

Office of the Electoral Officer, BCCI

Report on the 2019 BCCI Election and the 2019 ICA Election

Issued on: 23 October 2019

Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	2019 BCCI ELECTION	2
1.	Background	2
2.	BCCI Member Associations - Eligibility to Participate in 2019 BCCI Election	3
3.	Elections of BCCI Member Associations – Electoral Officers	3
4.	Nomination of Representatives by BCCI Member Associations	3
5.	Nomination Applications for Contesting Candidates	4
6.	Election Results	4
7.	Election Documentation	4
III.	2019 ICA ELECTION	6
1.	Background	6
2.	Preparation of Electoral Roll	7
3.	Posts in Contention	7
4.	Nomination Applications for Contesting Candidates	8
5.	Polling	8
6.	Election Results	9
7.	Election Documentation	9
IV.	DATA RETENTION	10
V.	RECOMMENDATIONS	10
VI.	CONCLUSION	11

I. INTRODUCTION

This report (“**Report**”) provides a brief overview and summary of the activities undertaken by Shri N. Gopalaswami, Electoral Officer, Board of Control for Cricket in India (“**BCCI**”) with respect to the conduct of the 2019 BCCI Election and the 2019 Indian Cricketers’ Association (“**ICA**”) Election (together with the 2019 BCCI Election, the “**2019 Elections**”).

The Electoral Officer, BCCI, was appointed by the Supreme Court Appointed Committee of Administrators for the BCCI (“**COA**”) on June 7, 2019 to oversee and supervise the election process for the BCCI and the newly constituted ICA, which has been officially recognised as the association for ex-cricketers by the BCCI. The Electoral, BCCI, was appointed with a specifically defined remit in accordance with Rule 33 of the BCCI Rules and Regulations (“**Rules**”). The Electoral Officer, BCCI’s remit included the following:

- i) Scrutiny of electoral rolls, including all nominations and candidatures in the 2019 Elections in accordance with the Rules.
- ii) Adjudicating or deciding on any dispute or objection as to the candidacy, disqualification, eligibility to vote, or the admission or rejection of a vote with respect to the 2019 Elections.
- iii) suggesting appropriate candidates who could function as Electoral Officers for BCCI Member Associations and who met the qualification criteria required to be an electoral officer for such BCCI Member Associations, in line with the instructions issued in this regard by the COA.

The Electoral, BCCI, was provided with the electoral.officer@bcci.tv email account, which was used by the Electoral, BCCI, for all inward and outward official communication relating to the 2019 Elections. The Electoral, BCCI, was also provided with a dedicated office space at the BCCI Headquarters in Mumbai, for the duration of the 2019 Elections, from where he undertook official activities which required his presence. A dedicated page of the official BCCI website, linked directly from the bcci.tv home page, was created for all notifications and announcements by the Electoral Officer, BCCI. The law firm LawNK was engaged to provide legal and secretarial support to the Electoral, BCCI, until the completion of the 2019 Elections.

II. 2019 BCCI ELECTION

1. Background

The 2019 BCCI Election was overseen and supervised by the Electoral, BCCI, in accordance with the Terms of Reference applicable to his appointment and various notifications, guidelines and clarifications issued by the COA in relation to the 2019 BCCI Election. The 2019 BCCI Election consisted of elections for the following posts in the BCCI, as provided for in the BCCI Rules:

- (i) Office Bearers of the BCCI (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer);
- (ii) 1 (one) member of the Apex Council (as a representative of BCCI Member Associations under Rule 14 of the BCCI Rules); and
- (iii) 2 (two) members of the IPL Governing Council (as members elected by the General Body under Rule 28(2)(i) of the BCCI Rules).

