

MINUTES OF THE 19th APEX COUNCIL MEETING OF BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA (BCCI) HELD ON FRIDAY, 7TH JULY 2023 AT 2.00 P.M. AT HOTEL TAJ SANTACRUZ, MUMBAI

Present:

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| 1. Mr. Roger Binny | Honorary President, Chairperson |
| 2. Mr. Jay Shah | Honorary Secretary |
| 3. Mr. Rajeev Shukla | Honorary Vice President |
| 4. Mr. Ashish Shelar | Honorary Treasurer |
| 5. Mr. Devajit Saikia | Honorary Joint Secretary |
| 6. Mr. Khairul Jamal Majumdar | Councillor |
| 7. Mr. C.M. Sane | CAG Nominee |
| 8. Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni | ICA Representative (Female) |
| 9. Mr. Dilip Vengsarkar | ICA Representative (Male) |

BCCI staff members were invited to speak on specific Agenda items, as and when required.

1. CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Roger Binny, the Honorary President, BCCI (the “**Chairperson**”) presided over the meeting. He greeted all the members present in the Apex Council and welcomed them to the 19th Apex Council Meeting of the BCCI.

2. QUORUM

After ascertaining that the requisite quorum for the meeting was present, the meeting was called to order.

Thereafter, Mr. Jay Shah, the Honorary Secretary, BCCI, welcomed all the members.

With the permission of all the members present, the notice convening the meeting, having already been circulated, was taken on record.

At this point, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Shelar requested all Members that the confidentiality of all the documents, information and decisions shared in these meetings need to be maintained. He further remarked that in the past, confidential information has been made available to media and this should be avoided at all costs and members need to be careful with whom they are sharing information. All members unanimously agreed with Mr. Shelar.

3. ITEM 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 18TH APEX COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Hon Secretary, Mr. Shah took up the first item on the agenda which was which was confirmation of the minutes of the 18th Apex Council Meeting held on April 9, 2023.

Certain changes were suggested by Mr. Sane and Mr. Majumdar which were incorporated in the minutes of the 18th Apex Council Meeting.

After some deliberation, minutes of the 18th Apex Council Meeting held on April 9, 2023, was approved.

4. ITEM 2: RATIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS BY CIRCULATION PASSED.

Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was ratification of the resolution(s) passed by circulation. The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that the following resolution was passed by circulation:

“RESOLVED THAT in pursuance of the powers granted to the Apex Council under the Rules and Regulations of the BCCI, it has been resolved to approve the release of the “Invitation to Tender for the National Team Lead Sponsor Rights” on June 14, 2023”

The Apex Council ratified the above resolution passed by circulation.

5. ITEM 3: POLICY FOR RETIRED PLAYERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS T20 LEAGUES.

Mr. Jay Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was to formulate a policy for retired players for participation in overseas T20 leagues.

Mr. Shah remarked that the Indian domestic cricket program has produced innumerable stars who have represented the nation and won accolades at the highest level. The primary objective of BCCI is to promote and develop the game of cricket in India. At present, BCCI only has a policy that no male Indian domestic player can participate in overseas T20 leagues without prior approval of BCCI. However, no such policy exists for Indian players who have taken retirement from all forms of the game of cricket.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that with new T20 commercial leagues coming up across the world a trend has been noticed among our domestic players where they, upon not receiving a call for the national team(s), take an early retirement from playing cricket in India and participate in overseas T20 leagues. Our young players find these leagues financially lucrative and their early retirements has become a cause for concern.

Mr. Shah suggested that a policy be formulated after considering all factors including the fact that retired cricketers also get a chance to earn livelihood. Mr. Shah further suggested that the office bearers be authorised to formulate such a policy and present before the Apex Council.

Mr. Sane suggested that it must be ensured that any policy that is formulated is within the framework of the Supreme court approved BCCI Constitution.

The members approved the formulation of the policy and passed the following resolution:

“RESOLVED THAT the office bearers are hereby authorised to formulate a policy for retired players for participation in overseas T20 leagues.”

6. ITEM 4: PARTICIPATION OF BCCI IN ASIAN GAMES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.

Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was regarding participation of BCCI in Asian games for both men and women. The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that the Government of India has directed BCCI to field teams representing India in the Asian Games scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China in September/October 2023. While there are no scheduling difficulties with respect to women's team, the dates of the Asian Games are very close to the Asia Cup scheduled in August/September 2023 and the ICC Men's Cricket World 2023 starting from October 5, 2023. However, it is a matter of immense pride and prestige for BCCI to field teams in the Asian Games and the BCCI must participate in the tournament.

Mr. Shah remarked that the BCCI has several men's players with immense talent to enable participation in all tournaments. Mr. Shah suggested that the Men's Selection Committee select a squad of players who may not play the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, for the Asian Games.

The members took note of the update and approved the participation of BCCI in Asian games for both men and women.

