

**DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATORS REGARDING
AFFILIATION FOR A CRICKET ASSOCIATION FROM THE UNION
TERRITORY OF CHANDIGARH**

1. By way of an order dated 11th May 2018 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the UT Cricket Association, Chandigarh ("UTCA"), was directed to put forth a representation before the Committee of Administrators on the matter of affiliation as a member of the BCCI.
2. The Committee of Administrators was informed that when the affiliation committee of BCCI visited Chandigarh in April 2001, there were certain other cricket associations that had also sought affiliation to BCCI from the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Accordingly, the Committee of Administrators issued a notice dated 12th July 2018 calling upon cricket associations desirous of seeking affiliation from the Union Territory of Chandigarh to make a representation to the Committee of Administrators in that behalf within a period of one week therefrom.
3. Pursuant to the aforesaid notice, apart from UTCA, representations were received from two other cricket associations namely Chandigarh Cricket Association (affiliated to Punjab Cricket Association) ("**CCA-P**") and Chandigarh Cricket Association (affiliated to Haryana Cricket Association) ("**CCA-H**").
4. To assist the Committee of Administrators to decide on which claimant association is to be granted affiliation to the BCCI, at its meeting held on 7th March 2019, the Committee of Administrators constituted an affiliation committee comprising of Mr. Anshuman Gaekwad and Mr. Saba Karim ("**Affiliation Committee**") to assess the merits of the claimant associations from Chandigarh and make a recommendation to the Committee of Administrators on which claimant association is best situated to carry out, develop and promote cricketing activities in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
5. On 25th June 2019, the Affiliation Committee submitted its report to the Committee of Administrators ("**Report**"). The Report was based on an analysis of documents furnished by the claimant associations, the Affiliation Committee's personal visit to Chandigarh and meetings held with the said associations. The Report disclosed that the Affiliation Committee based its observations and findings on the following criteria – (i) Cricketing Activities; (ii) Cricketing Infrastructure; (iii) Administrative Infrastructure & Management; and (iv) Future Plans For Development Of The Game.

6. Based on the above criteria, the Affiliation Committee undertook scrutiny/analysis of the case for affiliation put forth by the three claimant associations. Hereinbelow is an extract from the Report *qua* the three claimant associations:

“1. CCA-P - This Association was represented at the meeting with the Committee by its President, Vice President, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The Committee was informed that the Association was registered in the 1976 and has been affiliated to Punjab Cricket Association as a district association since then.

- (i) **Cricketing Activities:** *The Committee was informed that CCA-P is running coaching clinics at junior district level and also tournaments of various age groups.*
- (ii) **Cricketing Infrastructure:** *It was informed that CCA-P has entered in Memorandums of Undertaking with some schools for utilization of their grounds/facilities. The Committee visited and viewed the said infrastructure in the schools and found that the same will not be good enough for BCCI matches. The grounds are small in size and lack in proper dressing rooms etc.*
- (iii) **Administrative Infrastructure & Management:** *No documents related to CCA-P's constitution, accounts, Annual General Meetings etc. were provided to the Committee upon a request made in that behalf. However, as belatedly as 13th June 2019, copies of incomplete hand-written minutes of three Annual General Meetings were sent to the Committee. The said copies of the minutes merely contained a record of the attendees without any other details/particulars. On membership, it was informed that the Association has about 25 members being individuals and cricket clubs. There was no explanation provided as to how and on the basis of what criteria, the said individuals and clubs were made members of the Association. The Association comprises of three office bearers namely Mr. S.K. Kakkar (President), Mr. Mohinder Singh (Secretary) and Mr. PMS Banga (Treasurer) to administer its affairs. The Committee learnt that there was no electoral process followed to elect the said office bearers. The Committee learnt that the said office bearers have been occupying office since several years and no elections have been held at any point in time after the said office bearers took office. To run cricketing activities, it was informed that the Association had constituted three cricket committees comprising of individuals with cricketing experience namely the Technical and Coaching Committee, Selection Committee and Tournament & Fixtures Committee. However, in the course of discussions with the office bearers, it emerged that the authority of such committees was merely recommendatory and the decision-making power lay solely with the three office bearers even on cricketing matters. It was informed that CCA-P is run based on funds received through subsidies from the*

PCA, membership fees and sponsorship fees. Income Tax Returns, which were requested, were not provided.