On 22 May 2019, the COA had announced that the 2019 BCCI Election would be conducted on 22 October 2019, during a General Body Meeting (“**GBM**”) of the BCCI. Subsequently, the COA announced that the BCCI GBM and the 2019 BCCI Election would be conducted on 23 October, 2019. Accordingly, the Electoral, BCCI, conducted the 2019 BCCI Election in accordance with the following schedule, with the election process concluding on 23 October 2019:

Table 1 – 2019 BCCI Election Schedule

Event	Date/Deadline
Call for Members to File Applications to Nominate their Representative	26 September 2019
Deadline for Members to File Applications to Nominate their Representative	3:00 PM 4 October 2019
Release of Draft Electoral Roll	5:00 PM

	4 October 2019
Submission of Objections to Names in the Draft Electoral Roll	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM 5 October 2019 and 7 October 2019
Examination of Objections and Decisions Thereon	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM 9 October 2019 and 10 October 2019
Release of Final Electoral Roll and Call to File Nomination Applications for Candidates Contesting in the BCCI Election	5:00 PM 10 October 2019
Window to File Nomination Applications	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM 11 October 2019, 12 October 2019 and 14 October 2019
Scrutiny of Nomination Applications and Decisions Thereon	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM 15 October 2019
Announcement of List of Validly Nominated Candidates	5:00 PM 15 October 2019
Withdrawal of Nominations	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM 16 October 2019
Announcement of List of Contesting Candidates	5:00 PM 16 October 2019
BCCI Election	11:00 AM to 2:00 PM 23 October 2019
Declaration of Results	3:00 PM 23 October 2019

2. BCCI Member Associations - Eligibility to Participate in 2019 BCCI Election

The BCCI Member Associations that were determined to be compliant by the COA, in accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 9 August 2018 read with the Supreme Court order dated 20 September 2019, were permitted to nominate representatives to participate in the 2019 BCCI Election.

The Electoral, BCCI, was informed that in order for BCCI Member Associations to be determined as compliant by the COA, BCCI Member Associations were required to amend their constitutions to bring them in line with the BCCI Rules, as determined by the COA and conduct elections to appoint their respective apex level governing body, by whatever name called ("**Apex Body**") as provided for in their amended constitutions, in accordance with the timelines specified by the COA.

The Electoral, BCCI, did not evaluate or go into the issue of whether or not a Member Association was compliant or non-compliant and relied entirely on the determination and process followed by the COA in this respect.

3. Elections of BCCI Member Associations – Electoral Officers

As per the amended constitutions of BCCI Member Associations, BCCI Member Associations were required to appoint Electoral Officers to oversee and supervise their respective elections. The Electoral, BCCI, advised the COA in finalising the qualification criteria for individuals to be appointed as Electoral Officers for the elections of BCCI Member Associations and, upon request by BCCI Member Associations, suggested the names of individuals who fulfilled such qualification criteria and who could be approached to supervise their respective elections.

4. Nomination of Representatives by BCCI Member Associations

Each BCCI Member Association was required to nominate a representative ("**Representative**") to represent such BCCI Member Association on the Electoral Roll and thereby participate in the 2019 BCCI Election. Such Representatives were required to be legally/validly nominated in accordance with the constitutions of the BCCI Member Associations and the BCCI Rules, and were required to not be disqualified to be an Office Bearer or Apex Council member or Governing Council member (as applicable) as per the BCCI Rules.

BCCI Member Associations were required to submit applications to include their respective Representatives on the Electoral Roll for the 2019 BCCI Election in accordance with the Election Notice issued by the Electoral Officer, BCCI, within the timelines specified therein. A total of 38 (thirty eight) BCCI Member Associations submitted such applications and the Representatives nominated thereby were duly included in the Draft Electoral Roll for the 2019 BCCI Election.

Pursuant to the publication of the Draft Electoral Roll, the Electoral Officer, BCCI, received numerous representations and objections in writing with respect to the inclusion of various BCCI Member Association Representatives thereon. Where deemed appropriate by the Electoral Officer, BCCI, the relevant BCCI Member Associations were invited to respond to such objections and representations and were invited to attend a personal hearing with the Electoral Officer, BCCI.

