

= Al @-@ Talaba SC =

Al @-@ Talaba Sport Club (Students Sport Club , Arabic : ????? ???????) is an Iraqi sports club based in Al @-@ Rusafa , Baghdad . Its football team competes in the Iraqi Premier League , the top flight of Iraqi football . Founded as Al @-@ Jameaa Football Club in 1969 , the club changed its name to Al @-@ Talaba in 1977 . The club 's home stadium is Al @-@ Talaba Stadium .

Al @-@ Talaba have won five league titles , with the most recent being in the 2001 ? 02 season . They also achieved two FA Cups and three Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cups , one of the four clubs that won it the most of any Iraqi club . The club also became the runners @-@ up of the 1995 Asian Cup Winners ' Cup . Al @-@ Talaba have won two international club competitions : the 1984 Bangalore Championship and the 2005 Damascus International Championship .

Since it was first established , Al @-@ Talaba was owned by the University of Baghdad . From 1975 to 1993 , Al @-@ Talaba became owned by the National Union of Iraqi Students . Since 1993 , the club is owned by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the minister is the honorary president of the club .

= = History = =

= = = Early years (1964 ? 1980) = = =

In 1964 , the University of Baghdad formed a football club made of the best football @-@ playing students in the university , under the name of Montakhab Jameaat Baghdad , to compete in the Universities of Iraq League . The first president of the club was Hassan Kanah and the first technical staff consisted of the manager , Ghani Askar , and his two assistants , Moayad Al @-@ Badri and Sami Al @-@ Saffar . The first competition that the team played in was the 1964 Republic Championship .

The sports club was founded on 17 December 1969 under the name of Al @-@ Jameaa , which translates to The University , to represent the University of Baghdad in official Iraqi competitions . By a special resolution from the Iraq Football Association , the team 's first participation was in Iraq Division One (second level) without needing to compete in either the second or third divisions . In their first season , 1970 ? 71 , the team under the management of Thamir Muhsin finished top of Division One and were promoted to the League of the Institutes . However , in the 1971 ? 72 League of the Institutes season , they finished in last place and were relegated back to Division One .

After three seasons , Muhsin left the club and Jamal Salih became the new manager , leading the team to promotion in the 1974 ? 75 season . He introduced some players from Montakhab Jameaat Baghdad , who won the 1975 Universities League , to strengthen the team . After finishing eighth in 1976 , Al @-@ Talaba were the runners @-@ up in the 1976 ? 77 season , five points behind the league leaders , Al @-@ Zawra 'a . Halfway through the 1977 ? 78 season , on 27 December 1977 , the club changed its name from Al @-@ Jameaa to Al @-@ Talaba , which translates to The Students . They finished eighth in that season .

In 1978 , Jamal Salih was sacked by the board and was replaced with Abdul Wahab Abdul Qadir , who led the team through the 1978 ? 79 season , their first as Al @-@ Talaba , in which they finished third in the league behind Al @-@ Shorta and Al @-@ Zawra 'a . For the first time , an Al @-@ Talaba player was among the league 's top three goalscorers with Hussein Saeed scoring six goals and Haris Mohammed scoring five . In 1979 , Al @-@ Talaba participated in the University Games , but failed to win the competition .

In the 1979 ? 80 Iraqi National League , under the management of Khalaf Hassan , Al @-@ Talaba finished in third place again with 27 points . Two of their most significant wins that season were beating the eventual league champions , Al @-@ Shorta , 2 ? 0 in the second round of matches on 26 September 1979 and beating Al @-@ Tayaran 1 ? 0 in the 20th round on 24 April 1980 . In the

1979 ? 80 Iraq FA Cup , Al @-@ Talaba reached the final for the first time but they were defeated on 8 February 1980 by Al @-@ Jaish 4 ? 2 on penalties after drawing 1 ? 1 .

