

## THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to the Board of Control for Cricket in India)

Order of the Electoral Officer, Hyderabad Cricket Association Elections -2023.

Dated: 19-10-2023

Sub: Nomination of representative for the Hyderabad Cricket Association Elections on 20-10-2023 – Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Letter dated 21-9-2023 of the President, Telangana High Court Advocates Association (THCAA) addressed to the Electoral Officer, Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Elections.
  - 2. Letter dated 10-10-2023 of the President, THCAA, addressed to the Electoral Officer, HCA Elections.
  - 3. Orders of the Electoral Officer dated 12-10-2023.
  - 4. Letter dated 16-10-2023 of the President, THCAA addressed to the Electoral Officer, HCA Elections.
  - 5. Letter dated 17-10-2023 delivered personally when a delegation of President and office bearers of the Association met the Electoral Officer on 17-10-2023.
  - 6. Representation of the THCAA dated 18-10-2023.

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The notification for Hyderabad Cricket Association elections was issued on 30-9-2023 with election date scheduled on 20-10-2023.

- 2. The draft electoral roll for Hyderabad Cricket Association elections 2023 furnished by Single Member Committee appointed by the Honble Supreme Court of India was put on public display (website) on 30-9-2023 for receipt of requests for change of representatives, if desired.
- 3. The Telangana High Court Advocates Association had sent a representation as early as on 21-9-2023 (reference 1st cited) addressed to the Electoral Officer indicating the name of one Sri K.Sunil Goud as its representative for Hyderabad Cricket Association elections. In the draft electoral roll of member clubs, the name of one Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao was mentioned as the representative against Sl.No.104, A.P.High Court. However considering the representation of the Telangana State Advocates Association, the name of Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao was replaced by the name of Sri K.Sunil Goud. While the matter stood thus, another communication dated 10-10-2023 was received from the President, Telangana High Court Advocates Association stating that the letter dated 21-9-2023 in which the name of Sri K.Sunil Goud was nominated as Association Representative, was made inadvertently and 'hereby withdraw the letter dated 21-9-2023'. In the letter of 10-10-2023 there was no specific proposal suggesting alternate name/person as representative, except a general statement, 'it is further stated that hereafter to



## THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to the Board of Control for Cricket in India)

-2-

represent (the) any issue through our Association, President/Secretary can represent through our Association only in present and future also, (whoever may be President/Secretary). As no specific name was proposed as representative for the Hyderabad Cricket Association elections scheduled on 20-10-2023 in the said letter, the Electoral Officer has restored the name of Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao whose name was in the draft electoral roll given by the Single Member Committee, while deleting the name of Sri K.Sunil Goud as per the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> above. Besides, Sri K.Rajeshwara Rao had been representative of the club in question for the last two Annual General Meetings of Hyderabad Cricket Association held on 28-3-2021 and 11-4-2021, as per the records available in Hyderabad Cricket Association.

- 4. On 16-10-2023 the President of the Telangana High Court Advocates Association has sent another communication to the Electoral Officer stating that the person (Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao) shown as representative of the club in the ensuing elections is not having any voting rights in the Telangana Bar Association and showing him as the representative of the Telangana High Court is a manifest error which ought to be corrected forthwith. This was followed up by another representation dated 17-10-2023 which was presented personally to the Electoral Officer when the President along with other office bearers of the state association came and met the Electoral Officer. In the representation as well as personal meeting, the President reiterated the request made earlier, to accept the President of the Association as representative for 20-10-2023 HCA elections. The delegation also represented that for any reason it is not possible to accept the President as representative, to prevent the other elements from getting advantage over the ownership title of the club, the person already ordered as representative may be removed and voter ID card may not be issued to him. This was followed up by another representation dated 18-10-2023, in which, the Association not only reiterated their request to accept the President of the Association as representative in the elections, but also held out threat of legal action against Sri K.Rajeshwara Rao for casting vote against their entitlement.
- 5. The representations both in written and oral were carefully examined. The President, State Association while sending his representation for deletion of the name of Sri K.Sunil Goud, if he had also recommended another name perhaps his own name, it would have been a proposal to consider. Nomination as representative should be by specific name. Since the Association has not given any alternate name as representative in their letter dated 10-10-2023, the name of the representative as given in the draft list of Single Member Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court was restored and orders were issued by the Electoral Officer. It has also been ascertained from the voter ID card distribution wing of Hyderabad Cricket Association that the ID card has also been issued to Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao on 16-10-2023. It is also note worthy that in the communication dated 10-10-2023 recommending deletion of the name of Sri K.Sunil Goud, under the 'subject' of the letter, there is reference to Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao follows:

"One Mr.K.Rajeshwar Rao, Advocate who is the Life Member of our Association submitted and represented before us by requesting us, to withdraw the letter addressed by the Association to the



## THE HYDERABAD CRICKET ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to the Board of Control for Cricket in India)

-3-

2<sup>nd</sup> Addressee on 21-9-2023, due to addressing and sending the above mentioned letter by the Association dated 21-9-2023. Mr.K.Rajeshwar Rao was affected, hence requested to withdraw the letter information – request – regarding".

- 6. There is also an enclosure to reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, which is a copy of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana in W.P.No.20875/2010 dated 28-9-2022. I have carefully considered the contents of the order. The said orders contain a specific direction to the Hyderabad Cricket Association for change of address on filing of representation by the writ petitioner before the High Court in that writ petition, but the opening sentence of para 6 of the order makes it clear that the orders are "without going into the merits of the case".
- 7. From the foregoing, it is clear that the Telangana High Court Advocates Association was given an opportunity not only to name their representative for the Hyderabad Cricket Elections, but also, their request for withdrawal of the name was accepted. While withdrawing the nominee/representative, the Telangana High Court Advocates Association had not given an alternative name as representative. A general statement that the President/Secretary can represent on all present/future occasions, may be in order for correspondence of the cricket Association/Club with Hyderabad Cricket Association. But requirement for participation in elections is governed by Rules of Elections, that there shall be a specific nomination of a person as per the prescribed procedure. Therefore, the contention of the Association that a general authorization for President/Secretary for all times to come will hold good for elections also, is not acceptable.
- 8. As already pointed out in the orders of Electoral Officer in reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited, Sri K.Rajeshwar Rao whose name found place in the draft Electoral Roll furnished by the Single Member Committee appointed by the Honble Supreme Court of India, who had also attended two earlier Annual General Meetings of Hyderabad Cricket Association on 28-3-2021 and 11-4-2021 as representative of the member club, was restored as representative, on withdrawal of nominee by the Telangana High Court Advocates Association in their letter dated 10-10-2023.
- 9. In the circumstances, the Electoral Officer sees no merit in the request of the Telangana High Court Advocates Association request for change of representative, as it is not possible or desirable to change the representative so close to the poll date.
- 10. The Electoral Officer perceives an underlying current of claims and counter claims for ownership/title of the cricket club. It is made clear that claims to title/ownership are not within the remit of Electoral Officer and it is for the contending parties, to approach the appropriate forum, 'Ombudsman' of Hyderabad Cricket Association as and when constituted.
- 11. The above orders are issued under the powers vested in me as Electoral Officer under Rule 33 of the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations, 2018.

To

The President,

Telangana High Court Advocates Association,

High Court Buildings, Hyderabad.

V-S. Sampah, I.A.S. (Retd),

Electoral Officer,

Hyderabad Cricket Association,

Former Chief Election Commissioner of India.

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