Upon the scrutiny of all representative applications, the examination of the objections and the representations raised in relation thereto and the responses provided by the COA, the relevant BCCI Member Associations and their Representatives, the Representatives of 8 (eight) BCCI Member Associations were deemed ineligible to participate in the 2019 BCCI Election by the Electoral, BCCI, and the representatives of a total of 30 (thirty) BCCI Member Associations were included in the Final Electoral Roll. A summary of findings was published by the Electoral Officer, BCCI. Detailed orders of the Electoral, BCCI, were recorded in certain cases.

5. Nomination Applications for Contesting Candidates

Pursuant to the release of the Final Electoral Roll, the Electoral, BCCI, invited interested candidates to file nominations for the posts that were in contention in the 2019 BCCI Election. Only individuals included in the Final Electoral Roll were permitted to file nomination applications and each nomination application was to be supported by a proposer and seconder who were also included in the Final Electoral Roll and witnessed by a member of the nominees Member Association.

The Electoral, BCCI, received nomination applications from a total of 8 (eight) candidates - 1 (one) candidate for each post that was in contention during the 2019 BCCI Election. Upon scrutiny of the nomination applications received and consideration of objections and additional information, all eight (8) candidates were deemed eligible to contest for the post for which they filed nomination applications by the Electoral, BCCI, and the names of all 8 (eight) candidates were included in an List of Validly Nominated Candidates for the 2019 BCCI Election. As there were no withdrawal applications received pursuant to the release of the initial List of Validly Nominated Candidates, the names of all 8 (eight) candidates were consequently included in the Final List of Contesting Candidates for the 2019 BCCI Election.

6. Election Results

As only 1 (one) candidate was contesting for each post that was up for election, the Electoral, BCCI, deemed it unnecessary to conduct polling on 23 October 2019, the designated election day. Accordingly, during the BCCI GBM conducted on 23 October 2019, the Electoral, BCCI, declared the results of the 2019 BCCI Election and issued the List of Elected Candidates to the 8 (eight) posts.

7. Election Documentation

Over the course of the election process, the Electoral Officer, BCCI, issued several notifications, documents and guidelines in relation to the 2019 BCCI Election. Such documentation issued by the Electoral, BCCI, are listed below along with a brief summary of each document:

a) Electoral Officer, BCCI – Terms of Reference – issued on 26 July 2019

Pursuant to being appointed by the COA, the Electoral, BCCI, received numerous communications from various stakeholders, wishing to bring certain issues to his notice regarding the functioning of Indian cricket, the BCCI and BCCI Member Associations to the attention of the Electoral Officer, BCCI. Several of these communications related to matters beyond the remit of the Electoral Officer, BCCI. Accordingly, the Electoral, BCCI, issued a public notification specifying the Terms of Reference applicable to his appointment and clarifying the matters which were within his remit with respect to the 2019 BCCI Election.

b) Conduct of Elections to the posts of BCCI Office Bearers, 1 (one) Councillor (as a representative of BCCI Members) of the BCCI and 2 (two) members of the Governing Council - Rules of Procedure - issued on 16 August 2019

This notification commenced the election process and contained the following information with respect to the 2019 BCCI Election:

- 1) The rules of procedure according to which the election would be conducted;
- 2) An initial schedule according to which the election process would be conducted;
- 3) The list of posts for which elections were being held;
- 4) A model code of conduct to be followed by contesting candidates; and
- 5) The forms of documentation to be submitted and formalities to be completed by candidates desirous of contesting for any posts.

c) Advisory to Electoral Officers of BCCI Member Associations – Issued on 28 August 2019

With a view to ensuring a degree of harmonisation in the conduct of the elections across BCCI Member Associations and the BCCI itself, as the electoral college for the 2019 BCCI Election would comprise of nominees of compliant BCCI Member Associations, the Electoral, BCCI, deemed it appropriate to highlight a few salient issues related to the BCCI and BCCI Member Associations elections to enable the Electoral Officers of the BCCI Member Associations to carry out their duties effectively. Accordingly, the aforementioned advisory sought to bring various notifications and guidelines issued by the COA and the Electoral, BCCI, to the attention of Electoral Officers of BCCI Member Associations and requested them to note and consider such notifications and guidelines while overseeing the elections of BCCI Member Associations. The advisory was published on the BCCI website and was forwarded for circulation to BCCI Member Associations and their respective Electoral Officers.

