
ICC REGULATIONS ON SANCTIONING OF EVENTS

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION, SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1** The ICC has adopted these *Regulations* (which apply to both men's and women's cricket and thus references in these *Regulations* to the male gender should be read as encompassing the female gender as well) in recognition of the following fundamental imperatives:
- 1.1.1** *International Cricket* must be given primacy and protected and promoted above all else, because it remains the main showcase of the sport, the ultimate aspiration for young players joining the sport, and the main driver of the public interest and consequent commercial revenues that are the life-blood of the sport.
 - 1.1.2** The ICC and its *National Cricket Federations* should sanction the inclusion of cricket matches and events in their respective official calendars in accordance with the principles identified in these *Regulations*, and they should not sanction, and they and their members should not participate in, cricket matches and events that do not further those principles.
 - 1.1.3** The ICC and its *National Cricket Federations* should be empowered to take disciplinary action to enforce these *Regulations* as necessary to vindicate the collective interests of the sport as a whole.
- 1.2** These *Regulations* are to be interpreted and applied by reference to the fundamental imperatives described in Article 1.1 above (including, without limitation, where an issue arises that is not expressly addressed in these *Regulations*). Such interpretation and application shall take precedence over any strict legal or technical interpretation of these *Regulations* that may otherwise be proposed.
- 1.3** Words and phrases that appear in these *Regulations* in italicised text are defined terms that have the meaning set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.4** *National Cricket Federations* shall take such steps as are necessary to implement these *Regulations* in their own territories, making them binding on all persons under their respective jurisdictions, as soon as practicable after the *Effective Date*.

ARTICLE 2 SANCTIONING MATCHES AND EVENTS

Explanatory note: Like most sports, cricket depends for its effective organisation, administration and development on a pyramid regulatory structure, with National Cricket Federations exercising control over cricket in their respective territories, and the ICC addressing global issues where the National Cricket Federations consider that collective action is required. This pyramid governance structure is vital to the regulatory integrity of the sport, enabling the ICC and its National Cricket Federations to ensure the uniform application of rules protecting the sport and its stakeholders throughout the sport, wherever it is played, and to hold all participants accountable under those rules -- including anti-doping rules and other rules and regulations designed to protect participants

and/or to preserve the integrity of the sport -- in a fair and transparent fashion. Accordingly, it is the exclusive right and responsibility of each National Cricket Federation to retain control over cricket matches and events played within its territory, and therefore to determine whether or not a particular match played within its territory should be recognised or not. The only exception to this is that if an event (or a match in the case of a one-off match not forming part of an event) proposed to take place in the territory of an Associate or Affiliate Member involves more than four overseas players and the match/event does not involve any team affiliated to a Full Member, then the sanction of the ICC is required.

2.1 The responsibility for sanctioning (i.e. approving) matches and events pursuant to these Regulations is as follows:

2.1.1 National Cricket Federations shall have the sole and exclusive right to agree on, and approve, the staging of *International Matches* (other than *Matches* played as part of an *ICC Event* or organised by the ICC) between themselves. In doing so, they shall respect the commitments they have made in respect of *ICC Events* and other *International Matches*.

2.1.2 The ICC shall have the sole and exclusive right to sanction *ICC Events*, wherever they are staged.

2.1.3 Subject only to Article 2.1.4.2, each *National Cricket Federation* shall have the sole and exclusive right to sanction the staging of *Domestic Matches* within its territory.

