
ICC REGULATIONS ON SANCTIONING OF EVENTS & PLAYER RELEASE

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION, SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1** The ICC and its *National Cricket Federations* have identified the need for an objective, transparent and equitable match/event sanctioning system that complies with applicable law, and that produces clear and coherent fixture calendars that protect and advance the following imperatives, each of which is regarded as fundamental to the long-term health and success of the sport (together, the *Fundamental Imperatives*):
- 1.1.1** Protecting the integrity of the game through the uniform, consistent and transparent application and enforcement of the rules and regulations of the game (e.g. from corruption and doping), raising operational standards and protecting and promoting the health and welfare of all those participating.
 - 1.1.2** Recognising and preserving the crucial role that international cricket plays in developing and promoting the sport globally. As part of this it is essential for development and growth purposes that *National Cricket Federations* field their best players in international cricket to have competitive national representative teams.
 - 1.1.3** Recognising and encouraging the important role that *Domestic Events* play in helping to promote and develop the sport locally and globally.
 - 1.1.4** Enabling and encouraging *National Cricket Federations* to continue to invest in both grassroots and high-performance development programmes, new facilities, coaches etc to ensure that the game continues to provide a community service, as well as allowing them to identify talented new players and provide them with a defined pathway to the elite level.
 - 1.1.5** Coordination of the calendar to balance the competing interests of the various stakeholders in a structured way.
 - 1.1.6** Recognising and protecting the time, cost and effort that is put in by *National Cricket Federations* to develop players within their domestic structures, which players are vital to the ability of the sport to strengthen and grow.
 - 1.1.7** Enabling professional cricketers to reap the rewards of their talents by creating sustainable playing opportunities for them in both international and domestic cricket.
 - 1.1.8** Generally ensuring that the interdependent relationship between the various stakeholders in the game is maintained and the various solidarity mechanisms are able to be maintained in order to strengthen and grow the game globally.
- 1.2** The match/event sanctioning system and player release mechanism established in these *Regulations* is intended to protect and advance the *Fundamental Imperatives*, and (where necessary) to strike an appropriate balance between them. These *Regulations* should be interpreted and applied accordingly (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*.
- 1.5 These *Regulations* apply to any new match or events that are proposed to be added to the calendar after the *Effective Date*. Any match or event that has already been sanctioned under the predecessor version of these *Regulations* (by either a *National Cricket Federation* or the *ICC*, as required) is deemed to be sanctioned under these *Regulations* on the same terms and conditions upon which it was previously sanctioned.

Explanatory note: For clarity, where an existing event which has already been sanctioned under the predecessor version of these *Regulations* seeks to expand through, for example, the addition of new teams in the event or makes another change to the composition of the event, it shall still retain its deemed sanction pursuant to Article 1.5 above, except where the change to the composition of the event has the effect of (i) increasing the number of players in a playing eleven who are not affiliated to the *National Cricket Federation* who is organising the match or event or an *Associate Member*, and (ii) such increase takes the number of players to more than four (or, where the number of players originally sanctioned was more than four, the change increases the number to above the number of players originally sanctioned). In the latter circumstances, the sanction of the event will be reconsidered by the *ICC* and the event will need to demonstrate compliance with the conditions set out in Article 2.2.3 below in order to maintain its sanction.

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) involves more than four *Full Member* overseas players 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. Any proposal to hold such an *International Match* in the territory of a third *National Cricket Federation* also requires that *National Cricket Federation's* approval.

- 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 Article 3 below. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to disciplinary action in accordance with Article 4.4.*

Explanatory note (2): *If a National Cricket Federation is suspended from ICC membership and so loses its membership rights, pursuant to the ICC's Articles of Association, the ICC may, at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, exercise (or delegate to another to exercise) the suspended Member's right and responsibility of deciding whether or not to sanction Domestic Matches within that National Cricket Federation's territory unless and until its membership rights are restored.*

- 2.1.4** In addition to Article 2.1.2, 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** *Special Domestic T20 Events* if 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 or have played in the preceding twenty-four (24) months leading up to the relevant *Special Domestic T20 Event* for any *National Representative Team* of a *Full Member*.

