into a confident cricketer deeply motivated my younger son, Yuvan. Seeing that spark in his eyes, we officially inducted Yuvan into the Desert Cubs family during the Winter of 2024. Suddenly, our backyard wasn't big enough anymore—cricket had officially taken over our household!

As 2025 rolled around, we were on the lookout for another summer camp to keep the boys' momentum going. That's when Desert Cubs gave us a wonderful surprise: the opening of the BSA Indoor branch. It was here that we met Coach Angelo, a mentor who would completely revolutionize the boys' cricketing journey.

Coach Angelo took the foundation built at DPS centre and elevated it to the next level. Recognizing their potential, he made the bold and brilliant decision to fast-track Devarsh and Yuvan directly into hard-ball cricket. This transition was a monumental turning point. Under Coach Angelo's expert guidance, the boys didn't just adapt to the hard ball—they thrived.

Today, both Devarsh and Yuvan are deeply involved in the sport. Their respective skill levels, confidence, and passion have improved beyond recognition.



As a father, standing on the sidelines and watching my sons pad up, face fast bowlers, and play with such maturity is an indescribable feeling. I might not have gotten to wear the pads as a kid, but seeing the joy and success in my boys' eyes is worth a thousand centuries.

Thank you, Desert Cubs BSA, and thank you, Coach Angelo, for turning a father's old dream into a spectacular reality for the next generation!

Abhishek & Khushi Dubey

Parents of Devarsh and Yuvan Dubey

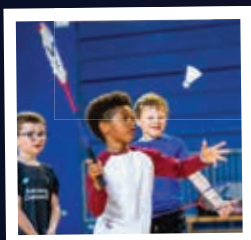
Baseline Sports Academy Centre (DC BSA Southern Scorpions)



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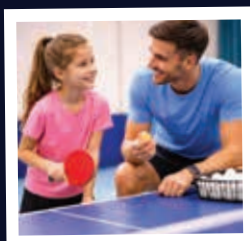


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Beyond the Boundary:

A Desert Cubs Journey of Giving

Cricket may be our game, but compassion has always been our greater purpose

At Desert Cubs Cricket Academy, the boundary rope has never been the end of our story. It has simply been the line from where a larger journey begins — a journey that travels beyond runs, wickets, trophies, and scoreboards, into the lives of children, families, schools, and communities who deserve to be seen, supported, and remembered.

For years, Desert Cubs has carried a simple belief at its heart: cricket is not only about creating players; it is about creating people. It is about teaching young cricketers that success means more when it is shared, that talent becomes powerful when it serves others, and that a team is not measured only by how it performs on the field, but by how it stands beside people off the field.

That belief has shaped our social responsibility work across Sri Lanka. From regular visits to the Sputnik Girls Orphanage in Kurunegala, to cricket gear donations for rural schools and young players, Desert Cubs has continued to use its tours, academy network, parents, coaches, and well-wishers to create moments of real impact. What began as acts of kindness has grown into a culture — one where giving back is not an event, but a tradition.

Over the years, Desert Cubs has supported orphanages, schools, and junior cricketers with cricket equipment, books, stationery, laptops, and community assistance. Bats, pads, gloves, helmets, balls, bags, and wicket-keeping gear have reached young cricketers who may have had the passion to play, but not always the resources to begin. For a child in a rural school, a donated bat is never just a bat. It is permission to dream. A pair of pads is not just equipment. It is confidence. A cricket bag filled with gear can become the first step towards a future that once felt far away.

Our 2025 Sri Lanka charity programme marked one of the most meaningful chapters in this journey. With the support of the Rachel Foundation UAE, Desert Cubs helped distribute hundreds of kilograms of storybooks and learning materials to children in Sri Lanka. Books reached young hands in Sputnik Girls Orphanage and St. Fatima Church in Kurunegala, opening doors to imagination, language, confidence, and knowledge. In the same spirit, cricket gear donations continued to support St. Ann's College in Kurunegala, Weerasekara National School in Katukithula and Kangalla National School in Kandy and other deserving junior players, proving once again that education and sport can walk together towards the same goal — opportunity.

But our responsibility has never stopped with planned donations alone. When families in Sri Lanka were affected by Cyclone Ditwah, the Desert Cubs community responded with the same heart that has always guided us. During our Sports Day in December 2025, donations made by our members became more than contributions; they became relief, comfort, and hope. Through that support, Desert Cubs was able to assist four affected families in Sri Lanka — families facing hardship after losing safety, stability, and peace of mind in the wake of disaster.

That moment reminded us of something powerful: a cricket community can become a lifeline. A member's contribution from a Sports Day in the UAE can reach a family rebuilding life in Sri Lanka. A child training in Dubai or Sharjah can become part of a story of kindness thousands of miles away. A team can become a bridge. ***This is the true spirit of Desert Cubs.***

We are proud of the championships we have won, the tours we have completed, and the players we have developed. But beyond every trophy, there is a deeper legacy we hope to build — a legacy of responsibility, gratitude, and human connection. Because cricket gave us a platform, and with that platform comes a duty to serve.