d) Notice of Election Schedule and Call for Full Members to File Applications to Nominate their Respective Representatives – Issued on 26 September, 2019 (“Election Notice”)

The Election Notice included the following information:

- 1) An updated schedule according to which the 2019 BCCI Election process was to be conducted;
- 2) A call to BCCI Member Associations to file applications to have their representatives be included in the Electoral Roll; and
- 3) The documentation to be submitted and formalities to be completed BCCI Member Association in order to nominate representatives for inclusion in the Electoral Roll.

e) Draft Electoral Roll – Issued on 4 October, 2019

The Draft Electoral Roll included the names of all Representatives who were nominated by BCCI Full Members through communications sent by them to the Electoral Officer, BCCI, prior to scrutiny of Representative applications and consideration of any objections/representations with respect to the inclusion of names in the Electoral Roll.

f) Final Electoral Roll – Issued on 10 October, 2019

The Final Electoral Roll included the list of Representatives of compliant BCCI Member Associations (as determined by the COA) who were deemed eligible to participate in the 2019 BCCI Election by the Electoral Officer, BCCI, after the scrutiny of applications and consideration of objections and information received, if any.

g) Summary of Findings – Issued on 10 October, 2019

This notification provided a summary of the findings of the Electoral, BCCI, in respect of BCCI Member Associations and Representatives who were determined to not be eligible to be included in the Final Electoral Roll by the Electoral Officer, BCCI.

h) Clarification on Terms of Reference of Electoral Officer in Respect of all Objections Received - Issued on 10 October, 2019

The Electoral, BCCI, received numerous objections in respect of entries on the Draft Electoral Roll and upon declaration of the Final Electoral Roll, the Electoral, BCCI, received multiple requests to provide a response on treatment of specific objections and to clarify the process undertaken and materials and issues evaluated by the Electoral, BCCI, during the scrutiny process of the entries on the Draft Electoral Roll. This notification

was issued as a general response to these requests in order to clarify the Electoral Officer, BCCI's remit during the scrutiny process. Specifically, it addressed the process undertaken by the Electoral, BCCI, in considering, evaluating and disposing of the objections that were sent to the Electoral Officer, BCCI.

- i) Call to File Nomination Applications for Candidates Contesting in the BCCI Election 2019 - Issued on 10 October, 2019
This notification invited individuals named in the Final Electoral Roll to file nominations for the posts which were in contention during the 2019 BCCI Election and specified the documentation to be submitted and formalities to be completed with respect to nomination applications.
- j) BCCI Travel Policy During Campaign Period – Issued on 10 October, 2019
This notification specified the travel expense policy to be adhered to by the BCCI with respect to travel undertaken by BCCI Officer Bearers and BCCI Member Association Office Bearers, Representatives, Councillors and members during the campaign period for the 2019 BCCI Election.
- k) List of Nomination Applications Received to Contest in the BCCI Election – Issued on 14 October, 2019
This notification listed out the names of all candidates who filed nomination applications for candidature in the 2019 BCCI Election, prior to scrutiny by the Electoral Officer, BCCI.
- l) List of Validly Nominated Candidates to Contest in the BCCI Election – Issued on 14 October, 2019
The Electoral, BCCI, scrutinised the nomination applications for candidature and issued this initial list which specified the names of validly nominated candidates in the 2019 BCCI Election.
- m) List of Contesting Candidates in the BCCI Election – Issued on 16 October, 2019
This notification was issued after the expiry of the deadline provided for filing withdrawal applications. As there were no withdrawal applications received, all 8 (eight) candidates who filed valid nomination applications were included in this final list of contesting candidates.
- n) Declaration of Results of the BCCI Election – Issued on 23 October, 2019
This notification declared the results of the 2019 BCCI Election and was issued by the Electoral, BCCI, pursuant to the completion of BCCI GBM held on 23 October 2019.