Explanatory note (1): *In exercising its sanctioning power pursuant to this Article 2.1.4.2, the ICC will require the National Cricket Federation(s) under whose jurisdiction and, if different, in whose territory the match or event is to be staged to support (i.e. approve) the sanctioning of the match or event.*

Explanatory note (3): *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/her delegate) acting under the authority of the ICC Board.*

Explanatory note (4): *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** Where the ICC is required to sanction *Special Domestic T20 Events* pursuant to Article 2.1.4.2, the ICC's sanction will only be granted in circumstances where the following conditions are met:

- 2.2.1** The *National Cricket Federation* under whose jurisdiction the match or event is to be staged must support (i.e. approve) the match or event. In addition, where the match or event is held under the jurisdiction of one *National Cricket Federation* but physically takes place in the territory of another *National Cricket Federation*, the sanctioning of the match or event must be supported by both *National Cricket Federations* in question;

Explanatory note: to satisfy the ICC of this support/approval, the application for sanctioning must be signed by both an authorised representative of the *National Cricket Federation* under whose jurisdiction the match or event is taking place and, where applicable, (i) an authorised representative of the organiser or promoter of the event, and/or (ii) an authorised representative of the *National Cricket Federation* in whose territory the match or event is taking place.

- 2.2.2** The match or event will be staged in accordance with the *Minimum Event Staging Standards*, and appropriate mechanisms are in place that enable the *Member(s)* to enforce and to address any non-compliance with those standards.

- 2.2.3** The match or event is consistent with the *Fundamental Imperatives* and will contribute to the *National Cricket Federation's* strategy for the development of cricket in its territory, and/or will advance a charitable or benevolent purpose. This includes meeting each of the following conditions:

- 2.2.3.1** To ensure the match or event provides sufficient playing opportunities for players who are *affiliated* to the *National Cricket Federation* organising and/or under whose jurisdiction the match or event is taking place, each team must include in the playing eleven for each of its matches in the event at least seven players who are either *affiliated* to the *National Cricket Federation* who is organising the match or event or an *Associate Member*; and

Explanatory note (1): For the avoidance of doubt, there is no restriction on the number of *Foreign Players* that may be included in the squad for the event and/or for the match in question. The restriction only applies to the playing eleven, i.e., to the eleven players who take the field of play for the match in question.

Explanatory note (2): Where the above provisions do not apply straightforwardly (e.g., where one or more *Full Members* and one or more *Associate Members* will be involved in organising/entering teams in the *Special Domestic T20 Event*, or where each team in the event consists of less than eleven players) or in other exceptional circumstances, the organiser(s) may apply to the ICC for permission to satisfy this imperative in another way. For example, if any match that is part of a *Special Domestic T20 Event* is to be played in another *National Cricket Federation's* territory, this imperative might be satisfied by having the teams involved play warm-up matches against local teams, or by staging development clinics around the matches for local players, or where the match or event is a 6 a side match or event, an equivalent pro-rated number of the playing squad will need to be players *affiliated* to the *National Cricket Federation* organising the match or event or an *Associate Member*.

- 2.2.3.2** For each *Foreign Player* participating in the event who is *affiliated* to a *National Cricket Federation* that is not organising or entering teams in the event, before the end of the event the *National Cricket Federation* that organises and/or sanctions the event must pay or ensure payment to that *National Cricket Federation* of a solidarity fee, to reflect that *National Cricket Federation's* role in the identification and development of that player and to

assist its ongoing effort to identify and develop further players.¹ The relevant *National Cricket Federations* shall agree between themselves, acting reasonably, the form of and/or amount of any such solidarity fee.²

