

**BEFORE THE FORMER ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE V. ESWARAI AH  
ETHICS OFFICER AND OMBUDSMAN ADDL. CHARGE  
THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION AT RGICS, UPPAL,  
HYDERABAD**

**CASE NO. 11 OF 2024**

Dated: 14.06.2024

**BETWEEN:**

**1. Southern Stars Cricket Club**

Rep. by its Secretary  
Hareesh Kumar Muchinthala  
Plot Nos.25/A, 26/A and 37,  
Flat No. 502, Pamidi Towers,  
Jai Hind Enclave, Madhapur,  
Hyderabad – 500 081  
Email Id: southernstarscc@outlook.com

**2. Zinda Tilismath Cricket Club**

Rep. by its Secretary  
Mohd Imaduddin Farooqui  
Office at: 6-11/5, survey No.125,  
Himayathnagar Village  
Opp. JPL convention Centre,  
Hyderabad – 500 075  
Telangana.

**3. P. Krishnamurthy Memorial Cricket Club**

Rep. by its Secretary  
K. Narender Reddy  
Office at: H.No.2-2-18/4/52, Opp:Satya Sai High School  
DD Colony, Bagh Amberpet  
Hyderabad – 500 013, Telangana.

**4. Super Star's Cricket Club**

Rep. by its Secretary  
P.Bhavanarayana  
Office at: 2-17-18/6  
Sri Sairam Nagar, Dharmapuri Colony  
Uppal, Hyderabad – 500 039  
Mobile 9396232019

**5. Charminar Cricket Club**

Represented by its General Secretary  
Mohd. Mahboob Ahmed  
R/o H.No.20-4-209/19/1  
Khilawath, Hyderabad (TS).

**6. Imperial Club**

Represented by its Secretary  
G. Ravi Kumar  
# 12-1-1325/16/3, Shanthi Nagar  
North Lalaguda, Secunderabad – 500 017.

...Petitioners

AND

- 1.** The Hyderabad Cricket Association  
RGICS, Uppal, Hyderabad.  
Represented by its Secretary R. Devraj.

...Respondent

**PROCEEDINGS DATED 14.06.2024**

- 1.** The aforesaid Six (6) Petitioners representing the Clubs affiliated to the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) submit that the usual practice of promoting the meritorious top two (2) teams to the Higher Division and demotion of bottom two (2) teams to the Lower Division is sought to be discontinued for the ensuing year 2024-25 Season. It is further submitted that though the Petitioners Clubs are meritorious Clubs in the league matches their merit has not been retained during the year 2023.
- 2.** The Respondent placed the records showing the points and positions secured by the respective Clubs. The 1<sup>st</sup> Petitioner Southern Star stood in 1<sup>st</sup> position securing 50 points in 'C'



Division One Day League Championship 2023-24 (Group -E). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Petitioner Zinda Tilismath stood in 2<sup>nd</sup> position and secured 44 points in 'B' Division Two - Day League Championship 2023-24 (Group - C). But whereas in the same League Championship one Deccan Wanderers stood 1<sup>st</sup> and secured 47 points. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Petitioner P. Krishna Murthy Memorial Club stood in 1<sup>st</sup> position securing 57 points in 'B' Division Two-Days League Championship 2023-24 (Group - D). The 4<sup>th</sup> Petitioner Super Star's Cricket Club stood in 11<sup>th</sup> position securing '0' points in 'C' Division One Day League Championship 2023-24 (Group-D). In the same Division one Youth Cricket Club stood in 1<sup>st</sup> position securing 40 points and Secunderabad Club stood in 2<sup>nd</sup> position securing 35 points. The 5<sup>th</sup> Petitioner Charminar Cricket Club stood in 5<sup>th</sup> position and secured 32 points in 'B'-Division Two - Day Leagues 2023-24 (Group B). Whereas in the same division Balaji Cricket Club stood in 1<sup>st</sup> position and secured 47 points and Future Star Cricket Club stood in 2<sup>nd</sup> position and secured 42 points. The 6<sup>th</sup> Petitioner Imperial Cricket Club stood in 1<sup>st</sup> position and secured 40 points 'C'-Division One - Day Leagues 2023-24 (Group G) and whereas Hyderabad Panthers stood in 2<sup>nd</sup> position and secured 27 points in the same division.