III. 2019 ICA ELECTION

1. Background

The 2019 ICA Election was the first election of the ICA and was conducted via e-voting between 11-13 October 2019. The 2019 ICA Election was overseen and supervised by the Electoral, BCCI, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the ICA (the “ICA Constitution”), the various instructions and guidelines issued by the COA with respect to the ICA from time to time and suggestions made by the Supreme Court appointed Steering Committee and Working Group for the ICA, which was chaired by the Mr. G.K. Pillai, IAS (Retd.).

The Electoral, BCCI, announced the commencement of the election process for the 2019 ICA Election through the issuance of an Election Notification on 30 September 2019. The Election Notification provided that the 2019 ICA Election process would be conducted in accordance with the following schedule:

Table 2 – 2019 ICA Election Schedule

Event	Date/Deadline
Release of Election Schedule, List of Posts for which Elections shall be held, Draft Electoral Roll and Call to File Nomination Applications	30 September 2019
Deadline for Receiving Objections to Electoral Roll	3:00 PM 3 October 2019
Investigation and Disposal of Objections Raised	30 September 2019 to 4 October 2019
Release of Final Electoral Roll	5:00 PM

	4 October 2019
Deadline for Filing Nomination Applications	3:00 PM 5 October 2019
Scrutiny of Nomination Applications	5 October 2019 to 7 October 2019
Announcement of Draft List of Duly Nominated Candidates	5:00 PM 7 October 2019
Deadline for Receiving Objections to Draft List of Duly Nominated Candidates	3:00 PM 9 October 2019
Investigation and Disposal of Objections and Withdrawal Applications	7 October 2019 to 9 October 2019
Announcement of Final List of Duly Nominated Candidates	5:00 PM 9 October 2019
ICA Election	11:00 AM on 11 October 2019 to 12:00 PM on 13 October 2019
Declaration of Results	Before 5:00 PM 15 October 2019

2. Preparation of Electoral Roll

In order to prepare the Electoral Roll for the 2019 ICA Election, the ICA initially invited applications for membership to the ICA. Male and female ex-cricketers who fulfilled the eligibility criteria for membership specified in the ICA Constitution were required to complete and submit an application form along with supporting documentation specified in the application form. All individuals who submitted membership applications on or before 21 September 2019 were eligible for inclusion in the Draft Electoral Roll, subject to them submitting complete applications and fulfilling the eligibility criteria to become members.

The Electoral, BCCI, initially released a Draft Electoral Roll for the 2019 ICA Election, which consisted of all individuals who had applied for membership to the ICA on or before 21 September 2019 and who had *prima facie* been deemed eligible to be granted membership to the ICA based on the eligibility criteria for membership specified in the ICA Constitution. Individuals who had been included in the Draft Electoral Roll were also allocated to various chapters that corresponded to BCCI Member Associations (“**ICA Chapters**”) and which were determined based on the applicant’s preference, based on such applicant having either played for or currently residing in the jurisdiction of the relevant BCCI Member Association.

Inclusion in the Final Electoral Roll for the 2019 ICA Election was only confirmed after consideration and disposal of objections and further verification of membership applications received for accuracy and completeness, with a particular focus on the playing experience based eligibility criteria in the ICA Constitution. Verification of applications was undertaken through review of publicly available playing records and records available with the BCCI and communications with the applicants themselves as well as the references provided by the applicants in the membership applications.