- (iv) **Future Plans For Development Of The Game:** *The plans comprised only of preparation for upcoming season to conduct coaching clinics. To generate funds, the Association proposed to lease out infrastructure, charge registrations fees, coaching fees and sponsorships.*
2. **CCA-H** - *This Association was represented at the meeting by young members not holding any post in the Association. These members showed the Committee an authority letter on private letterhead of the President of the Association authorizing them to attend the meeting on behalf of the Association. These members were unable to provide any information on most of the heads in the questionnaire including membership, administration, accounting methods, meetings, sources of income, cricket development programs, plans to sustain future activities, etc. The Committee was informed that the Association was established in 1977 and since then has been affiliated to Haryana Cricket Association as a district association.*
- (i) **Cricketing Activities:** *The representatives were unable to provide any details/ information regarding the cricketing activities of the CCA-H.*
- (ii) **Cricketing Infrastructure:** *The CCA-H does not have its own ground or an arrangement (in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding or otherwise) with any other establishment for use of grounds.*
- (iii) **Administrative Infrastructure & Management:** *The office of CCA-H is run from one of the member's residence. Although no supporting documents were provided in this behalf, in the course of discussions, the Committee was informed that the cricket coaching/ tournaments are being conducted and financed by contributions from various individuals and subsidy from Haryana Cricket Association. On enquiry the members attending the meeting did not have much knowledge about various requirements to run the Association. The questionnaire prepared by the Affiliation Committee was given to the said members in order to give one more opportunity to the CCA-H to furnish all the required information along with authentic documents to the General Manager (Cricket Operations). A list of the Executive Committee/Governing Council members and Executive Members was provided. However, no details of how the said members were inducted or the said Executive Committee/Governing Council was elected were provided.*
- (iv) **Future Plans For Development Of The Game:** *No plans were provided to the Committee.*

3. **UTCA-** *This Association was represented at the meeting by its President, Vice President and Gen Secretary. The Committee was informed that the Association was registered in the year 1980. There seemed to be active synergy and connect between the Association and former cricketers. This Association is independent and not affiliated to any State Cricket Association.*
- (i) **Cricketing Activities:** *The Committee was informed that UTCA is running coaching clinics and conditioning programs at junior district level and also tournaments of various age groups from under-14 to seniors. Additionally, the Association has been holding clinics for umpires since many years.*
- (ii) **Cricketing Infrastructure:** *The cricketing activities including many matches/ tournaments are carried out at a stadium in Sector 16 belonging to the State Government. The Association's office is also situated in the Cricket Stadium at Sector-16. The said stadium has hosted international and domestic matches in the past. There appeared to be synergy and co-operation between the Association officials and the administration of the Union Territory, which is helpful for conducting matches and tournaments. UTCA also has a Memorandum of Understanding having a term of 25 years with Mahajan School (promoted by one of the office bearers of the Association) and it is at an advanced stage of signing Memorandums of Understanding with 3 more grounds.*
- (iii) **Administrative Infrastructure & Management:** *The office bearers stated that the Association has a close connect with former domestic and international cricketers from Chandigarh. The Association also stated that several such former cricketers have extended support to the Association for the purpose of affiliation. Emails from former cricketers endorsing the Association's request for affiliation were shared with the Committee. It was informed that UTCA is the only independent association in Chandigarh as opposed to CCA-P and CCA-H, which are affiliated to Punjab Cricket Association, and Haryana Cricket Association respectively. The Association's membership comprises of Founder Members, Life Members and Representative Members (comprising of schools, colleges and cricket clubs). The criteria applied for membership is for an individual to have achieved prominence in sporting activities at any level or in the areas of event management, administration, finance, taxation, media, management, hospitality, medicine or logistics or any other area which is required to successfully run the Association. As regards schools, colleges and clubs, for the purpose of granting them membership, it was informed that the criteria applied are to ascertain if they field cricket teams in tournaments. The current membership strength of the Association is 98 members out of whom 39 are recognized cricketers. The Association comprises of 11 office bearers each having a five-year term. It was informed that the current office bearers were elected at an Annual General Meeting held on 6th June 2016. Copies of the*