Explanatory note (1): *If the Domestic Match involves one or more players or teams that are under the jurisdiction of another National Cricket Federation, that other National Cricket Federation must have given permission for the involvement of such player(s) or team(s) as a pre-condition to such participation: see ICC Regulation 32A. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to disciplinary action in accordance with Article 3.4.*

Explanatory note (2): *If a National Cricket Federation is suspended from ICC membership and so loses its membership rights, the ICC shall take over responsibility for deciding whether to sanction Domestic Matches within that National Cricket Federation's territory unless and until its membership rights are restored.*

2.1.4 The ICC shall have the sole and exclusive right to sanction:

2.1.4.1 *Domestic Matches* that are to be staged outside of the territory of any *National Cricket Federation*; and

2.1.4.2 *Domestic Matches* that are to be staged in the territory of an *Associate Member* or an *Affiliate Member*, if (a) they involve more than four players in any one event (or a single match in the case of a one-off match not forming part of an event) who currently play for any *National Representative Team* of a *Full Member* or *Associate Member* with ODI and/or T20I and/or Test status other than the *National Cricket Federation* in whose territory the *Domestic Match* is to be staged; and (b) they do not involve any team that is under the jurisdiction of a *Full Member*.

Explanatory note (1): *In exercising its sanctioning power pursuant to this Article 2.1.4.2, the ICC will, where appropriate, seek the (non-binding) views of the Associate or Affiliate Member in whose territory the match or event is to be staged.*

Explanatory note (2): *The ICC will exercise the sanctioning authority conferred on it in this Article 2, and all other powers and authorities conferred on it under these Regulations, through its CEO (or his delegate) acting under the authority of the ICC Board.*

Explanatory note (3): *Any sanction granted under Article 2.1 shall amount solely to recognition of the cricket match or event in question as Approved Cricket, and shall not amount to or be construed as approval by the granting body of any of the safety or security or other arrangements for the match or event. Instead, those arrangements shall remain the sole responsibility of the event organiser.*

2.2 It is the responsibility of the organiser of a proposed match or event to apply to the relevant *Sanctioning Body* for sanction. It is the responsibility of the relevant *Sanctioning Body* to establish a mechanism for the processing of such applications. A *National Cricket Federation* may delegate some or all of its responsibility to appropriate affiliate authorities within its jurisdiction (e.g. regional authorities) as it sees fit, but the *National Cricket Federation* ultimately remains responsible for ensuring compliance by its delegate with this Article 2.1. Where the *ICC* is the relevant *Sanctioning Body* for a match or event pursuant to Article 2.1.4, it will publish on its website (and keep up to date) details of the application process that organisers of a proposed match or event will need to follow when seeking the sanction of the *ICC* pursuant to Article 2.1.4.

2.3 Sanction may be granted on a conditional basis. For example (but without limitation), the *Sanctioning Body* may specify that particular matches or events must be played in accordance with and subject to codes of conduct, anti-corruption rules, anti-doping rules, and/or other rules, regulations, practices or procedures that are consistent with the rules, regulations, practices and/or procedures of the *Sanctioning Body*. The *Sanctioning Body* must specify that no person who has been banned from participation in the sport for a period that covers the match or event may participate, directly or indirectly (e.g., through an interest in any participating team or franchise) in that match or event. It shall be the responsibility of the *Sanctioning Body* to ensure compliance with such conditions.

2.4 In determining whether or not to grant sanction under Article 2.1, the *ICC* and its *National Cricket Federations* shall act in accordance with their obligations as custodians of the sport, and shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of regulatory powers by a sports governing body.

Explanatory note: *Because decisions of the ICC and its National Cricket Federations as to whether or not to sanction a cricket match or event have to be recognised and given effect by the ICC and all other National Cricket Federations, in making such decisions the ICC and its National Cricket Federations must ensure that they exercise their sanctioning authority consistently, validly, appropriately and lawfully.*

2.5 Subject always to Article 2.4, the following (non-exhaustive) factors should be considered in deciding whether or not to sanction a proposed match or event:

2.5.1 The maintenance and promotion of the health, safety and welfare of all participants in the proposed match or event, including by the prevention of overplaying (players must have adequate time to rest and recover, as well as train, between matches and events), and by ensuring the safety and suitability of the venue(s) intended to be used for the proposed match or event.

- 2.5.2** The extent to which the proposed match or event may be accommodated within the existing official playing calendar without conflicting with or otherwise compromising (i) *Approved Cricket* that is already in the calendar; and/or (ii) agreements to which the ICC and/or one or more *National Cricket Federations* is a party.