= = = Golden years (1980 ? 1986) = = =

Under the management of Ammo Baba , known as the " Sheikh of Coaches " , Al @-@ Talaba won their first Premier League title in the 1980 ? 81 season (while it was known as the National League) . They finished the season as the league leaders with 17 points and had the goal difference of + 14 , the same amount of points and goal difference as Al @-@ Shorta , but Al @-@ Talaba were awarded the title on number of wins as they eight wins and Al @-@ Shorta had six . Hussein Saeed was the top goalscorer of the league with eleven goals .

Before the last round of matches , Al @-@ Talaba had 17 points and Al @-@ Shorta had 15 . Al @-@ Talaba winning in the last round and Al @-@ Shorta losing or drawing would secure the title for Al @-@ Talaba but , in the last match , they lost 1 ? 2 against Al @-@ Tayaran and Al @-@ Shorta won 3 ? 0 against Al @-@ Zawra 'a to create a tie on points and goal difference , Al @-@ Shorta had scored more goals than Al @-@ Talaba and therefore were expected to be crowned champions , but the Iraq FA ruled that the greater number of wins should take precedence and declared Al @-@ Talaba as champions . This was a controversial decision at the time as it was the first time such a phenomenon had happened in Iraqi football .

After achieving their first league title , Al @-@ Talaba succeeded in winning it again in the 1981 ? 82 season under Jamal Salih in his second term as team manager . They finished the season as the league leaders with 34 points , two points ahead of second @-@ placed Al @-@ Tayaran . Hussein Saeed was the second top goalscorer with eleven goals behind Al @-@ Zawra 'a's Thamir Yousif , who scored fourteen .

In the 1982 ? 83 season , Akram Salman was appointed as the team 's new manager . Al @-@ Talaba started the season with confidence having won the league in the last two seasons , but finished in second place , only one point behind the league leaders , Salahaddin . Salahaddin were undefeated in the league while Al @-@ Talaba had a single loss , by 2 ? 0 loss to Al @-@ Sinaa in the second round of matches . The championship was decided in the last match of the season when Al @-@ Talaba met Salahaddin with only one point between them , so Salahaddin needed a win or a draw to secure the title . Al @-@ Talaba scored first and dominated the match until , in the last thirty minutes , Salahaddin managed to equalise . The score remained 1 ? 1 , which won Salahaddin the championship for the first time in their history . Hussein Saeed was the top goalscorer with 17 goals , eight goals ahead of another Al @-@ Talaba player , Rahim Hameed .

Al @-@ Talaba again finished second in the 1983 ? 84 , with 36 points , three behind league leaders , Al @-@ Jaish . In 1984 , Al @-@ Talaba won its first international club competition , the 1984 Bangalore Championship , winning four games and drawing one out of the five games they played in the tournament , which was hosted in Bangalore , India .

The 1984 ? 85 Iraqi National League was abandoned halfway through due to a perceived decline in public interest , described as becoming " non @-@ existent " , after the performances of the Iraq national football team in the 1986 FIFA World Cup qualification (AFC) and winning the 1985 Arab Nations Cup and the 1985 Pan Arab Games . Al @-@ Talaba were in third place with 21 points before the stoppage . They then participated in the Al @-@ Rasheed Cup which was set up by Al @-@ Rasheed after the abandonment of the league . The Al @-@ Rasheed Cup contained twelve of the fourteen top division clubs as well as four lower division clubs . Al @-@ Talaba reached the quarterfinals of the tournament but were knocked out by the eventual winners Al @-@ Rasheed .