- 2.2.4** the *National Cricket Federation* under whose jurisdiction the match or event will be staged shall ensure payment of any and all amounts due to players for their participation in the event; and
- 2.2.5** the *National Cricket Federation* under whose jurisdiction the match or event will be staged and, where different, the organiser of the proposed match or event must be able to demonstrate, to the *ICC Integrity Unit's* satisfaction, that the match or event has adequate anti-corruption measures and protections in place to ensure the integrity of the match or event.
- 2.3** It is the responsibility of the *National Cricket Federation* under whose jurisdiction the match or event is to be staged together with the organiser of a proposed match or event (if different), 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.
- 2.4** Sanction may be granted on a conditional basis, with such conditions being at the sole discretion of the *Sanctioning Body* as it deems it appropriate. 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.
- 2.5** At the sole discretion of the *Sanctioning Body*, and subject always to Article 2.10 below, a sanction may be granted on a multi-year or multi-edition basis provided that the arrangements for each edition of the match or event are of no lower standard than the arrangements that were in place for the original edition.

¹ If the *Foreign Player* has transferred allegiance from one *National Cricket Federation* to another, the solidarity fee will be payable to the *Member* in whose territory he played the majority of his cricket up to the end of his 19th year. (The *ICC* shall resolve any dispute on this issue or else refer it to the *Dispute Resolution Committee* for resolution). As a result, for the avoidance of doubt, the *National Cricket Federation* that receives the solidarity fee in respect of a particular player may be different from the *National Cricket Federation* that is required to issue an *NOC* in respect of that player.

² By way of example, the solidarity fee could equate to a payment of an amount equal to 10% of the total payment received by the relevant player (both in guaranteed payments and in bonuses, but excluding prize money) on account of his/her participation in the event.

Explanatory note: for a multi-year or multi-edition sanction to remain valid for future editions, future editions must not have arrangements in place which are less than what was in place for the previously sanctioned editions.

- 2.6 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.

- 2.7 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:

- 2.7.1 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.

- 2.7.2 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.

- 2.7.3 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.

- 2.7.4** 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.
- 2.7.5** 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.
- 2.8** 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.*
- 2.9** 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*.
- 2.10** In the event that the basis upon which a sanction previously granted changes significantly such that had the sanction been applied for on that basis the sanction may have been refused (for example, any of the conditions on which a sanction is granted are not complied with in full, there is a material change in event structure, the teams and/or event owners, serious integrity concerns or where new information comes to light), the *Sanctioning Body* shall have the right to immediately revoke its sanction of the *Domestic Match* in question at any point up to the start of the relevant match or event (in which case the match or event shall become an *Unsanctioned Event*) or revisit the conditions attached to such sanction, as it sees fit.
- 2.11** Any match or event which is not sanctioned by the appropriate *Sanctioning Body* identified in Article 2.1 above shall constitute *Disapproved Cricket*.
- 2.12** 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.
- 2.13** 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 PLAYER RELEASE

3.1 On the basis that participation in any form of *International Cricket* shall always take priority over participation in any other form of cricket, the release of players who want to play in *ICC Events* and/or in *International Matches* for the *National Representative Team* of a *Full Member* shall be mandatory.

3.2 The release of players who wish to play for the *National Representative Team* of an *Associate Member* shall be mandatory only for the following matches (in both men's and women's cricket as applicable):

ICC Cricket World Cup matches

ICC Champions Trophy matches

ICC T20 World Cup matches

ICC U19 Cricket World Cup matches (ODI/T20I)

ICC Cricket World Cup global Qualifier

ICC T20 World Cup global Qualifiers

ICC Cricket World Cup Super League

All One Day International and Twenty20 matches against Full Members.

3.3 Any contractual provisions agreed with a player must be consistent with these requirements.

3.4 A *Foreign Player* may not participate in any *Domestic Match* unless the *National Cricket Federation* to which the *Foreign Player* is *affiliated* has issued a valid No-Objection Certificate for the *Foreign Player* confirming that it has no objection to their participation in that match or event.

Explanatory note to Article 3.4: *For the avoidance of any doubt, the National Cricket Federation to which the Foreign Player is affiliated is the only body capable of granting a No-Objection Certificate for a Foreign Player pursuant to this Article 3.4. Accordingly, all such applications must be made directly to the particular National Cricket Federation and not to any other third party.*

The requirement to obtain a No-Objection Certificate applies to all Players affiliated to a National Cricket Federation, whether they are contracted to the relevant Member or not, or whether they have retired from cricket or not.

