



IT'S TIME TO BCCI TO RESTRUCTURE ITS' SYSTEM

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Introduction

In India, Cricket is not any other game or sporting activity; it is a passion for millions of people. Presently, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is the one of the richest Cricket board in the World. Currently the politicians, bureaucrats and industrialist run the BCCI and most of the posts have been honorary in nature. In recent and past, few cases were filed against few Board members of the past for mismanagement of finance and misuse of power. Three member judges headed by Mr. Justice R.M. Lodha, Former Chief Justice of India suspended Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals from the Indian Premium League for a period of two years as a punishment for wrongdoing. Few other individuals have also been punished by the Hon'ble Court. Mr. Justice R.M. Lodha, along with his co-judges viewed that BCCI which is managing the game of cricket in the country has to give an important place to the disciplinary role, so that purity of game remains a central element in future. They also recommended reforms in its practices and procedures and such amendments in the memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations of the BCCI.

As in force, present BCCI rules provide huge powers vested with the President, which has to be reviewed. Few examples are (i) President shall approve the composition of a team, selected by the selection committees. (ii) Casting vote for the president and so on. In present scenario, the most critical part which has to be addressed is the conflict of interest situations for administrators, players and supporting staff. In this article few suggestion are proposed for restructure the BCCI.

Administration

To improve the image of Board, BCCI should bring structural reforms, to make it as transparent body. Need of the hour is to bring very many constitutional amendments to make itself as accountable to its all stakeholders. To make any amendment of these rules and regulations in BCCI,

it would require the support of three-fourth of the members present at the meeting.

Upper age limit for office bearer in the executive body as well as the president should be 65 years only. Two tenure (of totally 6 years) only will be allowed for all office bearers including the President and Vice-president. BCCI should also scrape the zonal rotation system to elect President as suggested by many in the past. BCCI has to control both men and women section Cricket. There should be representation for women in BCCI as well as in all units.

Each State / Union territory should have only one vote at the general body of the BCCI. Former Election Commissioner of India, Mr.S.Krishnamurthy suggested that the BCCI constitution should be updated with uniform representation for all States and Union territory. In BCCI, working committee should be replaced with executive committee, based on election. BCCI should come under 'Right to information act'.

BCCI website should be updated at least once in a month. The paid MBA graduates should take up the day-to-day administration of the game in a professional manner such as CEO, Media-manager and so on. BCCI must have its office at New Delhi and Regional offices at Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. BCCI should release the National competition calendar well- in advance in its website.

Talent identification & Coaching

All selection committee members should be paid employers of the Board and should have fixed tenure. We do have well structured age-group tournaments and tremendous talented players. The entire selection process at all level is to be streamlined in a systematic manner. Talent identification should be done both scientific and systematically. BCCI should conduct summer camp every year in all districts of India. BCCI should have 'Centre of Excellence' in each State and Union territory. Similarly National Cricket Academy should be set-upped in all the zones.

Professional training

Only limited numbers of seats are offered by Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports for undergoing NIS Diploma in Sports Coaching (Cricket). In the past BCCI also offered many short terms coaching programme at various level. But still, we have shortage of qualified coaches. It is high time for BCCI to sign MOU with Universities and to conduct Cricket coaching courses for both UG as well as PG levels. Similarly, BCCI should run professional training programmes for umpire, scorers, statisticians, pitch curators, referees, trainers, doctors, physio's, biomechanics, cricket administration, nutritional experts and so on.

Infrastructure and finance

In Tamil Nadu, there is only one MAC stadium, which has hosted many international matches. The States like Gujarat, Maharashtra has more than three stadiums, which host many international matches. These states field three teams in National Championship and get more annual funding than other states which has only one vote. The Cricket stadium should be developed in each and every district throughout the nation. BCCI may also fund schools, colleges and Universities to develop cricket stadium throughout the country, in a time bound manner. The full members namely Services, Railways, All India Universities, Cricket Club of India and National Cricket Club do not enjoy the annual grant of BCCI. Similarly their voting power should be taken-off. BCCI should think of hosting corporate tournaments with the huge prize money and teams like Services, Railways and All India Universities may be given

opportunity to play, but not in National Ranji Championship annually. BCCI should upload audited income and expenditure statements every year in its website. All financial dealing of BCCI with Sponsor, Broadcast / Television rights, players, office-bearer, officials travel, accommodation & allowances should be transparent than in the past.

Research Institute

To promote research in the game of Cricket, one needs a separate research institute which should give the necessary scientific back-up to our players. Sports training, Sports medicine, Sports Psychology, Sports Physiology, Sports Biochemistry Kinanthropometric, Sports Physiotherapy and Sports Nutrition Departments are to be set-up in the research institute. Research fellowship may be awarded to those outstanding students who work on area of Cricket.

Conclusion

Doping, Betting & Match fixing, Anti Corruption Code are other critical issues are to be addressed for protection of essence of cricket. To improve the public confidence, BCCI should bring structural reforms.

Reference

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