After Al @-@ Rasheed was promoted to the top division , most of Iraq 's national team players signed for them , which made it difficult for the other teams to compete . Even so , in the 1985 ? 86 Iraqi National League and under the management of Yahya Alwan , Al @-@ Talaba won their third league title against all expectations . They finished the season with 25 points , two points ahead of the favourites Al @-@ Rasheed . On 27 December 1985 , one of the most important matches of the season , which could have decided the championship , was played between Al @-@ Talaba and Al @-@ Rasheed in front of 50 @-@ 000 spectators at the Al @-@ Shaab Stadium . The match ended

in a 1 ? 0 win for Al @-@ Talaba with the goal being from a penalty taken by Hussein Saeed in the 63rd minute . Saeed was the season 's joint top goalscorer along with Ahmed Radhi and Rahim Hameed . Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 1986 Asian Club Championship after 14 years of stoppage , where they reached the final round but finished last in the table with a single point . Al @-@ Talaba also participated in the Saddam International Tournament in 1986 , hosted in Baghdad , but finished third in their group and failed to reach the semi @-@ finals . By winning the league , Al @-@ Talaba qualified for the 1986 Al @-@ Muthabara Cup but were defeated 2 ? 1 by Al @-@ Rasheed .

= = = Ups and downs (1986 ? 1992) = = =

Due to managerial changes and instability , the 1986 ? 87 Iraqi National League ended with Al @-@ Talaba in sixth place , having totaled 49 points , under the consecutive management of Ahmed Subhi , Yahya Alwan and Jamal Salih . The season after , Al @-@ Talaba under the management of Yousif Abdul @-@ Ameer finished in eighth place with only 30 points . This was their worst National League performance since 1975 ? 76 .

Al @-@ Talaba returned to winning ways under the management of Jamal Ali in the 1988 ? 89 season , which was played in a different format to previous seasons . They finished fourth in the Baghdad Group , just ahead of Al @-@ Shorta , to qualify for the final tournament , where they finished second in Group 1 , behind Al @-@ Zawraa , to qualify for the semi @-@ finals . In the semi @-@ finals , Al @-@ Talaba defeated Al @-@ Tayaran 6 ? 5 on penalties after a 1 ? 1 draw . In the final , Al @-@ Talaba faced their rivals , Al @-@ Rasheed , at the Al @-@ Shaab Stadium . The match ended 1 ? 1 at full time with their goal scored by Ali Hussein . It went to penalties where Hussein Saeed missed his penalty and enabled Al @-@ Rasheed to win 5 ? 4 . That season , Al @-@ Talaba also finished as runners @-@ up in the Al @-@ Intisar Cup , behind Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya .

In the 1989 ? 90 Iraqi National League , which returned to the normal league format , Al @-@ Talaba finished in sixth place with 31 points , having won twelve matches , drawn seven and lost seven . In the cup , they reached the fifth round when they won at home to Al @-@ Sulaikh 1 ? 0 and lost 3 ? 1 away . This was Hussein Saeed 's final season with Al @-@ Talaba before he retired . In the next season , under the management of the club 's first and only foreign coach , Eddie Firmani , and Yahya Alwan , they finished second with 41 points .

In the 1991 ? 92 season , Al @-@ Talaba finished in fourth place with 55 points . The vice @-@ president of Al @-@ Talaba , Salim Rasheed , organised a competition called the Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup in which only the top six teams in the league could participate with all the matches being played at the Al @-@ Shaab Stadium . Al @-@ Talaba won their first match against Al @-@ Shorta 1 ? 0 and lost their second match against Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya 1 ? 0 , qualifying them for the semi @-@ finals where they lost to Al @-@ Zawra 'a 1 ? 0 after an early goal by Mohammed Jassim Mahdi . In the third @-@ place match , Al @-@ Talaba faced Al @-@ Karkh whom they defeated 4 ? 3 on penalties after a 2 ? 2 draw . The 1991 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup ended with Al @-@ Zawra 'a as winners .

