

**BEFORE JUSTICE DEEPAK VERMA (RETD.), OMBUDSMAN,
DELHI & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

MEETING DATED: 19.01.2020 AT 10:00 AM TO 11:10 AM

VENUE: ROOM NO. 3, NEETI BAGH CLUB, NEETI BAGH,

NEW DELHI -110049

1. The presence of Learned Counsel for Parties and representative of Parties present in person as also presence of Mr. Manjot Kalra is marked in the separate sheet annexed hereto.
2. Matter was fixed for hearing on 18.01.2020 at D-19, Geetanjali Enclave at 06:00 PM and Notice was issued vide email dated 15.01.2020 to the Complainant for the said date of hearing but yesterday also, none had appeared. I waited for them till 07:15 PM. With an intention to give further opportunity of hearing to the Complainant or his Advocate, the matter was fixed today again at 10:00 AM in Neeti Bagh Club but till the adjournment of the hearing at 11:10 AM, none appeared for the Complainant. He has been served by email as well as by text (Whatsapp) on his mobile number supplied to me. But today also, neither the Complainant nor anyone on his behalf appeared.
3. I have had an interaction with Mr. Manjot Kalra to find out his physical fitness and to know about the net and ground practice that he was doing for last six months. He has informed me that even though he is prosecuting his B.A (Programme) from Khalsa College, New Delhi but is concentrating mainly on the game of cricket. He

has been practicing everyday even though he was debarred from playing cricket matches vide Order of the then Ld. Ombudsman on 16.12.2019.

4. Looking to his fitness and the amount of practice that he is putting in, I have no doubt in my mind that he is capable of playing as before, the ban was imposed on him. To add to my further queries and clarifications, Mr. Sanjay Bhardwaj, Director (Cricket) of DDCA further confirmed about his performance in the previous matches that he has played before 16.12.2019. I was also informed that he has represented India under 19 in the World Cup in the year 2018 which was held in New Zealand. I have also been informed that basically and essentially, he is a left-handed opening batsman. On queries being put to him, he has informed categorically that he is comfortable in playing all sorts of variations in bowling. In the Under 19 World Cup Final, he had scored a match-winning century and was declared the Man of the Match.
5. Thus, as far as my anxiety was concerned, the same appears to have been fully satisfied. Ld. Counsel for Parties appearing before me informed that Order dated 16.12.2019 passed by the then Ld. Ombudsman has singled out Manjot Kalra only, whereas others similarly situated have not been imposed with such conditions.
6. Be that as it may, it has already clarified in the Order passed by me on 18.01.2020 that the matter is one of great urgency as Ranji Trophy matches are already going on and he has missed two matches earlier. I have been informed that three more matches are yet to be played by Delhi. The dates have already been specified in yesterday's Order.

7. Matter certainly requires a detailed and a lengthy hearing, looking into the previous history of the case but in such a short time and also due to paucity of time available at my disposal, the same can be heard only on a later date.
8. In view of facts and circumstance of the case, it is a fit case where the Order dated 16.12.2019 deserves to be modified to the extent that without furnishing any undertaking by Mr. Manjot Kalra, he shall be allowed to participate for and behalf of Delhi in the Ranji Trophy and all other Open Age Category matches, until further orders. At this stage, Mr. Sanjay Bhardwaj Director (Cricket of DDCA requested that he should also be permitted to play in the matches for category, under age 23. I, therefore, direct DDCA to allow Mr. Manjot Kalra to play in the matches for category under age 23 also, obviously if he is selected.
9. Therefore, the said Order is subject to fulfilling all other conditions and requirements by Mr. Manjot Kalra to make him entitled to play for the matches subject to the requirements of the Selection Committee of DDCA. This is an Interim Order passed, looking into the facts and features of the cases.
10. After having gone through the unamended Article 42(1)(c) of the Article of Association, it is further directed that in the meanwhile the Apex Council shall independently examine the case of Mr. Manjot Kalra on merits and submit its report to the Ombudsman, which is pre-requisite condition to take cognizance of the allegations as has been levelled against him by the Complainant.
11. As per Justice Lodha Committee Report, approved by Hon'ble Apex Court reported in 2018 9 SCC 624, the DDCA shall proceed to appoint CEO and CFO for the Association by transparent process of advertisement to be issued in two national newspapers (English and Hindi) having wide publication. The said advertisement

shall contain the eligibility criteria for the aforesaid two posts as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Let this publication be made within two weeks hereof, under intimation to me. Copies thereof shall also be furnished to me in this regard. However, it is clarified that any appointment to the aforesaid post shall be made in a most transparent manner, avoiding conflict of interest and same shall also be under intimation to me and only on my approval, the Appointment letters would be issued.