At Desert Cubs, we believe the greatest victories are not always celebrated under floodlights. Sometimes they happen quietly — when a child receives a book, when a young cricketer holds his first proper bat, when an orphanage feels remembered, or when a family affected by disaster realises they are not alone.

Cricket is our language. Kindness is our message. And beyond every boundary, Desert Cubs will continue to give back.

Prashan Amarasiri

Administrator – SIS Centre

Desert Cubs Cricket Academy





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Goan girl extends 'Books for All' initiative to Sri Lanka

The Rachel Foundation has so far donated over 6,000 books across five countries, working with schools, organisations, and libraries

THE GOAN | 05th September, 10:43 pm



in the region.

At a ceremonial handover held in Colombo at the Cinnamon Lakeside View Hotel, during the Desert Cubs Awarding Ceremony, a curated selection of educational books was presented to Sri Lanka's Sports Minister Sunil Gamage in the presence of Rachel Dias and Presley Polonnowita, along with Chris Obesekara (Mercantile Cricket Association, Nalin Wickramasinghe (MCA), Sonam Kaur (Owner of HJ Unicare & Kulcha King), Rusan Fyroz (CEO Siraj Finance), Lasantha Anarasinghe (Owner of Chance Sports), Rumesh Ratnayake (former cricket star), Vishwa Fernando (current test player), Chrisantha Kappukottuwa (Sri Lanka Cricket Board Member).

The donation was part of a joint outreach between the Rachel Foundation and Desert Cubs, emphasising their shared commitment to youth development through both education and sport. Following the official handover, the books were distributed to Sputnik Girls' Home in Kurunegala, a reputable children's welfare centre that cares for girls from vulnerable backgrounds. A small library within the campus has been set up to allow children to read books at the library.

"Books have the power to change lives," said Rachel. "This project is about giving every child, no matter their circumstance, the tools to dream, learn, and succeed."

The Desert Cubs Sports Academy, which has a longstanding presence in youth sports development across the UAE and Sri Lanka, partnered on the initiative to reinforce the value of holistic growth—combining education with physical development.

Sports Minister Sunil Gamage welcomed the donation, noting: "Empowering young minds through education is vital for our country's future. I commend the Rachel Foundation and Desert Cubs for this initiative and their commitment to uplifting Sri Lankan youth."

The staff and children at Sputnik Girls' Home warmly received the donation, expressing their appreciation and excitement for the new learning materials.

"This donation is a small step toward ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to knowledge and inspiration. Education and sports go hand in hand in shaping tomorrow's leaders. Today's gesture is not just about giving books—it's about giving opportunity," said Presley Polonnowita, Founder and Head coach of Desert Cubs Sports Academy.

This initiative marks the Rachel Foundation's first project in Sri Lanka under its 'Books for All' campaign, which has already made a lasting impact in several countries by providing books and educational support to under-resourced communities.

Since its inception, the Rachel Foundation has donated over 6,000 books across five countries, working with schools, organisations, and libraries. The Sri Lanka chapter is its most ambitious campaign yet, involving cross-border logistics, local government approvals, and coordination with educators.

The Rachel Foundation will launch an ongoing "Virtual Reading Buddy" programme, where student volunteers from Dubai will connect with Sri Lankan students via video calls for shared reading and language support. The donated collection covers a diverse range of subjects, from storybooks and folk tales to basic science, history, and language acquisition.

Rachel's message is clear: "Literacy is a basic right, not a privilege. The foundation invites individuals, schools, and corporate sponsors to donate books, offer logistic support, or sponsor reading events."

"Many thanks to GEMS Modern Academy and St Mary's High School, Muhaisnah for their generous donation."

"Books are tiny seeds," Rachel said in closing. "You never know when they'll bloom—but they always do."



[From L to R] Presley Polonnowita, Chris Obesekara (MCA), Nalin Wickramasinghe (MCA) Sonam Kaur (Owner of HJ Unicare & Kulcha King), Rusan Fyroz (CEO Siraj Finance), Sunil Gamage (Sri Lanka Sports Minister), Lasantha Anarasinghe (Owner of Chance Sports), Rumesh Ratnayake (former cricket star), Vishwa Fernando (current test player), and Chrisantha Kappukottuwa (Sri Lanka Cricket Board member).



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THE GOAN | 01st August, 11:42 pm

Goan boy shines on 1st cricket tour to Sri Lanka with UAE club

Ten-year-old Troy Jose Dias made his debut on international turf as part of the Under 11 Cheetahs Desert Cubs team of the UAE, which emerged third at the GCCA iT20 Championship held across Sri Lanka in July.

The tour saw junior teams from across the region compete in sweltering conditions and unfamiliar pitches — challenges the young Cheetahs embraced with courage, discipline, and raw talent. The tour, which spanned 10 days, was more than just cricket – it became a defining chapter in the young sporting journey of Troy, the lone Goan in the team.



