

Canada Cup T20: Creating Cricket Stars of Tomorrow!

TORONTO – Here's your chance to represent India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies, England, Bangladesh or World XI in Canada. If you had a dream of representing your home country one day, and if that dream was shattered as a result of your parents moving into Canada - we've got some great news for you.

The Canada Cup T20 will help you dream and dream "BIG" again as we pave the way for some talented cricketers to reach International stardom in the Cricketing arena. The tournament will no doubt energize cricketers from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, England, Bangladesh, West Indies, South Africa, etc to follow in the foot steps of their Cricket Stars whether be Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka), Sachin Tendulkar (India), Shaid Afridi (Pakistan), Brian Lara (West Indies), Graeme Smith (South Africa), Mike Hussey (Australia) or any other Internationally recognized top cricketer.

The organizers said although Cricket has been played in this great nation for well over a century, the recent influx of immigrants from cricket playing nations especially, from South Asia and the Caribbean have made the game the fastest growing sport in Canada. Almost every ground has some Cricket

activity although the necessary funding has not kept up with the pace of its rapid growth, in Canada.

In March 2008 we initiated a very important meeting between the Chairman of Sri Lanka Cricket Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga M. P. and the Canadian Cricket Association officials which in



turn paved the way for much needed funding to the Canadian National Cricket Side and more importantly Canada's biggest cricket tournament worth \$2 million dollars in October, 2008. The relationship that the Canadian Cricket Association built with Sri Lanka Cricket also saw the Canadian Cricketers arrive in Colombo, Sri Lanka for a high performance coaching camp and more of these training programs will take wing in the

coming years. Now, we are ready to undertake this exciting venture that will see Canadian Cricketers gain the knowledge and the experience needed to win the Cricket World Cup for Canada, in the near future.

Here's How It Works

Canada Cup T20 will allow cricketers who have arrived in Canada from: India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, England, Bangladesh, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Leeward Islands, Windward Island, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Afghanistan, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland, etc to come alive and represent their favourite team in Canada.

The Teams that will take the field are as follows: Team Canada India; Team Canada Sri Lanka; Team Canada Pakistan; Team Canada West Indies (Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Leeward Islands, Windward Island); Team Canada England (England- Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand); Team Canada Bangladesh; Team Canada World XI (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Afghanistan, UAE).

The Selection Process

Interested parties are requested to register online by visiting

www.CanadaCupT20.com and a nominal Administration fee of \$10 is in place to encourage cricketers who are serious about representing their home country participate. Once the registration process is in place the "Canada Cup T20 - Organizing committee" will schedule a suitable location to screen every player on their ability to represent the team of their choice.

We will select a pool of players for each team and the Coaches, Captains and their Managers will then select the Top cricketers off that pool to represent their country in Canada. No player will be encouraged outside our normal selection process and we encourage only serious candidates to be a part of this exciting venture.

Plans are underway to include 2 international players to represent each team, should budgets permit. We hope that this will allow Canadian Cricketers to gain much needed experience to make their dream a reality in the world of cricket.

The games will take place in Toronto, Canada and entertain scores of South Asians, Caribbean's and all other Canadian cricket fans in July 2010.

What should I do?

If you are the cricketer that we're looking for then simply fill out the registration form and once the registration is approved by the Canada Cup T20 -organizing committee, you will receive an online confirmation. Please keep this confirmation handy as you will be required to present it to the Team Manager at the selection process and there after.

We welcome you to be a part of this exciting moment in Canadian history and wish you all the very best as you step into your cricket future in style by being a part of Canada's hottest cricket tournament the CANADA CUP TWENTY20 – 2010.

For more information please call: Romesh Malcolm, Marketing & Communications CANADA CUP TWENTY20 001-416-830-4135 www.CanadaCupT20.com

Lalit Modi wants to take IPL to USA

By Jaffer Bilgrami

NEW YORK – The Pakistan Cricket Board and Indian Premier League have planned to stage cricket matches in the U.S. as early as this year.

Pakistan and USA Cricket Association officials said they have discussed organizing a series in the U.S. featuring Pakistan's World Twenty20 championship team. The discussions took place at an International Cricket Council meeting this week in Dubai.

"While the two boards are still finalizing the dates and the types of match competitions, assurances were made by both parties that a long-term agreement to play in the U.S. will begin with a match series later in 2010," the governing bodies said in a joint statement.

Pakistan has been forced to play home series in neutral countries in recent years. Security concerns prevent international teams from touring the Asian nation, which faces suicide bombings and a Taliban insurgency.

The ICC stripped Pakistan of the right to host some 2011 World

Cup matches after a terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore 11 months ago left eight people dead and five Sri Lanka players and a coach injured. The sport's governing body also moved last year's Champions Trophy competition from the country to South Africa because of safety concerns. Pakistan's last "home" series on foreign soil was against New Zealand in the United Arab Emirates in November. The team is scheduled to play two Tests and two Twenty20 matches against Australia in England in July.

By taking international matches into the American market, the Pakistan Cricket Board is seeking to attract new fans as well as tapping interest from Pakistanis and Indians living in the U.S., where the sport mainly is played by immigrants. "Pakistan playing as a full member in the USA is in line with the ICC policy to grow the sport in countries such as the United States," PCB Chairman Ejaz Butt said in the statement. Top officials from the Indian Premier League, cricket's richest

competition, met with USA Cricket Chief Executive Officer Donald Lockerbie in Dubai to discuss staging Twenty20 matches in the U.S. as early as 2011. Giving leading U.S. cricketers the opportunity to play in the eight-team league also was examined. The two parties said they will work on a master plan to take the IPL to the U.S. and will form a working group in May.

"The North American continent has emerged as the second-largest market in terms of revenue and viewership for Indian cricket," IPL Chairman Lalit Modi said in a statement. "We are confident of taking the IPL to the U.S. in the near future."

Twenty20, the sport's shortest format, might represent cricket's best chance of winning over fans in the U.S., according to U.S. national team captain Steve Massiah. While elite Test matches can last as long as five days and one-day internationals take about eight hours, Twenty20 games typically are completed in about 3 1/2 hours and feature more big hitting from batsmen.

Ban Shahid Afridi campaign gains momentum

ISLAMABAD – A Senate committee on sports said on Monday that all-rounder Shahid Afridi should be banned from the national team for three to four international series after being found guilty of ball-tampering.

Afridi was banned for two Twenty20 games for biting the ball during the final One-day International against Australia last month. At a meeting of the committee, Senator Tariq Azeem told Pakistan Cricket Board officials that Afridi had besmirched the country's repu-

tation and should be further punished. "If he (Afridi) bites the ball like an apple there's lots of problems behind it," Senator Haroon Akhtar told PCB chairman Ijaz Butt during a meeting of Upper House committee on Sports. "If you don't take action this will happen again. The team lacks discipline and you got to rectify the problem."

According to *The News* report: The menace of match-fixing could be in the spotlight again after the issue came under discussion at a meeting of the

Senate's standing committee on sports in Islamabad on Monday.

In fact, one of the senators said that match-fixing is the biggest problem for Pakistan cricket, stressing that most of the national players have links to it.

"The main problem in the Pakistan team is gambling and match-fixing. Most of the members of the Pakistan team are involved in it," Senator Enver Baig, who was specially invited to attend the meeting, told *'The News'*.

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