7. ITEM 5: PLAYING CONDITIONS FOR SYED MUSHTAQ ALI T20 TOURNAMENT (IMPACT PLAYER RULE).

Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was updating the members on the playing conditions for Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Tournament (Impact Player Rule). The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council. Hon Secretary, Mr. Shah requested Mr. Abey Kuruvilla, GM – Game Development, to brief the members regarding the agenda.

Mr. Kuruvilla briefed the members that BCCI had introduced the Impact Player concept in Syed Mushtaq Ali Tournament in the 2022-2023 season. The concept was a success and the same was replicated in the IPL 2023. In the IPL too, the Impact Player Rule was greatly appreciated by all the stakeholders of the game including the fans.

Mr. Kuruvilla suggested that for the 2023-2024 season of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Tournament, the Impact Player Rule be implemented with 2 (two) key changes – (i) Teams will have to provide the team sheet consisting of the playing 11 and 4 substitute players before the Toss (in IPL the team sheets were to be provided after the toss); and (ii) The Impact Player can be introduced at any time during the game (in the 2022-2023 SMAT Season, the Impact Player could only be introduced before the start of the 14th over of each innings). The Honorary Secretary remarked that these changes will further refine the Impact player concept and make the tournament more competitive.

Mr. Kuruvilla further suggested that number of bouncers for the Syed Ali Mushtaq Tournament be increased to 2 (two).

The members took note of the update and approved the changes to the playing conditions for Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Tournament.

8. ITEM 6: UPDATE ON SPONSORSHIP, BYJU'S AND MEDIA RIGHTS FOR BCCI.

Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was regarding the update on BCCI sponsorships, Byju's and media rights for BCCI. The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council. Hon Secretary, Mr. Shah requested Mr. Hemang Amin to brief the members regarding the agenda.

With respect to the media rights for BCCI, Mr. Amin apprised the members that the contract with Star came to an end on March 31, 2023. The BCCI therefore needs to appoint new media rights partner(s) for the next cycle of September 2023 to March 2028. In this regard, BCCI has appointed Ernst & Young (E&Y) as the strategic advisor regarding auctioning of the media rights. E&Y has given a preliminary opinion regarding the media rights. BCCI has also asked E&Y to receive feedback from potential broadcasters regarding the media rights. E&Y shall give a final presentation which shall include as to how BCCI should package the media rights, the base price, etc.

With respect to sponsorship, Mr. Amin apprised the members that there are a total of 6 slots for BCCI sponsorship divided into the following – Kit & Merchandising Sponsor, National Team Lead Sponsor, Title Sponsor and 3 (three) Official Partners. Of these, we have already appointed Adidas as the Kit & Merchandising sponsor and Dream11 as the National Team Lead Sponsor. We now need to appoint the Title Sponsor and 3 Official Partners. There are two methods of appointing sponsors – a process through tendering and secondly negotiating directly with the interested parties for the rights. Currently, we follow the tender process but this results in less interest from entities. The entities are not comfortable putting a bid as the difference between two bids becomes significant and the same becomes difficult for the entities to justify the amount.

Mr. Rajeev Shukla and Mr. Sane suggested that BCCI follow the tender process as the same is transparent.

With respect to Byju's, Mr. Biswa Patnaik, General Counsel BCCI, apprised the members that previously we had encashed the bank guarantee provided by Byju's amounting to approximately Rs. 143 crores. We had requested Byju's to honour their payment obligations several times. Byju's had requested time till June 15, 2023 to repay the entire amount. However, Byju's has failed to make any payments. The only route remaining for BCCI is the legal route. In this regard, we may consider approaching the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Mr. Sane concurred with the suggestion that proceedings may be filed against Byju's.

The members took note of the above updates and approved taking legal action against Byju's.

9. ITEM 7: DISCUSSION ON TOUR PACKAGE OPERATOR FOR ICC WORLD CUP' 23.

Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was discussing regarding the tour package operator for the ICC World Cup 2023. The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that there are two aspects to this agenda item – (1) priority sale of tickets via Mastercard as ICC has appointed Mastercard as one of their sponsors and (2) regarding appointment of an official tour operator.

With respect to the first point, Mr. Shah apprised the members that ICC has requested that 10% of tickets be sold on a priority basis to Mastercard users as they are one of the sponsors for ICC for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Further, Mastercard was also the BCCI Title Sponsor previously. However, instead of 10%, we may consider granting the sale of only 5% of tickets on priority to Mastercard.

With respect to the second point, Mr. Shah apprised the members that ICC has appointed an agency as a tours and travel package operator who wants 10% of the total ticket inventory for the World Cup which they will sell as a package and give ICC certain minimum guarantee. As part of the package, the agency provides flight tickets, hotel accommodation and match ticket and while tickets will be of a certain amount, the total package cost that the agency creates will be significantly much higher amount. Mr. Shah remarked that the tickets, the packages and the costs become a total prerogative of the agency and they may overcharge or generally misuse the package. However, the tour operator aspect cannot be totally overlooked as it is within the ambit of ICC's rights to appoint an agency. Further, there will be fans visiting from abroad who would prefer having an agency that provides an all-inclusive package to them. Mr. Shah suggested that the office bearers be authorised to take a decision in consultation with the relevant state associations hosting the World Cup regarding appointment of tour package operator for the World Cup.