Explanatory Note (1): *Cricket, like any other sport, depends for its long-term health and development on the ability of its stakeholders to make decisions and take actions in the best interests of the sport as a whole, including in relation to the exploitation of the limited fixture opportunities offered by a finite calendar. It is important to ensure that those opportunities are exploited fairly and equitably, balancing collective and individual interests of stakeholders in a manner that serves the best long-term interests of the sport.*

Explanatory Note (2): *It is common for a sport's commercial partners to require certain commitments to protect their respective investments in the sport. National Cricket Federations ought not to put themselves or the ICC in breach of their respective commitments to those commercial partners, as this would threaten the generation of commercial income for distribution throughout the sport.*

- 2.5.3** Whether the organiser of the proposed match or event is willing to make a binding, unqualified and unconditional commitment to stage the match or event in accordance with and subject to all applicable ICC and/or *National Cricket Federation* regulations; and whether that commitment would be enforceable in practice, i.e., whether the organiser would be accountable to the ICC or its *National Cricket Federation* (as applicable) as regards its application and enforcement of those regulations in relation to all persons participating in the match or event.

- 2.5.4** The extent to which the proposed match or event would help to promote and develop the sport in the territory in question in accordance with strategic objectives of the relevant *National Cricket Federation(s)*, or would advance any charitable or benevolent purpose.

- 2.5.5** The extent to which the matches would be covered by appropriate anti-corruption and anti-doping services sufficient to ensure the practical implementation and enforcement of the relevant regulatory requirements.

- 2.6** To minimise administrative burden, the *Sanctioning Body* may grant advance sanction to categories of matches and events that meet specified criteria.

Explanatory note: *For example, a National Cricket Federation may recognise in advance as Approved Cricket all matches to be staged in its territory (a) by specified teams; (b) as part of specified events; and/or (c) at or below a specified level of competition.*

- 2.7** If a match or event does not fall within a pre-approved category, then it is the responsibility of the organiser of the match or event to apply for and obtain sanction for the match or event from the relevant *Sanctioning Body* identified in Article 2.1. If the organiser fails to do so, then the match or event shall be deemed to be *Disapproved Cricket*.

- 2.8** Participation in *Disapproved Cricket* is prohibited for all persons under the jurisdiction of the ICC or any of its *National Cricket Federations*. It is the responsibility of each such

person to establish that a particular match or event constitutes *Approved Cricket* and not *Disapproved Cricket* before participating in it.

- 2.9 To ensure clarity, all decisions to sanction a match or event pursuant to Article 2.1 (whether individually or by category) shall be confirmed in writing. An application for sanction may not be deemed approved unless and until such written confirmation is issued. Unless and until such written confirmation is issued, such match or event will be deemed to constitute *Disapproved Cricket*. In addition, the ICC shall include details of all *ICC Events* that it organises or sanctions and of all *International Matches* organised in accordance with Article 2.1.1 in the official *International Cricket* fixture calendar, and each *National Cricket Federation* shall include details of all matches and events that it organises or has sanctioned in its own official fixture calendar. These calendars should be (a) made available by publication on the Internet or similar, and (b) updated regularly as necessary to ensure they include details of all *Approved Cricket*.

ARTICLE 3 COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 A person *affiliated* to a *National Cricket Federation* may not participate in any *Disapproved Cricket*.

Explanatory note: *this prohibition will apply to, amongst others, players, match officials, coaching or management staff affiliated to a National Cricket Federation or to any team affiliated to a National Cricket Federation.*

- 3.2 A *National Cricket Federation* may not participate in any *Disapproved Cricket*.

- 3.3 A *National Cricket Federation* may not permit any team *affiliated* to another *National Cricket Federation* to participate in one of its *Domestic Matches* without the permission of that other *National Cricket Federation*.