= = = Stability and Asian prominence (1992 ? 2001) = = =

During the longest season in Iraqi football , the 1992 ? 93 season , when every club played 69 matches , Al @-@ Talaba had Yahya Alwan as their manager in the first stage of the league , in which they won 14 matches , drawn seven and lost two , 1 ? 0 against Kirkuk and the same score against Samarra . They completed the stage in third place with 35 points . Before the start of the second stage , Al @-@ Talaba signed Ayoub Odisho as their new manager , and he led them through the second stage to have exactly the same statistics as the first one , finishing with 70 points and in second place . In the third stage , the team won 18 matches , drew four and lost only once against Al @-@ Khutoot . After 69 matches , Al @-@ Talaba finished top of the league with 110 points , having scored 130 goals and conceded 34 . In the 1992 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup

which was organised by the Iraq FA , Al @-@ Talaba finished the group stage as the Group Two leaders with four points . In the semi @-@ finals , they had to face Al @-@ Zawra 'a in a match which was considered a replay of the 1991 semi @-@ final which Al @-@ Zawra 'a won 1 ? 0 . In this match , Al @-@ Talaba won 3 ? 2 with a golden goal in the 100th minute during extra time . In the final against Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya , the match ended in a 0 ? 0 draw which led to extra time when Alaa Kadhim scored the winning goal in the 104th minute . In the 1992 ? 93 Iraq FA Cup , Al @-@ Talaba reached the final after defeating Haifa , Salahaddin , Salam and Samarra . In the final , they lost to Al @-@ Zawra 'a 2 ? 1 .

After almost achieving a treble in the 1992 ? 93 season , Al @-@ Talaba were managed by Hussein Saeed in the first half of the 1993 ? 94 season and Ayoub Odisho in the second ; they finished in third place with 75 points . In the 1993 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , they came second in the Group One table behind Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya . In the semi @-@ finals , Al @-@ Talaba met Al @-@ Zawra 'a for the third time in a row and won 3 ? 1 . In the final , they faced Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya for the second time and defeated them 2 ? 1 at the Al @-@ Shaab Stadium , winning their second successive Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup under the management of Saeed . In the 1993 ? 94 Iraq FA Cup , Al @-@ Talaba again faced Al @-@ Zawra 'a in the final but lost by the same score as in the previous season , 2 ? 1 . In the 1994 ? 95 Iraqi National League , Al @-@ Talaba finished fourth with 105 points , two points behind Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya in second place and Najaf in third . In the last round , Al @-@ Talaba faced Al @-@ Zawra 'a needing a win to finish second , but they lost 2 ? 1 . In the fourth edition of the Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , Al @-@ Talaba reached the final against Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya but lost 4 ? 3 on penalties after a 0 ? 0 draw .

In the 1995 ? 96 season , Al @-@ Talaba finished in sixth place with 31 points , having won eight matches , drawn seven and lost seven . They reached the final of the 1995 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , coming up against Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya for the fourth time in a row in this competition , and Al @-@ Talaba won with a single goal scored by Abdul @-@ Wahab Abu Al @-@ Hail , achieving their third Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup success . After Al @-@ Zawra 'a achieved a double in the 1993 ? 94 season , the Iraq FA chose the FA Cup runners @-@ up , Al @-@ Talaba , as Iraq 's representative in the 1995 Asian Cup Winners ' Cup . Under the management of Ayoub Odisho , they defeated Al @-@ Gharafa in the first leg in Doha 5 ? 3 and lost in the second leg 1 ? 0 at the Al @-@ Shaab Stadium . In the second round , they came up against Yangiyer and lost 2 ? 1 in Tashkent before they turned it around to win 2 ? 0 in Baghdad with goals from Muhannad Mohammed and Qahtan Chathir . In the quarter @-@ finals , Al @-@ Talaba won their first leg against Bahman in Tehran 1 ? 0 with a goal by Sabah Jeayer . At the Al @-@ Shaab Stadium , Bahman won 1 ? 0 for a 1 ? 1 draw on aggregate . The match went to a golden goal decider which was scored by Chathir . Al @-@ Talaba had now qualified for the semi @-@ finals where they were drawn to meet Kazma SC of Kuwait but Kazma withdrew from the tournament , refusing to play against Al @-@ Talaba because of political tensions between Iraq and other Persian Gulf countries , including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait , in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War . The AFC directed Al @-@ Talaba to play against Al @-@ Riyadh of Saudi @-@ Arabia but they too withdrew for the same reason , and that meant Al @-@ Talaba had a walkover through the semi @-@ finals . In the final , Al @-@ Talaba faced Bellmare Hiratsuka in Kanagawa where they were beaten 2 ? 1 after the winning goal was scored in the 81st minute by Hidetoshi Nakata .