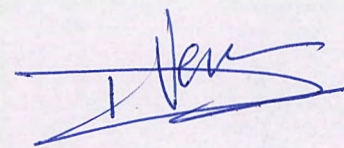
12. The Ld. Counsel appearing for the Association has also brought to my notice that another important issue with regard to the present post of the Treasurer, Mr. O.P. Sharma, who happens to be the sitting MLA of Delhi Legislative Assembly, is also pending disposal on merits for long. I have also been given to understand that earlier, some proceedings were initiated against him but the same could not attain finality due to change of Ombudsman. It has further been brought to my notice that Notice was issued vide Order dated 11.12.2019 passed by the then Ld. Ombudsman to Mr. O.P Sharma, for his reply on the reference made by DDCA through its Apex Council in an Application dated 11.12.2019.
13. Even though he had appeared through an advocate but no reply was submitted by him, matter has to proceed from that stage only. Therefore, Mr. O.P. Sharma is called upon to submit his reply to the Application already served on him by the Association on or before 30.01.2020 by email followed by hand copy thereat.
14. It is pertinent to mention here that vide Order dated 16.12.2019 passed by the then Ld. Ombudsman, Notice was also issued to Mr. Rakesh Bansal. He is also called upon to file his reply to the Complaint by or before 30.01.2020, by email followed by hand copy thereat.

15. No doubt, it is true that the Association is facing many problems which have not been looked into for variety of reasons, however the time has now come for the best facilities to be made available for the benefit of the players, for example, Digital Automated Sidescreens, Digital Scoreboard and Indoor Practice Facilities etc. The said process has already commenced but has not yet been completed. I hereby direct the Cricket Affairs Committee of the Association to get it completed at an early date and only through inviting open tenders. The bid to be opened in favour of the lowest Bidder/ suitable Bidder shall also be brought to my notice and only thereafter, Work Order/ Letter of Acceptance shall be issued in favour of the said party/ parties. Let this exercise be completed by the Committee within fifteen days thereof.
16. Matter is now directed to be listed for hearing on 30.01.2020 at 04:30 PM at D-19(3rd Floor), Geetanjali Enclave for the aforesaid purposes. Copy of this Order be sent to all through email.

Date: 19.01.2020

Time: 10.00 am – 11:10 am


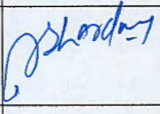
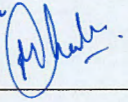
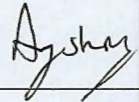
Place: New Delhi



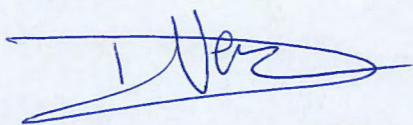
Justice Deepak Verma (Retd.)

Ombudsman

DDCA HEARING DT.: 19.01.2020 at 10:00 am

Sr. No.	Name	Tel. No.	Email Id	Sign
1.	Devashish Chauhan		devashish@chambersofdc.com	
2.	Naveen Ranjia			
3.	Chandrika Yadav			
4.	Gautam Datta Adv	9810246265	gautamdutta@me.com	
5.	Sanjay Bhardwaj DIRECTOR (CRICKET)	9811034519	bhardwajsanjay1962@gmail.com	
6.	MANJOT KALRA (CRICKET PLAYER)	9999094936	manjotkalra22@gmail.com	
7.	Mr. ANKUR CHAWLA, Adv		chambersofdc@gmail.com	
8.	Mr. JAYANT MOHAN, Adv			
9.	Ms MEENAKSHI CHATTERJEE Adv			
10.	Mr. ARSHAY SAHNI, Adv	9899939665	SahniArshay9@gmail.com	

Place: Neeli Bagh Club, New Delhi


Justice Deepak Verma (Retd.)
Ombudsman / Ethics Officer