- 3.4 A *National Cricket Federation* must:

- 3.4.1 take whatever action is necessary (e.g., by way of implementation of these *Regulations* into its own rules and regulations) to ensure that these provisions are enforceable against persons under its jurisdiction;
- 3.4.2 take prompt and effective disciplinary action against any *affiliated* person who breaches these provisions;

Explanatory note: *Where any affiliated person breaches these Regulations by participating in Disapproved Cricket, the ICC and its National Cricket Federations are entitled to exclude them from the benefit of participation in Approved Cricket for an appropriate period. National Cricket Federations must amend and/or supplement their rules and regulations in order to enable them to do so.*

The period of exclusion to be imposed in such cases will depend upon the facts and circumstances of each particular case, as well as the requirements of applicable law. However, considering the importance of solidarity among the ICC and its National Cricket Federations to the long-term future of the sport, the need to protect the benefit of their collective effort for the sake of the sport as a whole, and the need to ensure that third parties are not able to derive advantage from the collective efforts of the ICC and its National Cricket Federations to develop the sport, it is the view of the ICC and its National Cricket Federations that, other than in exceptional

circumstances, a person who participates in Disapproved Cricket should not be permitted to participate in Approved Cricket for a minimum of six months thereafter.

3.4.3 recognise and give effect within its own jurisdiction to any restriction, exclusion or ineligibility imposed on a person by another *National Cricket Federation* for breach of these *Regulations*; and

3.4.4 make it a condition of eligibility to participate in any of its *Approved Cricket* that the person in question has not participated in any *Disapproved Cricket* in the six months prior to the *Approved Cricket* in question.

3.4.4.1 Such person may apply to the *National Cricket Federation* to avoid all or part of this six month period for good cause shown, provided that the circumstances will have to be exceptional to justify such avoidance.

3.5 The ICC may take appropriate disciplinary action against any *National Cricket Federation* that fails to comply with these provisions, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the *ICC Disputes Resolution Committee*.

ARTICLE 4 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

4.1 Disputes as to alleged non-compliance with these *Regulations* shall be resolved by disciplinary action in accordance with Article 3.5.

4.2 Any challenge to the legality of these *Regulations*, or to any decision made by the *ICC* under these *Regulations* (including any decision to recognise and enforce the decision of a *National Cricket Federation* in accordance with these *Regulations*), must name the *ICC* as a respondent and must be brought by way of arbitration before the *ICC Disputes Resolution Committee* in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

4.3 These *Regulations* shall be governed by and shall be construed in accordance with English law. Strictly without prejudice to the arbitration provisions set out in Articles 3.5 and 4.2, disputes relating to these *Regulations* shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

4.4 Any challenge to any decision made by a *National Cricket Federation* pursuant to these *Regulations* shall be brought in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions in that *National Cricket Federation's* rules and regulations.

ARTICLE 5 AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF THESE REGULATIONS

5.1 These *Regulations* may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by the *ICC's* Board, with such amendments coming into effect on the date specified by the *ICC*.

5.2 The headings used for the various Articles of these *Regulations* and the explanatory notes are for the purpose of guidance only and shall not be deemed to be part of the substance of these *Regulations* or to inform or affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

5.3 These *Regulations* shall come into force and effect on 1 April 2017 (the "*Effective Date*") and will replace Section 32 (Disapproved Cricket) of the *ICC's* Operating Manual with

effect from that date. These *Regulations* shall not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the *Effective Date*.

- 5.4** If any Article or provision of these *Regulations* is ruled to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, it shall be deemed deleted and these *Regulations* shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

APPENDIX 1

DEFINITIONS

5.5 In these *Regulations*, words importing the singular shall include the plural, and *vice versa*, and the following words and expressions have the meanings set out opposite them:

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| <i>Affiliate Member</i> | means any <i>National Cricket Federation</i> with affiliate member status of the ICC. |
| <i>affiliated</i> | means (in the case of a <i>player</i>) eligible to play for a <i>National Representative Team</i> of a <i>National Cricket Federation</i> or (in the case of other persons) under the jurisdiction of a <i>National Cricket Federation</i> . If a <i>player</i> is eligible to play for a <i>National Representative Team</i> of more than one <i>National Cricket Federation</i> but has not yet played for any of them, such <i>player</i> must designate the <i>National Cricket Federation</i> of one of those <i>National Representative Teams</i> as his/her relevant <i>National Cricket Federation</i> and it is that relevant <i>National Cricket Federation</i> who decides whether to issue a <i>No-Objection Certificate</i> to enable that <i>player</i> to play in another <i>National Cricket Federation's</i> cricket matches or events. |
| <i>Approved Cricket</i> | means any cricket match or event that is duly sanctioned in accordance with Article 2. |
| <i>Associate Member</i> | means any <i>National Cricket Federation</i> with associate member status of the ICC. |
| <i>Disapproved Cricket</i> | means any cricket match or event that is not duly sanctioned in accordance with Article 2. |
| <i>Domestic Match</i> | means any cricket match or event played under the sole control and auspices of a <i>National Cricket Federation</i> which does not involve <i>National Representative Teams</i> . |
| <i>Effective Date</i> | means 1 April 2017. |
| <i>Full Member</i> | means any <i>National Cricket Federation</i> with full member status of the ICC. |
| <i>International Cricket</i> | means <i>ICC Events</i> and <i>International Matches</i> and any other form of cricket involving matches between <i>National Representative Teams</i> . |
| <i>ICC Event</i> | means each of the following, and each match played as part of the following: (a) the ICC Cricket World Cup; (b) the ICC World Twenty20; (c) the ICC Champions Trophy; (d) the ICC World Cricket League Championship and Divisions 2-6 (inclusive), together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (e) the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup; (f) the ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup; (g) the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifying Tournament, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (h) the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifying Tournament, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (i) the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifying Tournament; (j) the |

ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup Qualifying Tournament, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (k) the ICC Intercontinental Cup; (l) any successor to or replacement for any of those events, as specified by the ICC; (m) any other event or related series of matches involving the *National Representative Teams* of more than three *National Cricket Federations*; and (n) any other event organised or sanctioned by the ICC from time to time which the ICC deems it appropriate that these *Regulations* should apply.

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| <i>ICC Disputes Resolution Committee</i> | The committee of the ICC currently known as the Disputes Resolution Committee. |
| <i>International Match</i> | means each of the following (in men's and women's cricket): (a) a Test Match, One Day International Match or Twenty20 International Match; (b) any <i>Match</i> played as part of an <i>ICC Event</i> ; (c) any <i>International Tour Match</i> ; or (d) any other <i>Match</i> organised or sanctioned by the ICC from time to time to which the ICC deems it appropriate that these <i>Regulations</i> should apply. |
| <i>International Tour Match</i> | any <i>Match</i> played between a representative team of a <i>Full Member</i> (or <i>Associate Member</i> with Test and/or ODI or T20I status) and any domestic, guest or invitational team. |
| <i>Match</i> | means a cricket match of any format and duration in length played between representative teams (male or female) of two <i>National Cricket Federations</i> affiliated to the ICC. |
| <i>National Cricket Federation</i> | means a national or regional entity which is a member of or is recognised by the ICC as the entity governing the sport of cricket in a country (or collective group of countries associated for cricketing purposes). |
| <i>National Representative Team</i> | means a cricket team selected to represent a <i>National Cricket Federation</i> , including at any age-group from Under-19s up. |
| <i>One Day International Match</i> | as defined by Section 33 (ICC Classification of Official Cricket) of the <i>ICC's Operating Manual</i> . |
| <i>person</i> | means natural persons and corporate and other organisations. |
| <i>Regulations</i> | means these Regulations on Sanctioning of Events. |
| <i>Sanctioning Body</i> | means the <i>National Cricket Federation</i> or the ICC (as may be determined in accordance with Article 2.1) with the right to sanction a particular match or event. |
| <i>Test Match</i> | as defined by Section 33 (ICC Classification of Official Cricket) of the <i>ICC's Operating Manual</i> . |
| <i>Twenty20</i> | as defined by Section 33 (ICC Classification of Official Cricket) of the |

*International
Match*

ICC's Operating Manual.