3. Posts in Contention

The 2019 ICA Election consisted of elections for the ICA Board, the representative nominees of the ICA to the BCCI and the IPL Governing Council and the representative nominees of ICA Chapters to the Apex Bodies of corresponding BCCI Member Associations. However, elections for the male and female representative nominees to the Apex Body of a BCCI Member Association were conducted only where the corresponding ICA Chapter had at least 10 eligible male voters and 5 eligible female voters respectively in the final Electoral Roll. Accordingly, with respect to vacant posts for which elections were not conducted or where no nominations were received, nominees to the Apex Body of the respective BCCI Member Association were to be nominated by the duly elected ICA Board after the completion of the 2019 ICA Election. An overview of the posts for which elections were proposed to be conducted, the eligibility criteria for candidates wishing to contest for such posts and the applicable voting electorate for each post is provided below:

Table 3 – 2019 ICA Election - Posts, Eligibility Criteria and Voting Electorate

Sl. No.	Body	Posts	Eligibility Criteria	Eligible Voting Electorate
1.	ICA Board	President	a) If male, played at least 5 International Test Matches and/or at least 25 First Class Matches; or	All Members named in Electoral Roll (male and female)
		Secretary		
		Treasurer		
		Member Representative		
		Member Representative		
2.	ICA Representative Nominees to BCCI and IPL	Male ICA Representative Nominee to BCCI Apex Council	b) if female, played at least 10 First Class Matches.	All Members named in Electoral Roll (male and female)
		Female ICA Representative Nominee to BCCI Apex Council		
		ICA Representative Nominee to IPL Governing Council		
3.	BCCI Member Associations corresponding to ICA Chapters with at least ten (10) male Electoral Roll members	Male ICA Representative Nominee to corresponding BCCI Member Association's Apex Body	Must belong to ICA Chapter	All Members allocated to such ICA Chapter in Electoral Roll (male and female)
4.	BCCI Member Associations corresponding to ICA Chapters with at least five (5) female Electoral Roll Members	Female ICA Representative Nominee to corresponding BCCI Member Association's Apex Body	Must belong to ICA Chapter	

Article 8 (c) of the ICA Constitution provides that at least 1 (one) ICA Board member shall be a woman. In order to facilitate this requirement in the 2019 ICA Election, it was determined that in the event a female candidate was not elected as a President, Secretary or Treasurer on the ICA Board, the female candidate who received the highest number of votes for the post of Member Representative (among female candidates only) would be elected as a Member Representative, whether or not there was more than 1 (one) male candidate who receives higher votes than such female candidate.

4. Nomination Applications for Contesting Candidates

Individuals who were included in the Final Electoral Roll and were eligible to contest for a particular post for which elections were proposed to be held, in accordance with the eligibility criteria specified for such post in the Election Notification, were invited to submit nomination applications. The documentation required to be provided by a candidate and the formalities to be completed were also notified in the Election Notification.

The Electoral, BCCI, initially released a List of Nomination Applications Received prior to the deadline specified in the Election Schedule. Upon scrutiny of the nomination applications and consideration of objections and additional information received, the Electoral, BCCI, released a Draft List of Duly Nominated Candidates for various posts for which elections were being held, which was followed by a Final List of Nominated Candidates eligible to contest for elections after the processing of withdrawal applications and further objections.

A total of 10 (ten) posts were contested by more than 1 (one) candidate whereas a total of 29 (twenty nine) posts had only one candidate contesting. Accordingly, elections were held by e-voting for the 10 (ten) posts for which there were more than 1 (one) candidate contesting.

5. Polling

Polling for the posts for which elections were held was facilitated through an e-voting mechanism provided by Central Depository Services Limited ("CDSL"). Each individual on the Final Electoral Roll was sent email

communications with unique credentials that were to be used by them to access the e-voting mechanism and register votes for the posts for which they were eligible to vote.

The Electoral, BCCI, was provided with administrative access to the e-voting mechanism used for the 2019 ICA Election and was able to monitor the conduct of voting. The Electoral, BCCI, was also able to audit, verify and tabulate the votes registered through the e-voting mechanism.

6. Election Results

After completing the verification and tabulation of votes, the Electoral, BCCI, announced the results of 2019 ICA Election on 13 October 2019. A total of 39 (thirty nine) posts which were up for election, including the ICA Board, the ICA representative nominees to the BCCI Apex Council and IPL Governing Council and the ICA Chapter Nominees to Apex Bodies of certain BCCI Member Associations were filled pursuant to the ICA 2019 Election. A total of 39 (thirty nine) posts for which elections were not held, due to a lack of eligible candidates or due to an insufficient number of ICA Chapter members, were to be filled by the ICA Board through a nomination process.

