

**BEFORE JUSTICE ARUN MISHRA
FORMER JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

**OMBUDSMAN
THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA**

Complaint No. /2026

In Re: Complaint dated 03.07.2026 in the matter of:

1. RAKESH HANDA ...Complainant

Vs.

1. SH HARBHAJAN SINGH
2. M/S BHAJJI SPORTS
3. SHRI VIKRAM KUMAR (SIDHU)
4. SHRI SAHEBJIT SINGH SEMBHY
5. PUNJAB CRICKET ASSOCIATION (PCA) ...Respondents

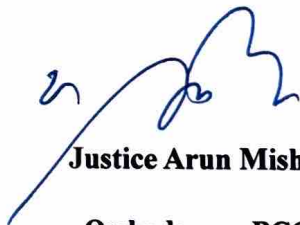
ORDER

1. The Appellant, Shri Rakesh Handa has filed before this office seeking intervention in this matter. He instituted Complaint No. 02/2025 before the Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer, PCA, on 19.09.2025, alleging that the functioning of the PCA stood in violation of the structural, ethical and conflict-of-interest mandates laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court through the Justice Lodha Committee reforms. It was averred that the PCA had, in 2022, created the extra-constitutional post of "Chief Cricketing Advisor" for Respondent No. 1 without recourse to the amendment procedure under Rule 52, which mandates a three-fourths majority and prior leave of the Hon'ble Court. It was further alleged that Respondent No. 1, while holding the said post, facilitated procurement contracts in favour of M/s Bhajji Sports, a proprietorship of his mother, without any disclosure under Rule 45, and that the Apex Council had granted Life Memberships to fifteen relatives and associates of Respondent No. 1, thereby creating an insulated voting bloc, with Respondents No. 3 and 4 simultaneously occupying commercial and administrative positions.



2. By order dated 18.04.2026, the learned Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer, PCA, has dismissed the complaint without costs, holding that the Appellant lacked locus standi, that Respondent No. 1 was not a formal "office bearer" and thus fell outside the conflict-of-interest framework, and declining to summon the membership records sought by the Appellant. Aggrieved thereby, and contending that the said order is unsustainable in law and constitutes a departure from the established principles of sports governance, the Appellant has preferred the present appeal.
3. It is clear that, no appeal lies before the Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer, BCCI, against an order passed by the Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer, PCA, this Forum not being constituted as an appellate authority over the decisions of the State Association's Ombudsman. The order dated 18.04.2026 passed by the Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer, PCA, is accordingly final and is open to be assailed, before the appropriate forum in accordance with law. With the aforesaid liberty reserved to the Appellant, the present complaint seeking quashing of the said order is held to be non-maintainable and is, therefore, dismissed.

Dated: 08.07.2026



Justice Arun Mishra
Ombudsman, BCCI