3.5 In determining whether to issue a No-Objection Certificate, *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 to Article 3.5: *The National Cricket Federation issuing a No-Objection Certificate must ensure it is issued validly and appropriately, so as to enable its uniform application and enforcement.*

The ICC and its National Cricket Federations recognise the overriding importance of international cricket as the lifeblood of the sport around the world. By providing a showcase for the sport to a wide international audience, by generating significant commercial revenues that can be invested in development work at every level throughout the sport, and by providing opportunities for Associate Members to

improve their playing standards by competing against Full Members, international cricket plays a vital role in developing interest and participation in the sport both in established cricketing powers and in emerging nations, and therefore in broadening the competitive playing base and public interest in the sport that are vital to the long-term future health of the sport. International cricket therefore has primacy over domestic cricket. Accordingly, it must be a condition of participation in a domestic match/event that all participating players from overseas hold valid No-Objection Certificates for the match or event as issued by their respective National Cricket Federations. A National Cricket Federation's right to object to the participation of its players in such an event extends beyond merely ensuring availability for International Matches to encompass issues relating to the player's form, fitness and upcoming international commitments (as well as other contractual obligations). It also extends to players who have recently retired from International Cricket, e.g. in the previous two years (in order to prevent players retiring from International Cricket simply in order to participate in a Domestic Match).

Accordingly, the following (non-exhaustive) factors can be considered relevant in determining whether or not to grant a No-Objection Certificate:

- a. whether the Foreign Player has been, or is likely to be, selected to play for the Relevant Member's National Representative Team at or around the same time as the Domestic Match in question;*
- b. whether the Foreign Player's form, fitness and/or upcoming commitments to the Relevant Member's National Representative Team might be compromised by his/her participation in the Domestic Cricket Event in question;*
- c. whether the Foreign Player announced his/her retirement from playing for the Relevant Member's National Representative Team during the two years previous to the Domestic Match in question; and/or*
- d. whether participation by the Foreign Player in the Domestic Match will in any way compromise the ability of the Foreign Player to comply with any contractual obligations owed by that Foreign Player, including such obligations owed to the Relevant Member.*

ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

- 4.1** 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.

- 4.2** A National Cricket Federation may not participate in any Disapproved Cricket.
- 4.3** A National Cricket Federation may not grant any affiliated person a No-Objection Certificate to participate in Disapproved Cricket.
- 4.4** 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*.

4.5 A *National Cricket Federation* must:

- 4.5.1** 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;
- 4.5.2** 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.

- 4.5.3** 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*;
- 4.5.4** make it a condition of eligibility to participate in any of its *Approved Cricket* that the person in question has a valid No-Objection Certificate issued by the *National Cricket Federation* to which they are *affiliated*; and
- 4.5.5** 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.
 - 4.5.5.1** 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.

- 4.6** 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 5 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 5.1** Disputes as to alleged non-compliance with these *Regulations* shall be resolved by disciplinary action in accordance with Article 4.6.

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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 4.6 and 5.2, disputes relating to these *Regulations* shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.
- 5.4 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 6 AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF THESE REGULATIONS

- 6.1 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*.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 These *Regulations* shall come into force and effect on 5 November 2023 (the "*Effective Date*") and will replace both the *ICC's* Regulations on Sanctioning of Events and *ICC Regulation 32A* (Domestic Cricket Events) with effect from that date. These *Regulations* shall not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the *Effective Date*.
- 6.4 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

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:

<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, or within the territory of, a <i>National Cricket Federation</i> which does not involve <i>National Representative Teams</i> .
<i>Effective Date</i>	means 5 November 2023.
<i>Foreign Player</i>	means a player who is not eligible to represent <i>the National Representative Team</i> of the <i>National Cricket Federation</i> under whose jurisdiction the <i>Domestic Match</i> in question is taking place.
<i>Full Member</i>	means any <i>National Cricket Federation</i> with full member status of the ICC.
<i>Fundamental Imperatives</i>	Means the imperatives set out in Article 1.1 of these <i>Regulations</i> .
<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 (in both men's and women's as applicable): (a) the ICC Cricket World Cup; (b) the ICC T20 World Cup; (c) the ICC Champions Trophy; (d) the ICC World Test Championship Final (e) the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League; (f) ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge Leagues and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; ((g) the ICC