After some deliberations, the members approved (1) granting 5% priority sale of tickets to Mastercard holders and (2) authorising office bearers to decide regarding appointment of tour package operator for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

10. ITEM 8: DISCUSSION ON STADIUM UPGRADATION.

Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was discussion on the stadium upgradation. The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that the BCCI has already appointed Grant Thornton (GT) as the consultants regarding stadium upgradation. GT has prepared a report for 5 of the stadiums and in the next few days, GT shall submit a report for another 5 stadiums.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that there are two key points regarding this agenda item. The first is that GT is required to inform as to what all work they can complete before the beginning of the world cup. For the same, we may request GT to inform us by July 15, 2023 regarding the work that they will do till September 1, 2023. While the focus will be on the stadiums that are the venues for the World Cup, the intention is to ultimately upgrade all the stadiums identified by GT. However, only those stadiums that are owned by the State Cricket Associations can be upgraded as stadiums under the control of the Government will be outside the scope of this exercise.

Secondly, the BCCI needs to take a call whether this stadium upgradation gets covered under the existing infrastructure policy or whether the upgradation is to be taken up centrally. The Members deliberated on this aspect and agreed to undertake the exercise of stadium upgradation centrally. However, the Members agreed that as the stadiums are owned by the State Cricket Associations, the Associations need to be taken along. Mr. Shah further suggested that the recently formed infrastructure committee takes this forward and the committee can be empowered to take further decisions in this regard.

The members unanimously agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Shah that the infrastructure committee be empowered to take decisions regarding infrastructure development of stadiums.

11. ITEM 9: APPROVAL OF PLAYER CONTRACT FOR MEN AND WOMEN PLAYERS.

Hon Secretary, Mr. Shah took up the next item on the agenda which was regarding approval of the player contract for men and women players. The papers relating to the agenda point were circulated to the members of the Apex Council.

Mr. Shah apprised the members that in the previous meeting, the list of contracted men's players for the Season 2022-2023 was ratified by the Members. The player contracts are now required to be executed for both men's and women's players. The key changes were explained by Mr. Gaurav Saxena, GM Operations.

The members deliberated on the key changes and approved the player contracts for men and women players.

12. ITEM NO. 10: TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRPERSON MAY CONSIDER NECESSARY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA.

(a) **Settlement of matter with former employee:** Mr. Biswa Patnaik apprised the members that the matter filed by a former employee of BCCI has been settled. Mr. Patnaik apprised the members that only that portion of the claim that was owed to him as per his employment agreement has been agreed while all other claims including that of leave encashment has been rejected. As a result, the matter is now settled, and no claim lies against BCCI by the employee. The members ratified the settlement.

(b) **AVP Testing:** Mr. Abey Kuruvilla apprised the members that BCCI previously followed the TW3 bone testing as part of its age-verification program. However, last year the BCCI

tried the bone expert software. This was largely successful, and the process was quicker. It is therefore suggested to continue with the same bone expert software. In case any player fails the new software, the player may undergo TW3 bone testing. If the TW3 passes the player, then the player shall be considered passed. However, if the player fails both the new bone expert software as well as the TW3 test, he/she shall be considered to have failed his test. This process shall be applied for both men and women. After some deliberation, the members approved the process.

(c) **U-19 Eligibility Relaxation:** Mr. Abey Kuruvilla apprised the members that U-16 tournaments couldn't take place during the Covid-19 period. As per our current policy regarding eligibility for U-19 tournaments, if a player plays U-19 directly (i.e., without playing U-16), then such players can play in a maximum of 2 years of U-19 tournaments. However, we may consider relaxing this rule by reducing the number of year restriction for those boys who couldn't play U-16 tournament due to the same not being organized. After some deliberation, the members approved the relaxation.

(d) **Modification of Registration of Players:** Mr. Abey Kuruvilla apprised the members that few changes have been made to the rules regarding registration of players:

- (i) **Interstate Transfer:** The last date for interstate transfer has been revised from September 1 to September 30;
- (ii) **Guest Player:** The last date for registering guest players has been revised from September 1 to September 30;
- (iii) **Transferable Jobs:** There is a cooling off period of 1 (one) year for people who change jobs from one state to another. Such individuals are required to show residency of 1 (one) year as part of the cooling-off. However, for individuals who are employed in transferable jobs like Government/PSU jobs, these individuals can be transferred anytime. If the individuals transfer before the September 30 deadline, the rule of cooling-off period can be waived for such individuals.
- (iv) **Aadhar Card:** We may start considering Aadhar Card as a valid/permissible document for registration if the Aadhar Card is at least 1 (one) year old.

After some deliberation, the members approved the modification with respect to the registration of players.

13. VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairperson thanked the Apex Council members and there being no other business, the meeting came to an end.
