

BCCI largesse for other sports reduced to \$62.30 mn

The Finance Committee of the Indian cricket board has revised the sum promised to other sports two years ago from the Rs.500 million (\$124.60 million) to Rs.250 million (\$62.30 million) for three years.

In May 2006, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced it would earmark \$124.60 million to help individual sportspersons and then follow it up with a sum of Rs.360 million (\$90 million) to Rs.380 million (\$94.5 million) in subsequent years.

But over the last two years, the 'Centres of Excellence' scheme, announced by BCCI president Sharad Pawar and launched in conjunction with the sports ministry, has undergone a major change and the board's finance committee approved it in [Chennai](#) Tuesday.

The meeting decided that the BCCI would now provide Rs.250 million for a period of three years and a matching amount will be provided by the sports ministry, said a senior board official Wednesday.

The combined fund of Rs.500 million will be deposited with the National Sports Development Fund.

The minute details of the revised scheme are being worked out.

A committee comprising four or five members each from the ministry and the board will soon be formed to frame the entitlement rules.

In 2006, the BCCI and the ministry finalised that squash and 14 Olympic disciplines would get the benefit of the unique scheme.

The Olympic sports were: archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis and wrestling.

The idea behind choosing the 15 disciplines was that they are individual sports and the chances of winning medals at the Olympics and other global competitions are better.

The 'Centres of Excellence' programme is aimed at achieving excellence by the 2016 Olympic Games.

Athletes in the eight-16 age-group will be chosen for the scheme as the BCCI had insisted that only teenagers be picked up for training in the selected 15 sports. The ministry accepted the condition.

But this criterion could also be altered under the revised scheme.

(© IANS / India eNews)