Under 19 Cricket World Cup (ODI/T20I); (h) the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (i) the ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (j) the ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup Qualifier, together with any regional qualifying events thereto; (k) any successor to or replacement for any of those events, as specified by the ICC; (l) any other event or related series of matches involving the *National Representative Teams* of more than three *National Cricket Federations*; and (m) any other event organised or sanctioned by the ICC from time to time which the ICC deems it appropriate that these *Regulations* should apply.

<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>Minimum Event Staging Standards</i>	Means the requirements set out in Appendix 2 to these Regulations, as they may be amended from time to time.
<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> in <i>Test Matches</i> , <i>One Day International Matches</i> , <i>Twenty20 International Matches</i> or in an <i>ICC Event</i> at U19 level or above.
<i>One Day International Match</i>	as defined by the ICC Classification of Official Cricket (as it may be amended from time to time).
<i>person</i>	means natural persons and corporate and other organisations.
<i>Regulations</i>	means these Regulations on Sanctioning of Events and Player Release.

Relevant Member means the *National Cricket Federation* for whose *National Representative Team* the *Foreign Player* last played or (if he/she has not yet played for any *National Representative Team*) for whose *National Representative Team* he/she is eligible to play.

Explanatory note: *If the Foreign Player is eligible to play for more than one National Representative Team but has not yet played for any of them, he/she must designate the National Cricket Federation of one of those National Representative Teams as the Relevant Member for purposes of these Regulations, and that will be the National Cricket Federations from whom a No-Objection Certificate must be obtained to allow him to play in another National Cricket Federation's Domestic Match.*

Sanctioning Body means the *National Cricket Federation* or the *ICC* (as may be determined in accordance with Article 2.1) with the right to sanction a particular match or event.

Special Domestic T20 Event Means a *Domestic Event* of any format (e.g. 11-a-side, 6-a-side) where matches are played over 120 balls or less per team (excluding any tie-break mechanism) and involves 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, or have played in the preceding twenty-four (24) months leading up to the relevant *Special Domestic T20 Event*, for any *National Representative Team* of a *Full Member*.

Test Match as defined by the *ICC Classification of Official Cricket* (as it may be amended from time to time).

Twenty20 International Match as defined by the *ICC Classification of Official Cricket* (as it may be amended from time to time).

APPENDIX 2 MINIMUM EVENT STAGING STANDARDS

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION, SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- 1.1 Recent experiences have demonstrated that there are various ways in which the integrity of the game can be compromised, including, without limitation, through the infiltration into the sport of unscrupulous persons intent upon engaging in corruption and/or doping, and that *Domestic Events* taking the form of T20 Leagues (namely the premier Twenty20 league authorized by and played under the auspices of that *National Cricket Federation*) appear to be at greater risk of such attack than other forms of the game.