7. Election Documentation

Over the course of the election process of the ICA, the Electoral Officer, BCCI, issued several notifications, documents and guidelines in relation to the 2019 ICA Election. Such documentation issued by the Electoral, BCCI, are listed below along with a brief summary of each document:

a) Election Notification for Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) Election On 11 October 2019 to 13 October 2019 – Issued on 30 September 2019

The Election Notification commenced the election process for the 2019 ICA Election and included the following information:

- 1) The schedule according to which the election process was to be conducted;
- 2) The posts for which elections would be conducted and the eligibility criteria and applicable voting electorate for each post;
- 3) The rules of procedure according to which the election would be conducted;
- 4) A model code of conduct to be followed by contesting candidates;
- 5) A call to individuals included in the Electoral Roll to file nomination applications to contest for posts for which elections were proposed to be conducted; and
- 6) The forms of documentation to be submitted and formalities to be completed by an applicant in order to be nominated for a post.

b) Draft Electoral Roll – Issued on 30 September 2019

The Draft Electoral Roll consisted of the names all individuals who had applied to become members of the ICA on or before 21 September 2019 and had *prima facie* been deemed eligible to be granted membership to the ICA based on the eligibility criteria specified in the ICA Constitution, subject to further verification and scrutiny of applications.

c) Posts for Which Elections Shall be Conducted – Issued on 30 September 2019

This notification specified an initial list of posts for which elections were proposed to be conducted including the ICA Chapters that were entitled to elect male and/or female representative nominees to the Apex Bodies of BCCI Member Associations based on the criteria specified in the Election Notification.

d) Electoral Roll as of 4 October 2019 – Issued on 4 October 2019

This version of the Electoral Roll was released as an interim update to the Draft Electoral Roll after undertaking further verification.

e) List of Nomination Applications Received for Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) Election - 11 October 2019 to 13 October 2019 – Issued on 5 October 2019

This notification provided a list of all the applications for nomination to ICA elected posts received by the Electoral, BCCI, for the 2019 ICA Election prior to the deadline specified in the Election Schedule. The names were listed after checking only the completeness of the respective applications.

f) Draft List of Duly Nominated Candidates for Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) Election - 11 October 2019 to 13 October 2019 – Issued on 7 October 2019

This notification provided a draft list of candidates who were deemed eligible to contest in the 2019 Election pursuant to initial verification of Nomination Applications received.

g) Final Electoral Roll – Issued on 9 October 2019

The Final Electoral Roll was compiled after reviewing objections raised and further verification of applications after the release of the updated Electoral Roll on 4 October 2019. Only the individuals named in the Final Electoral Roll were permitted to participate in the 2019 ICA Election as voters or candidates.

h) Final List of Duly Nominated Candidates for Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) Election - 11 October 2019 to 13 October 2019 – Issued on 9 October 2019

This notification specified the final list of candidates who were deemed eligible to participate in the 2019 ICA Election, pursuant to the review of any objections and the processing of withdrawal applications. The notification also specified the posts for which more than 1 (one) candidate was nominated and consequently for which polling would be held.

i) ICA 2019 Election – Know Your Candidate – Candidate Information Sheets – Issued on 10 October 2019

With a view to providing a level playing-field to all candidates and in the interests of those on the electoral roll making informed and educated voting choices, all candidates included in the final list of duly nominated candidates were invited to submit information statements summarising their agendas and policies for the ICA in writing. All such information statements received were consolidated and presented in this document for the benefit of voters participating in the election.

j) Declaration of Results of Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) Election – Issued on 13 October 2019

After the conclusion of voting on 13 October 2019, the Electoral Officer, BCCI, through this notification duly declared the results of the elections and the issued the list of successful candidates, thus concluding the 2019 ICA Election process.

IV. DATA RETENTION

Digital records of all emails and attachments were retained by the Electoral, BCCI, and all emails were deleted from the electoral.officer@bcci.tv inbox. An automatic reply was created for any emails received after 23 October 2019 and the BCCI was requested to disable or delete the mailbox, as deemed appropriate, in due course.