In 1996 , the league was renamed to the Iraqi Premier League , and Al @-@ Talaba finished third in the 1996 ? 97 Iraqi Premier League , winning 17 matches , drawing nine and losing four . They reached the round of 16 in the 1996 ? 97 Iraq FA Cup and didn 't get past the group stage in the 1996 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup . Under the management of Ayoub Odisho , in the 1997 ? 98 season , Al @-@ Talaba finished in fifth place with 61 points , one point behind fourth placed Najaf FC . In the 1997 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , they reached the semi @-@ finals but were defeated by Najaf 3 ? 1 on penalties . In the third place match against Al @-@ Zawra 'a , Al @-@ Talaba were beaten 7 ? 0 which is the most goals ever conceded in a match by Al @-@ Talaba .

In the 1998 ? 99 season , now under the management of Akram Salman , Al @-@ Talaba finished in second place , only one point behind the league leaders , Al @-@ Zawra 'a , with 75 points . In

the 1998 ? 99 Iraq FA Cup , they reached the final after beating Al @-@ Shorta in the semi @-@ finals . They were defeated by Al @-@ Zawra 'a in the final 1 ? 0 . Because of Al @-@ Zawra 'a achieving the double , the 1999 Al @-@ Muthabara Cup was played between Al @-@ Zawra 'a and the league and cup runners @-@ up , Al @-@ Talaba , where they were defeated for the third time that season by Al @-@ Zawra 'a , who won 5 ? 4 on penalties after a 2 ? 2 draw . In the 1998 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , Al @-@ Talaba reached the semi @-@ finals where they were beaten by Al @-@ Naft . In the third @-@ place match , Al @-@ Talaba defeated Al @-@ Mina 'a 3 ? 1 . In the 1998 ? 99 Asian Cup Winners ' Cup , they managed to reach the semi @-@ finals where they lost to Al @-@ Ittihad and they then lost the third @-@ place play @-@ off to Kashima Antlers . Al @-@ Talaba finished fourth in the 1999 ? 2000 season with 100 points . They also finished in the same position in the 2000 ? 01 season with 60 points . They finished in fourth place in the 1999 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup after a 3 ? 0 loss against Al @-@ Karkh in the third @-@ place play @-@ off . They qualified for the 2000 ? 01 Asian Cup Winners ' Cup but were knocked out in the first round by Al @-@ Sadd on away goals . In addition , they reached the final of the 2000 Al @-@ Quds International Championship , but lost to Al @-@ Zawra 'a by 4 ? 3 on penalties after a 1 ? 1 draw .

= = = Thair Ahmed era (2001 ? 2007) = = =

Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 2001 Al @-@ Wehdat Arabian Championship before the start of the 2001 ? 02 season ; they played four games , winning one , drawing two and losing one , finishing third in the tournament . After eight years without winning the league and six years without any trophy , Thair Ahmed led Al @-@ Talaba to the 2001 ? 02 championship with 91 points from 29 wins , four draws and five losses . They started the season by defeating Kirkuk FC 8 ? 0 at Al Karkh Stadium , which is one of the biggest wins by Al @-@ Talaba , and ended it with a 6 ? 0 win over Duhok at Al @-@ Shaab Stadium . They reached the final of the 2001 ? 02 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , after defeating Al @-@ Karkh 1 ? 0 in the semi @-@ finals , against Al @-@ Shorta where they lost with a single goal after extra time . Younis Mahmoud was the top goalscorer of the tournament . Al @-@ Talaba also won their first @-@ ever Iraq FA Cup that season , after meeting Al @-@ Shorta again in the final and defeating them with Qusay Hashim 's late 85th @-@ minute goal . Al @-@ Talaba also won the 2001 Baghdad Cup by defeating Al @-@ Zawra 'a 2 ? 1 and won the 2002 Al @-@ Muthabara Cup against the league runners @-@ up , Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya , 2 ? 1 after extra time .