Minutes of the last three Annual General Meetings held on 6th June 2016, 29th July 2017 and 12th May 2018 were shared with the Committee. Further, copies of the Income Tax Returns for the last three years were shared with the Committee. The Association carries on several activities through ten designated committees namely the Organizing Committee, Tournament Committee, Technical Committee, Purchase and Refreshment Committee, First Aid Committee, Press, Media and Publicity Committee, Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Opening and Closing Ceremony Committee and the Coaching Committee. Each of these Committees is headed by a Chairman and has a convenor. Each of these Committees work on the basis of a defined scope and parameters and have been given the authority to take decisions accordingly. In the event of a major deviation, the matter is placed before the Executive Committee for approval. The major sources of funding for the Association are sponsorships, souvenir, grants and advertisements. It was informed that the Association had recently received a grant from the Hon. Governor of Punjab. It was also informed that the Association recently bagged a sponsorship of Rs. 5,00,000/- from a corporate for one of its tournaments in addition to other sponsorships.

(iv) **Future Plans For Development Of The Game:** *To execute future development plans, the Association is in the process of tying up with corporate sponsors, industry associations like CII and TIE as well as the Chandigarh Administration. This is apart from funds contemplated to be sourced through life membership fees.”*

7. On the basis of the above scrutiny/analysis and taking an overall view of the relevant factors, the Affiliation Committee found and expressed the view that UTCA is best placed to carry out, develop and promote cricketing activities in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and accordingly recommended that UTCA should be considered for affiliation to the BCCI, as the cricket association from the Union Territory of Chandigarh. With regard to CCA-H, the Affiliation Committee found that the information and documents provided by CCA-H were inadequate for the Affiliation Committee to make a fair assessment of the association’s ability to run cricket in Chandigarh.
8. On 26th June 2019, the Committee of Administrators addressed an email communication to the three claimant associations sharing a copy of the Report with them and inviting their objections and submissions on the Report within a period of seven days therefrom.
9. By way of a further email communication dated 1st July 2019, the Committee of Administrators informed the three claimant associations that the Committee of

Administrators has fixed a meeting on 6th July 2019 in New Delhi to hear the concerned parties in relation to affiliation of association from the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The claimant associations were requested to attend the said meeting if they so desired. The claimant associations were also informed that each association should be represented by not more than two representatives who should carry with them a valid authorization and copies of the written objections/submissions on the Report.