3. I have perused the records. The objects and the purpose of HCA is to control and improve quality and standards of the Game of



Cricket, lay down policies, roadmaps, guidelines and make rules and regulations relating to the Game of the Cricket, recognizing that the primary stake holders are the Players and Cricket Fans in Telangana and that accountability, transparency and purity, integrity of the Game are the core values.

4. It is seen from the records that as per the old practice to improve the quality and standards of the Game of the Cricket the meritorious two (2) top teams used to be promoted to the higher division and two (2) bottom teams are to be demoted to the lower division. I have already held in Case Numbers. 07 & 08 of 2024 relating to the sportive cricket club and Balaaji Cricket Club that the meritorious top two (2) teams have to be promoted to the higher division and the two (2) bottom teams have to be demoted to the Lower Division.
5. The Single Member Committee (SMC) appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court appointing the retired Supreme Court Justice Shri L.Nageswara Rao, submitted a report dated 29.10.2023 according to paragraph 16 held as follows:

"16. Selection of Cricketers to represent Hyderabad at various Tournaments ..... "The structure of the league competition is as follows:

***Selection to the state teams is normally made on the basis of performance of players from the***



*highest league, which is the 3-day league. The three-day league comprised of 22 teams for a long period. The size of the 3-day league competition was increased by promoting 20 more teams arbitrarily from the 2-day league without any basis. This resulted in dilution of the standards of the game.”*

6. It is seen from the records that a notification dt. 05.06.2023 issued prior to commencement of the league season 2023-24 states as follows regarding promotion and demotion of teams:

*1. In A Division, two teams at the bottom of the points table will be demoted to 'B' Division while the top 2 of the 'B' Division will be promoted to the 'A' Division at the end of the season.*

*2. In B Division, the bottom 2 teams in each pool will play against the bottom teams from the other pools to decide the ranking and the 2 teams at the bottom of the points table of the B Division will be demoted to C Division.*

*3. In C Division, the top team in each pool will play against the top teams from the other pools to decide the ranking among them. The top 2 teams of the C Division will be promoted to the B Division at the end of the season.*

7. I have not noticed any decision said to be have taken by the Apex Council not to have any promotions or demotions in the

upcoming season as the league matches could not be completed.

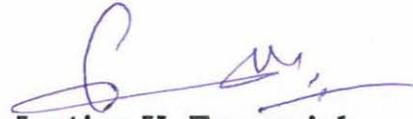
In view of the above said facts and circumstances, and keeping in view of the recommendations of the Single Member Committee of Hyderabad Cricket Association dated 29.10.2023 and keeping in view of age-old practice of promotion of meritorious 2 Top Teams to the Higher Division and demotion of the Bottom 2 Teams to the Lower Division and to improve the quality and standards of the game of cricket and to recognize the primary stake holders who are the players, the practice of promotion and demotion should be followed.

To ensure fairness in this process, the Apex Council may consider the teams with First Position in each Group of A2 (Two Day) Division (Groups A, B, C, D and E) to have play-offs to decide the top 2 teams that may be promoted to A1 (3 Three Day) Division and similarly the teams with First Position in each Group of A3 (One Day) Division (Groups A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J) to have play-offs to decide the top 2 teams that may be promoted to A2 Division. For the demotion process, the bottom positioned two teams in each Group of their Division may have play-offs to decide the two teams in each Division to be demoted. The Respondent may consider an alternate method to play-offs if they are logistically constrained in organizing the matches, however taking into consideration the fairness in the process of promotion of two teams to Higher Division and two teams to Lower Division.

The Respondent may also consider to follow the BCCI format of having Elite and Plate Groups in each Division based on their standings in the points table from 2023-24 league season to ensure an improvement in cricket standards of HCA league. This shall be a continuous process and the same shall be adopted for the ensuing

year 2024-25 in respect of all the teams whether they have filed representations or not.

It may also be noted that the proceedings dt. 07.06.2024 in Case 7 of 2024 (Sportive Cricket Club Vs. Hyderabad Cricket Association) and Case 8 of 2024 (Balaaji Cricket Club Vs. Hyderabad Cricket Association) must be read in the context provided here and those teams are not exempt from the promotion and demotion process laid out here.



**Justice V. Eswaraiah**  
**Ethics Officer and Ombudsman Addl. Charge**  
**The Hyderabad Cricket Association**