Al @-@ Talaba finished as runners @-@ up in the 2002 ? 03 season , finishing two points behind champions Al @-@ Shorta . In the 2002 ? 03 Umm Al @-@ Ma 'arik Cup , they reached the final but were defeated 1 ? 0 by Al @-@ Shorta . Al @-@ Talaba 's Ahmad Salah was named the best player of the tournament . They retained the Iraq FA Cup by defeating Al @-@ Mina 'a 1 ? 0 with Alaa Kadhim 's goal in the closing minutes and then defeating Al @-@ Shorta in the final 1 ? 0 at the Franso Hariri Stadium with Ahmad Salah 's goal in the 26th minute .

In the wake of the 2003 invasion of Iraq , all of Al @-@ Talaba 's matches in the 2003 ? 04 season were postponed and then cancelled , except two games which they won against Al @-@ Sinaa before the league was abandoned for the season . Al @-@ Talaba were the runners @-@ up of the 2003 Baghdad Championship , defeating Al @-@ Shorta 2 ? 1 in the semi @-@ finals and losing to Al @-@ Zawra 'a 5 ? 4 on penalties after a 2 ? 2 draw in the final , a match that saw three red cards in total . In the 2002 ? 03 AFC Champions League , Al @-@ Talaba finished third in Group D with three points from three games after one win and two losses .

Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 2003 ? 04 Arab Champions League , reaching the proper group stage where they finished in third place with three points . Before the start of the 2004 ? 05 season , Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 2004 Damascus International Championship . They played three games in the tournament , winning two and losing one , being knocked out in the group stage . They also participated in the 2004 Tishreen Cup , one week after they were knocked out of the Damascus International Championship . In the Tishreen Cup , they finished top of their group to qualify for the semi @-@ finals . They defeated Tishreen SC 1 ? 0 to reach the final , which they lost by 3 ? 2 to fellow Iraqi club Al @-@ Zawra 'a . In the 2004 ? 05 Iraqi Premier League , Al @-@ Talaba finished

the first phase as leaders of Group Three with 28 points , having won eight matches , drawn four and lost four . They also became leaders of Group Two in the second phase with eight points , ahead of Al @-@ Naft who had seven points , after winning two matches and drawing two . In the semi @-@ finals , Al @-@ Talaba came up against Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya ; they were beaten in the first leg 1 ? 0 and drew the second leg 2 ? 2 . Al @-@ Talaba won the third @-@ place play @-@ off against Al @-@ Zawra 'a 4 ? 2 on penalties after a 1 ? 1 draw .

Al @-@ Talaba maintained their performance in the 2005 ? 06 Iraqi Premier League by finishing the first phase as the leaders of Group Four with 24 points from seven wins , three draws and two losses . In the second phase , they finished in second place with seven points behind Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya , who had the same number of points but a better goal difference of + 4 against Al @-@ Talaba 's + 1 . In the last match of the second phase , Al @-@ Talaba faced Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya with a chance to retain the league leadership , but they lost 3 ? 1 . From 2 ? 9 September 2005 , Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 2005 Damascus International Championship , reaching the final against fellow Iraqi club Al @-@ Zawra 'a . Al @-@ Talaba won 5 ? 4 on penalties . In the 2005 ? 06 Arab Champions League , Al @-@ Talaba won their first round tie against Al @-@ Shabab by 3 ? 1 in the first leg and 4 ? 1 in the second leg . They faced Al @-@ Qadisiyah in the second round and were defeated 1 ? 0 in the first leg and 2 ? 1 in the second leg to be eliminated the competition .