ARTICLE 2 ANTI-CORRUPTION

- 2.1 In order to protect against the threat of corruption, each *Domestic Event* should comply with the following requirements:
- 2.1.1 There should be an Anti-Corruption Code in place which covers the *Domestic Event* and which is substantially in conformity with the ICC's Anti-Corruption Code. This Code should automatically bind all Players, Player Support Personnel, Match Officials, team owners and league administrators ("Participants") participating in the *Domestic Event* to comply with such Domestic Anti-Corruption Code.
- 2.1.2 The *National Cricket Federation* in whose territory the *Domestic Event* is taking place should have in place an appropriately resourced Domestic Anti-Corruption Unit (or, in the case of *Associate Members*, as a minimum, a dedicated anti-corruption point of contact), whose responsibility is to monitor and enforce compliance with the Domestic Anti-Corruption Code at all matches which take place within the jurisdiction of the relevant *National Cricket Federation* including, without limitation, the *Domestic Event*.
- 2.1.3 All Participants participating in the *Domestic Event* should attend and participate in at least one official anti-corruption education session per year, whether run by the ICC, a *National Cricket Federation* or another body, for example a player's union. Players and Player Support Personnel who have not complied with the obligation to attend one education session in the preceding year should not be permitted to participate in any match or event until such time as they attend an education session.
- 2.1.4 The relevant *National Cricket Federation* in whose territory the *Domestic Event* is taking place should, in conjunction with the relevant Domestic Anti-Corruption Unit and/or anti-corruption point of contact and the ICC ACU, put in place and conduct effective due diligence processes through which they will assess the credibility and integrity of:
- 2.1.4.1 each party involved in the organising and running of the *Domestic Event*. Only where the relevant *National Cricket Federation* is satisfied with the credibility and integrity of that party should that party be entitled to assume any role in organising and/or running the *Domestic Event*; and
- 2.1.4.2 each potential team owner prior to granting such potential team owner any right to purchase, run, own or control a Team (or any part thereof) participating in the *Domestic Event*. Only where the relevant *National Cricket Federation* is satisfied with the credibility and integrity of the

potential team owner should that team owner be entitled to assume any such controlling interest in a Team.

2.1.7 The *National Cricket Federation* in whose territory the *Domestic Event* is taking place should enter into contractual agreements with each team/franchise and team owner setting out the terms and conditions of the team/franchise's participation in the *Domestic Event*, and which should include:

2.1.7.1 an express prohibition on all team owners from holding (whether directly or indirectly) an ownership interest of any value in more than one (1) team/franchise that is participating in that *Domestic Event*; and

2.1.7.2 an express obligation on the team/franchise to comply, and to ensure that its Players and Player Support Personnel comply, with the terms of the relevant rules and regulations applicable to the *Domestic Event*, including, without limitation, the Domestic Anti-Corruption Code, regulations concerning the Players' and Match Officials' Areas ("PMOA"), and the Domestic Anti-Doping Code.

2.1.8 A PMOA should be established at each match in the relevant *Domestic Event* and the relevant *National Cricket Federation* shall put in place 'Minimum Standards for the PMOA' which should be substantially in conformity (with amendments to reflect the domestic nature of the event) the terms of the ICC's Minimum Standards for Players' and Match Officials' Areas at International Matches.

ARTICLE 3 ANTI-DOPING

3.1 In order to protect against the threat of doping, each *Domestic Event* should satisfy the following:

3.1.1 There should be a Domestic Anti-Doping Code in place which covers the *Domestic Event* and which is substantially in conformity with the ICC Anti-Doping Code, or alternatively the relevant National Anti-Doping Organisation's Code should cover the *Domestic Event*. This Code should automatically bind all Players and Player Support Personnel to comply with such Domestic Anti-Doping Code.

3.1.2 An effective testing regime (which should include, where deemed appropriate, both In- and Out-of-Competition testing and which should comply with the Domestic Anti-Doping Code and the WADA International Standard for Testing & Investigations) shall be designed and implemented during the *Domestic Event* by the *National Cricket Federation* or National Anti-Doping Organisation in whose territory the league is taking place.

3.1.4 All Players and Player Support Personnel participating in the *Domestic Event* should be obliged to attend and participate in at least one official anti-doping education session per year, whether run by the ICC, a *National Cricket Federation* or another body, for example a player's union.

ARTICLE 4 MEDICAL, SECURITY & SAFEGUARDING

4.1 The relevant *National Cricket Federation* should check to ensure that the organisers of the *Domestic Event* have conducted a proper assessment of the risks to health and safety of players and others participating in the event (including spectators) and have produced and

will implement an appropriate and properly resourced plan to address those risks through measures such as the provision of sufficient medical staff and facilities throughout the event.

- 4.2 The relevant *National Cricket Federation* should check to ensure that the organisers of the *Domestic Event* have conducted a proper assessment of the security and safeguarding risks to players and others participating in the event (including spectators) and have produced and will implement an appropriate and properly resourced plan to address those risks.