10. By way of an email dated 4th July 2019, the Committee of Administrators communicated the time and venue details for the meeting scheduled on 6th July 2019 to the three claimant associations. Whilst no objections/submissions on the Report were received by the Committee of Administrators from CCA-H and UTCA, by way of an email dated 1st July 2019 and letter dated 6th July 2019, CCA-P submitted its objections/submissions on the Report and requested the Committee of Administrators for an opportunity to present its case. However, in light of subsequent events as detailed below, it is no longer necessary for the Committee of Administrators to consider and deal with the objections/submissions of CCA-P.
11. On 6th July 2019, the Committee of Administrators held a meeting with representatives of the claimant associations in New Delhi, as scheduled. At the said meeting, CCA-P was represented by Mr. Harminder Singh Pannu and Mr. Dinesh Madra and UTCA was represented by Mr. Vivek Atray and Mr. Subash Mahajan. None attended on behalf of CCA-H. At the said meeting, the said claimant associations were given an opportunity to personally present their case for affiliation before the Committee of Administrators. Further, in the interest of mutual co-operation, the Committee of Administrators advised and implored the claimant associations (including CCA-H) to come together to form a single association, which would represent the interests of all the stakeholders of cricket in Chandigarh. Such a unified association would be recognized and affiliated as the Association from the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The representatives of the two claimant associations informed the Committee of Administrators that they would take necessary steps within a week in consultation with CCA-H to merge CCA-P and CCA-H into UTCA such that there would be one single unified association from the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
12. By way of an email dated 13th July 2019 sent to the Committee of Administrators on behalf of CCA-P, it was informed that the three claimant associations have decided to have a meeting on 15th July 2019 to work out the formalities for working together a unified association.
13. By way of an email dated 19th July 2019, the Committee of Administrators requested the claimant associations to confirm within 4 (four) days if the proposed merger of CCA-P and CCA-H into UTCA has taken place and submit documentary evidence in relation to the same.

14. Thereafter, by way of email dated 23rd July 2019, the Committee of Administrators was informed by the UTCA that further to the meeting with the Committee of Administrators on 6th July 2019, the UTCA had officially made efforts to take along CCA-P and CCA-H in its fold for the better future of Chandigarh in the field of cricket. However, no response was received from CCA-H and the meeting with CCA-H had no outcome. In the case of CCA-P, after detailed deliberations, they had given UTCA their final merger letter which was enclosed. The Executive Committee of UTCA had approved the merger of CCA-P with UTCA.
15. This was followed by an email dated 24th July 2019 received by the Committee of Administrators from CCA-P by which it was informed that the CCA-P has merged with UTCA and that CCA-P's decision to merge with UTCA was taken with the approval of governing body of CCA-P.

DECISION ON AFFILIATION

16. The Affiliation Committee after examining all aspects relevant for the purpose of affiliation to the BCCI which included a personal visit to Chandigarh to understand the actual on-the-ground situation, meetings and interactions with the representatives of the claimant associations, and analysis of information and documents submitted by them, arrived at a conclusion that UTCA is best placed to carry out, develop and promote cricketing activities in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and accordingly recommended that UTCA should be considered for affiliation to the BCCI, as the cricket association from the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
17. Further to the advice of the Committee of Administrators, the CCA-P has merged into the UTCA. In the circumstances, apart from UTCA, the only other claimant association that remains for consideration is CCA-H. The Report of the Affiliation Committee discloses that the information and documents provided by CCA-H were inadequate for the Affiliation Committee to make a fair assessment of the association's ability to run cricket in Chandigarh. Further, the CCA-H failed to submit objections/submissions on the Report of the Affiliation Committee when called upon to do so by the Committee of Administrators. The CCA-H also failed to attend the meeting with the Committee of Administrators on 6th July 2019 the purpose of which was to give the claimant associations an opportunity to personally present their case for affiliation. From the UTCA's email dated 23rd July 2019, it emerges that CCA-H did not provide any response to UTCA's suggestion/effort to effect a merger of CCA-H into UTCA and a meeting held between the representatives of the two associations did not result in any outcome. In any case, the Committee of Administrators is satisfied that there is no error or infirmity in the Affiliation Committee's recommendation not to grant affiliation to CCA-H but instead grant the same to UTCA.
18. In the circumstances and for the reasons stated above, the Committee of Administrators is of the view that UTCA is eminently suitable for the grant of affiliation to BCCI. This

is more so now that CCA-P has merged with UTCA. Accordingly, the Committee of Administrators hereby grants associate membership of the BCCI to UTCA for the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

19. In addition to being published on the BCCI Website, it is directed that this decision be filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court under intimation to the Learned Amicus Curiae.

Dated this 1st day of August 2019.



Mr. Vinod Rai
(Chairman)



Ms. Diana Edulji
(Member)



Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ravindra Thodge
(Member)