On 30 November 2006 , the club 's president , Hadeeb Majhoul , was kidnapped by an unknown terrorist group in Baghdad and , after three days , his body was found in the morgue . The administrative board elected the team 's striker at the time , Alaa Kadhim , as the new interim president until the club 's elections in which he won with 93 votes out of 97 existing on 15 March 2007 . Alaa Khadim was the club 's player @-@ president through 2006 ? 07 . Aged 35 at the end of the season , he retired from playing in order to focus on administrating the club .

Before the start of the 2006 ? 07 season , Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 2006 Shabab Al @-@ Ordon Arab Championship , a tournament organised by Shabab Al @-@ Ordon Club . Al @-@ Talaba played three matches in the tournament and drew all three of them , being knocked out in the group stage . In the 2006 ? 07 Iraqi Premier League , Al @-@ Talaba finished the first phase in second place with 13 points , behind Al @-@ Zawra 'a with 14 points , with three wins , four draws , and one loss . Al @-@ Talaba managed to finish second in the elite stage with eight points from two wins , two draws and one loss , just ahead of Karbalaa with seven points . In the semi @-@ finals , Al @-@ Talaba lost to Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya 2 ? 0 and then lost 2 ? 1 to Najaf FC in the third @-@ place play @-@ off .

= = = Instability and crisis (2007 ? 2013) = = =

Before the start of the 2007 ? 08 season , Al @-@ Talaba participated in the 2007 Press Club Championship , hosted in Syria . Al @-@ Talaba drew both of their group stage matches , finishing second in their group to qualify for the semi @-@ finals . In the semi @-@ final , they lost 3 ? 1 against Nawair SC and were knocked out . Al @-@ Talaba considered withdrawing from the 2007 ? 08 Iraqi Premier League due to a financial crisis that led to their players not being paid all their salaries on time , but eventually decided not to withdraw . Under the management of Karim Saddam , Nabil Zaki and Karim Salman , Al @-@ Talaba finished in fifth place in the first phase of the league with 36 points , having won nine matches , drew nine , and lost four . They played poorly in the second phase , ending the phase in third place in their group with seven points with only one win , four draws , and three losses . They were knocked out in the round of 32 in the 2007 ? 08 Arab Champions League , losing 4 ? 0 on aggregate to USM Alger . In the 2008 ? 09 Iraqi Premier League , with Abdul Ghani Shahad as Al @-@ Talaba 's manager , they finished in third place in their group with 47 points , only three points behind Najaf FC , with 14 wins , five draws , and five losses .

In the 2009 ? 10 Iraqi Premier League , under the management of Radhi Shenaishil , Al @-@ Talaba finished as the leaders of Group B in the first stage with 68 points , having won 19 matches , drew 11 , and lost four . They withdrew in the twelfth round due to a ruling from the Iraqi Olympic

Committee where they were set to face Baghdad that awarded the win . In the elite stage , Al @-@ Talaba ended up in second place of Group One as the best runners @-@ up of the three groups where they had ten points , the same amount of points as the first place , Al @-@ Zawra 'a , but they had the goals difference of + 2 and Al @-@ Talaba the goals difference of + 1 . If either Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya had beaten Naft Al @-@ Janoob or Al @-@ Shorta had beaten Najaf FC , Al @-@ Talaba would not have qualified for the semi @-@ finals , but Jawiya drew 0 ? 0 and Al @-@ Shorta drew 2 ? 2 . In the semi @-@ finals , Al @-@ Talaba won 1 ? 0 to Erbil in the first leg and drew with no goals in the second leg . They lost in the final to Duhok SC with a late goal in the 82nd minute .

With Yahya Alwan as their manager , Al @-@ Talaba had one of the worst seasons in their history in the 2010 ? 11 Iraqi Premier League , finishing the season in eighth place of the Southern group with 38 points , only one point away from relegation , with nine wins , eleven draws , and six losses . In the 2011 AFC Cup , Al @-@ Talaba finished in third place in their group with five points , having won one match , drew two , and lost three , therefore they were knocked out at the group stage . In the 2011 ? 12 Iraqi Premier League , Al @-@ Talaba with Jamal Ali , Khalaf Hassan , and Karim Salman as their consecutive managers , finished the season in fourth place with 68 points , winning in 19 matches , drawing in 11 , and losing in eight .

