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## 'Perak Youth team will be retained'

**POH:** Perak Football Association (Pafa) president Datuk Zainol Fadzi Paharuddin has ensured that the Perak youth football team, that won the 2012 National Youth Cup last Sunday would not be disbanded.

He said this was because Pafa had spent a lot of money to prepare the team, through a zone selection last year whereby 100 players had been identified to undergo a training camp for two months before the final selection was done.

"The Pafa management is planning to provide opportunities for players to further their study while training so as

to avoid them from quitting football," he said.

Perak emerged as the National Under-19 champion after scoring a slim 1-0 victory over Perlis at the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Sports Complex's Mini Stadium and pocketed RM20,000 while Perlis took home RM10,000 while Kelantan who finished third after beating Kedah 3-1 received RM5,000.

Zainol Fadzi said he would consult with the higher learning institutions to provide opportunities for players to continue their study through Distance Learning programmes or out campus

study.

"I admit that there are some athletes who have suffered after retiring from their sports career...so, we take this initiative to produce graduate footballers who are equipped with at least a diploma, so that they will be able to secure jobs after they retire from football," he added.

Meanwhile, he noted that the state youth team would be playing in local matches to maintain their performance, and players who have shown good performance will be absorbed to the President's Cup and Super League squads. – Bernama