

**BEFORE HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE INDU MALHOTRA (RETD.)  
OMBUDSMAN-CUM-ETHICS OFFICER  
DELHI & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION (DDCA)**

**IN THE MATTER OF :**

Gaurav Atri ..... Complainant  
Versus  
Akash Malhotra & Anr. .... Respondents

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF :**

Rupesh Raj ..... Complainant  
Versus  
Akash Malhotra & Ors. .... Respondents

Present:

**For Complainant(s):**

Mr. Rupesh Raj (In-person)  
Mr. Gaurav Atri (Not present)

**For Akash Malhotra:**

None

**For Lalit Rawat:**

None

**For Tony Singh:**

None

**For DDCA:**

Mr. Saurabh Chadha, Advocate

**ORDER DATED 04.10.2022**

1. I am in receipt of a Complaint filed by Mr. Gaurav Atri vide email dated 30.09.2022 (at 10:30 p.m.) against the appointment of Mr. Akash Malhotra as the Chairman of Junior Selection Committee alleging that there is a conflict of interest as the son of Akash Malhotra viz. Mayank Malhotra is giving selection trials for DDCA.

It is submitted that this has been ignored by DDCA while appointing him as the Chairman of the Junior Selection Committee.

2. A second Complaint has been filed by Mr. Rupesh Raj vide email dated 03.10.2022 (at 5:22 p.m.) against the appointments of Mr. Akash Malhotra, Mr. Lalit Rawat and Mr. Tony Singh, on the ground of Conflict of Interest and Favoritism. The Complaint alleges as follows:

*“This is to bring to your kind attention that Mr. Akash Malhotra has been recently appointed as Selector of the Junior Selection Committee of the DDCA. Apart from being in conflict as his son himself is in zone of consideration for selection in one of the team and there is a clear case of quid pro quo, it may be pointed out that he has furnished false declaration to DDCA to hold this position as he is associated with a leading cricket academy in Delhi. Not only he is a coach/ mentor in the Players Academy, his son is also taking training / is playing from the Player Academy....*

*...  
Further, one Mr. Lalit Rawat has been appointed as Manager for under 23 (Senior team) in which son of Mr. Akash Malhotra is in zone of consideration. It may be pointed out that Mr. Lalit Rawat is the manager cum coach of Players Cricket Academy, where Mr. Akash Malhotra is Coach/ Mentor and his son also represents the said academy in various league matches. Further, one Tony Singh has been appointed as manager of one of the Teams of Under 19 who is also a coach at Players Cricket Academy and thus conflicted....*

*...  
It is submitted that the academy is apparently owned by a senior politician and BJP leader and as such everyone is hand in glove and no one has raised any objection till date. This is a big racket to pressurise the players and parents and to extort money by promising to get them shortlisted for various teams.*

*I therefore request you to kindly take note of the above and conduct independent inquiry into this racket. It is further prayed that all these persons shall be immediately restrained from discharging their duties or interfere in cricket matters and be replaced with independent persons.*

***It is prayed in alternate that the entire proceedings of the Selection Committees shall be videographed and that an observer be appointed to report on any suspicious act.”***

*(emphasis supplied)*

3. The aforesaid Complaint(s) have been taken up for hearing for immediate consideration, as urgent orders have been prayed for. Accordingly, both the Complaints were taken up together for hearing today i.e. 04.10.2022 at 4:15 p.m.
4. Mr. Rupesh Raj was present In-person. The DDCA was represented by Mr. Saurabh Chadha, Advocate, who informed us that the Selection Committee would be conducting its meeting from 5:00 pm today i.e. 04.10.2022, onwards.
5. Notice is issued on both these Complaints to all the Respondents, including DDCA. The Respondents viz. Akash Malhotra, Lalit Rawat and Tony Singh are directed to file their respective replies within 2 (two) weeks from today. Rejoinder, if any, be filed within 1 (one) week thereafter. DDCA is directed to file the status report within 3 (three) weeks.
6. It is considered fit and appropriate to appoint an Independent Observer(s) who will be present to witness the proceedings of the Selection Committee. The DDCA is directed to commence the proceedings today at 5:30 pm, instead of 5:00 pm to enable the Observer(s) appointed by the Ombudsman to reach the venue.

The DDCA is directed to videograph the entire proceedings and make it available for viewing the same at an appropriate stage.
7. In the interim, Mr. Karanvir Singh Goraya and Mr. Sriram Srinivasan, Advocates are appointed as Independent Observer to attend the proceedings of the Selection Committee(s) for today, who will be paid a remuneration of Rs.10,000/- each. For the further meetings of the Selection Committee, Mr. Tanvir Nayar, Advocate is appointed as the Independent Observer, who will be paid a remuneration of Rs.20,000/- per meeting.

A copy of this Order is being sent by hand through the Observer(s) to the DDCA, for necessary action and compliance.

8. To come up for further hearing on 01.11.2022 at 4:00 p.m. DDCA is directed to share the link of the hearing with all the parties concerned.



Justice Indu Malhotra (Retd.)  
Ombudsman-Cum-Ethics Officer, DDCA