Records of all physical documentation submitted by members and candidates across the 2019 Elections were compiled and sealed by the Electoral, BCCI, and were handed over to the Mr. Rahul Johri, BCCI CEO, upon the conclusion of the 2019 Elections. The BCCI CEO was informed that the records are to be unsealed only in the event that the 2019 Elections are subject to legal proceedings and the records contain any evidence or information that is relevant to such legal proceedings. The BCCI CEO was further informed that in the event that the 2019 Elections were not required in legal proceedings, the records were to be destroyed under his supervision after a period of 3 (three) months from the date on which they were handed over to the BCCI.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the various matters considered and issued observed by the Electoral, BCCI, in the course of conducting the 2019 Elections, the Electoral, BCCI, offers the following recommendations to the BCCI and ICA:

- 1) Electoral Officer Appointments: Several complaints and representations were received by the Electoral Officer, BCCI, regarding the appointment of Electoral Officers by certain BCCI Member Associations. In order to ensure greater independence of Electoral Officers from incumbent office bearers of the BCCI Member Associations, the BCCI may consider forming an independent committee to nominate Electoral Officers for BCCI Member Associations in line with the criteria established. Further, an election handbook may be

prepared for all Electoral Officers of Member Associations so that rules regarding authorisation and eligibility are implemented uniformly.

- 2) Office Bearer and Councillor Register: In determining eligibility of applicants for participation in the 2019 Elections, the Electoral, BCCI, is required to consider the term and tenure of office bearers of the BCCI as well as BCCI Member Associations together. In order to make this evaluation the Electoral Officer, BCCI, had perforce to rely on self-declarations in the applications made by Member Associations and their Representatives, media reports and objections received, which is a less than ideal situation. The Electoral Officer, BCCI, did not have access to a centralised database of posts to enable accurate and verifiable completion of the candidate eligibility check by the Electoral Officer, BCCI. Since such a requirement will arise in future elections as well, to enable the Electoral Officer, BCCI, to verify eligibility of candidates it is essential that the BCCI maintains a centralised database of all Office Bearers and Councillors elected at the BCCI as well as all BCCI Member Associations, including historical records. All BCCI Member Associations must be obliged to report to BCCI any changes in Office Bearers or Councillors, with changes taking effect in the BCCI database only from the date of notification without any opportunity for back-dating appointments or resignations.
- 3) Banned Player and Officer Register: In the course of compiling the Electoral Roll, in particular of the ICA, the Electoral Officer, BCCI, was unable to access any database of players or officials who stand banned by BCCI or any Member Association as a result of disciplinary proceedings or otherwise. The maintenance of such a database may be considered so that it can be shared with the Electoral Officer(s) appointed at the BCCI and BCCI Member Associations to determine whether a particular individual is disqualified from contesting or participating in an election as a result of lack of standing within the BCCI system.
- 4) Electoral Roll Contact Database: A number of complaints were received from Member Associations that incumbent office bearers had access to contact databases of those on the electoral roll and that non-incumbents did not have access to this, leading to an uneven playing field. Similarly, requests were received from ICA candidates for the entire contact database of those on the electoral roll. Instead, candidate information sheets were prepared and distributed to all voters. A uniform information and data policy in relation to elections may be considered to ensure that there is a level playing-field in elections between incumbents and new entrants.
- 5) Disciplinary Consequences for False Affidavits: The BCCI may consider taking strict disciplinary action against those making false statements on election affidavits to ensure sanctity of the election process and to deter false declarations.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Electoral Officer, BCCI, would like to conclude by placing on record his thanks and appreciation to the COA, the BCCI CEO, the legal advisors of the BCCI, and all BCCI staff that provided assistance and support to the Electoral, BCCI, in the course of carrying out his duties and responsibilities for the 2019 Elections.

Shri N. Gopaldaswami

Electoral Officer, BCCI

23 October, 2019