Troy Dias (kneeling extreme left) in the Under 11 Cheetahs Desert Cubs team of the UAE.

Displaying speed, accuracy, and an aggressive line, Troy's fast-paced bowling challenged top-order batsmen. His standout performance came in the group stage against a strong local Sri Lankan side, where he took 2 wickets in 2 overs.

"For his age, Troy has a rare rhythm and accuracy in his bowling," said Desert Cubs Academy Head coach Presley Polonnowita. "He was consistently attacking the stumps and didn't shy away from pressure moments." But the tour was more than just cricket. It was a chance for Troy to experience a different culture, adapt to new playing conditions, and learn from his teammates and opponents alike. From spicy Sri Lankan food to rainy morning training sessions, the experience left a lasting mark.

Incidentally, Troy and his twin sister, Rachel, are also award-winning swimmers who hail from Margao and presently studying



Troy Dias in action with the Under-11 Cheetahs Desert Cubs team of the UAE, at the GCCA iT20 Championship held across Sri Lanka in July.

at a British school in Dubai. Rachel and Troy have also authored their own storybooks, 'Rose never gives up' by Rachel and 'Bob-the Robot' by Troy.

Their father, Terrence, played cricket for Goa, while their mother, Remy, was a former teacher at Manovikas School in Margao.

Adapting to playing conditions

Troy had bowled a few wides and no ball in the first match, but after two matches on Sri Lankan pitches, he learned how to adjust his technique and strategy. "Playing against local Sri Lankan teams exposed me to different bowling speeds, spin variations, and batting styles, which sharpened my cricketing skills and game awareness," said Troy.

"I just turned 10 and I feel blessed to have been part of this cricket tour. I have learnt so much from it and all these learning experiences will remain with me as I grow. The best lesson I have learnt is the importance of teamwork." "I learnt how we rely on each other to succeed. From this Desert Cubs Tour, I have developed

mental toughness, specially built concentration, patience, and the ability to stay calm under pressure."

Lessons beyond cricket

Troy said he developed cultural understanding and respect during his tour of Sri Lanka. "Experiencing Sri Lankan culture first-hand, its people, traditions, food, and daily life, has broadened my world-view and deepened my respect for diversity," acknowledged Troy. By representing my team abroad, I learned about the importance of discipline, punctuality, respect, and being a good ambassador.

Independence, confidence

Seeing a new part of the world gave Troy a deeper appreciation for his own life and opportunities. "Some members of opponent teams mentioned to me at lunch time that they were eating a pizza for the first time as they their family cannot afford one. My most memorable experience was sharing food with the other team along with my teammates. And the best of all I have built lasting friendship with teammates. Spending

time with teammates and meeting new friends in Sri Lanka was the best part of the tour," said Troy.

Beyond the boundary

But it wasn't just the wickets that defined Troy's tour. Off the pitch, he soaked in the culture of Sri Lanka. From exploring the iconic Nine Arch bridge with teammates to learning about the wildlife on a safari at Yala National Park, the trip became a blend of sport and unforgettable cultural immersion.

"Troy has not only grown as a cricketer on this tour, but more importantly as a young ambassador of the game," said Cheetahs coach Pasindu.

As the team flew back to the UAE with hearts full of memories, Troy said, "This tour showed me the kind of player and person I want to become. I can't wait for the next one."

Passion for environment

Besides his flair for cricket, Troy is the Green Ambassador for World Wide Fund for Nature in UAE. He is also an active member of the Emirates Environment Group that trains students to execute environment-friendly projects in their community. He had organised a 'Clean-Up Day' at a park in Dubai, inviting a few of his classmates and neighbours to participate in the event.

In October last year, Troy reached out to primary students at the Holy Spirit Institute, Margao, St Anthony's High School, Margao, and at Holy Cross School, Cavellissim, to develop an understanding about recycling, composting, and the importance of reducing waste.



Presley Polonnowita, Founder and Head Coach of Desert Cubs Academy, along with Troy Dias.



SIRAJ FINANCE DESERT CUBS
CRICKET TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2025











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*To the parents of our academy; your commitment, loyalty, and
presence have made every achievement possible.*

Thank you for being Our Pillars of Support

*Your dedication has made our journey easier, our goals achievable,
and our dreams a reality.*

*Desert Cubs management and coaches extend our deepest thanks
for your invaluable contributions and continuous belief in our mission.*

You are the Champions of Our Cricketing Community

*Your love, sacrifices, and encouragement have nurtured the talents of tomorrow. We celebrate you
as the true champions behind our young cricketers' success.*

With Heartfelt Appreciation,

Desert Cubs Management & Coaches





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- The Rulers of United Arab Emirates
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- Mr. Gaminii Gunasekara Samarasinghe – Head Curator at Sharjah English School
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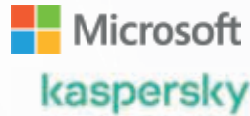
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