In the 2012 ? 13 Iraqi Premier League , under the management of Nazar Ashraf , Al @-@ Talaba returned to their poor performance of the 2010 ? 11 season , finishing in the 14th place with 35 points , only one point away from relegation , with only nine wins , eight draws , and 17 losses . They saved the club from being relegated in the 33rd round against Al @-@ Naft where they won 2 ? 1 and also because of Al @-@ Kahraba 's loss to Zakho in the last round . Al @-@ Talaba passed the round of 32 of the 2012 ? 13 Iraq FA Cup where they were up against Al @-@ Zawra 'a , drawing 0 ? 0 in the first leg and winning 3 ? 1 in the second leg before it was abandoned .

= = Recent history (2013 ?) = = =

Al @-@ Talaba finished the 2013 ? 14 Iraqi Premier League , under the management of Abdul @-@ Wahab Abu Al @-@ Hail , in eighth place with 31 points from 22 matches . The season after , Al @-@ Talaba finished in fifth place of Group Two with four wins , five draws , and seven losses before Abu Al @-@ Hail was sacked . In that season , they also participated in a friendly cup , the 2015 Baghdad Cup , which was played between the big four clubs of Baghdad . The mini @-@ tournament started at the semi @-@ final stage and each match was only 30 minutes long . Al @-@ Talaba were knocked out in the semi @-@ final by Al @-@ Zawra 'a , 4 ? 2 on penalties after a 0 ? 0 draw .

In June 2015 , the board signed Ayoub Odisho as the team 's new manager , 18 years after he first held the post in 1998 . The team also signed Younis Mahmoud , an Al @-@ Talaba Hall of Famer and the captain of the Iraq national team , twelve years after he left the club in 2004 , with a free contract to get ready for the 2015 ? 16 season . The team finished the group stage in fourth place of Group One with 27 points with seven wins , six draws and four losses , getting qualified to the final stage , where they finished in third place with three wins , three draws and a loss .

= = Stadiums = =

In the 1980s , a stadium to hold 8 @, @ 000 spectators was built at Hai Al @-@ Qahira in Baghdad to host Al @-@ Talaba 's home matches . Al @-@ Talaba currently hold their training sessions at the University of Baghdad Stadium in Jadraya , Baghdad , 15 km away from their main stadium .

In early 2014 , the owner of the club , the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research gave the project of building a new sports city to the Spanish company TriArena . They are constructing a main football stadium with a capacity of 16 @, @ 000 spectators and an area of 71 @, @ 150 m ² . The project also includes two tennis courts , a basketball court , a volleyball court , a fustal pitch , a handball court , a hotel , restaurants , and a covered swimming pool . Al @-@ Talaba is defined as a sports club , not just a football one , and it has supported other sports at minor level

only in the past . The foundation stone was laid by the former minister of higher education and scientific research , Ali al @-@ Adeeb , in February 2014 . The cost of the project is estimated to be \$ 84 million and the duration of construction was expected to be 30 months , meaning that by 2017 the Al @-@ Talaba Sports City should be open . Due to the financial crisis in Iraq , the the project was scratched after spending \$ 4 million on designs .

= = Rivalries = =

Al @-@ Talaba is one of the four " Popular Teams " in Baghdad , the others being Al @-@ Zawra 'a , Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya and Al @-@ Shorta . All the four Popular Teams have rivalries with each other . Al @-@ Talaba 's arch rivals are Al @-@ Zawra 'a and Al @-@ Quwa Al @-@ Jawiya because of their constant battles to win the Iraqi Premier League over the years .

= = Statistics = =

= = = Recent seasons = = =

The season @-@ by @-@ season performance of the club over the recent years :