

**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. 16 OF 2024**

**BETWEEN:**

Mahabubnagar District Cricket Association  
Reg. No. 5801 / 99  
Rep. by its Secretary Mr. M Rajasekhar  
Office at Padmavathi Colony  
Mahabubnagar

...Petitioner

AND

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

...Respondent

**PROCEEDINGS DATED 08.07.2024**

1. The Petitioner is a recognized District Cricket Association affiliated to the Respondent/Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) from last 24 years and the Petitioner Association has been participating in the HCA Cricket Leagues in A-2 Division.
2. As per the available records of HCA, the Petitioner Association is positioned in third place in Group E of A-2 Division of 2023-24 season. It is the grievance of the Petitioner that though it is one of the Top 3 teams of Group E in A-2 Division (2-Day) and entitled to be promoted in Group C of A-1 Division Plate category but the Petitioner has not been promoted on the ground that

there is a combined District XI Team carving the Players from 8 District Teams.

3. With regard to the principle of promotion and demotion of Top 2 teams and bottom 2 Teams this Office in Case No. 11 of 2024 by order dated 14.06.2024 made the following order:

..... "7. .... "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.”*

- 4.** Pursuant to the said orders of the Ethics Officer and Ombudsman Addl. Charge in Case No. 11 of 2024 dated 14.06.2024, the Apex Council met on 30.06.2024 and laid down the criteria ensuing the promotions for upcoming seasons as per the entitlements of the teams. The Criteria No.(iii) is extracted as follows:






*“(iii) The Top 3 Teams of each Group in A-2 Division (2-Day) will be placed in a Group under A-1 Division Plate Category barring the District Teams to whom a separate League Table is carved out”. I am of the opinion that merely because one or two players of the Petitioner’s Association plays for combined District XI Team, the Petitioner Association cannot be deprived of its lawful right to be promoted as per its entitlement after excluding the Players selected in the District XI Team.*

5. As per the aforesaid criteria, the CEO has put up a note stating that Petitioner has rightfully claimed that it has positioned in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Group E of A-2 Division in 2023-24 Season.
6. I am of the opinion that not including the Petitioner in the Promotions to A-1 Division Plate Group on the ground that there is a Combined District XI Team in A-1 Division which has representation of players from all Districts of Telangana is contrary to the aforesaid Orders in Case No.11 of 2024 and the principle of merit.
7. There are already 12 Teams in Group C of A-1 Division Plate Category and one of the Team namely Beema Cricket Club vide its email dated 06.07.2024 stated that it has seen A-1 Division

Team List for the League Season 2024-25 published by the Secretary and it has earlier also requested not to promote Beema Cricket Club from A-2 (2-Day) to A-1 (3-Day) Division and accordingly requested not to include Beema Cricket Club in A-1 Division and retain the team in A-2 Division as in the last Season 2023-24. If that be so, if the Petitioner Association is included in Plate C Group of A-1 Division (3-Day) after excluding Beema Cricket Club the number of teams will be 12 only and there will not be any prejudice to any of the teams.

In view of the above, the Respondent is accordingly directed to place the Petitioner in A-1 Division Plate Group C in the 2024-25 Season of HCA Cricket League.



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