

IN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN-CUM-ETHICS OFFICER
PUNJAB CRICKET ASSOCIATION, SAS NAGAR MOHALI

Registered on 08.12.2023

Decided on 04.09.2025

Sh. Aman Kumar Son of Jiwan Kumar, R/o Near Khalsa High School Cinema Road, Mansa,
Punjab - 151505

..... Complainant

Versus

1. Mansa District Cricket Association Through its President, Working Office, Khalsa School Cricket Play Ground, Opposite Railway Station Mansa, Office Narula Pagdi House, Near Bus Stand, Mansa
2. Sh. Jagmohan Singh Dhaliwal S/o Sh. Mithu Singh, Secretary, Mansa District Cricket Association, Life Member- Punjab Cricket Association, New Court Road, Mansa
3. Sh. Hardeep Sharma S/o Sh. Makhan Ram, Coach of District Cricket Association Mansa Kothi No. 305. Green Velly Colony, Mansa
4. Sh. Bhagwan Singh S/o Sh. Resham Singh, Coach of District Cricket Association Mansa Ward No. 20 (Now Ward No 17) Near Dera Baradari, Mansa
5. Sh. Vinaypal Singh Gill S/o Sh. Boota Singh, Coach of District Cricket Association Mansa Ward No. 6, Raman Cinema Road, Mansa
6. Sh. Randeep Singh S/o Sh. Bhupinder Singh, Player registered through District Cricket Association Mansa Ward No. 6, Near Peer Khana, Mansa
7. Sh. Saksham Mittal @ Saksham Kumar S/o Ramesh Kumar, Player registered through District Cricket Association Mansa Vaid Kapoor Chand Street, Ward No. 23, Mansa
8. Sh. Jaspreet Singh S/o Gulab Singh, Player registered through District Cricket Association Mansa Chakerian Road, Opposite Mandir, Ward No. 11, Mansa
9. Sh. Aaditya Balana S/o Gaurav Balana, Player registered through District Cricket Association Mansa Resi. Coach Vinaypal Gill s/o Boota Singh, Ward No. 6, Raman Cinema Road, Mansa

..... Respondents

ORDER

1. Instant complaint has been preferred by Sh. Aman Kumar – Complainant resident of Mansa, Punjab against Mansa District Cricket Association for brevity Mansa DCA through its President and others seeking the following reliefs:

- a. *"To stop those players playing after made their Date of Birth Certificate with late entry and delayed registered players must be allowed only as per BCCI Rules only.*
 - b. *To de-affiliate District Cricket Association Mansa with PCA due to alleged wrong doing since last many years.*
 - c. *To remove the life membership of Jagmohan Singh Secretary DCA for his involvement in enhancing out of state players with age frauds.*
 - d. *To remove all these three coaches of DCA Mansa who had motivated out of State Players to come to Mansa and play for Punjab by changing their documents and ensuring their admissions in local schools. Residence proof of many such players are at Coach's homes.*
 - e. *To help Mansa Police to properly investigate the case to nominate other accused."*
2. The facts recapitulated from the complaint which are relevant and necessary for the proper and effective adjudication of the matter can be summarized as under:
- a. That Mansa DCA is body registered under the provisions of the Punjab State Corporative Society Act, 1961 and created for the sole purpose to train the budding players of Cricket of its district and for that purpose, it got an affiliation with the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), SAS Nagar (Mohali) as required under the provisions of Constitution of PCA.
 - b. The main grouse ventilated through the instant complaint is that most of the ineligible and underserving candidates/players have been registered/inducted by changing the dates of their actual date of birth particularly Respondent No. 6 to 8 with an active connivance of the Respondent No. 2 and other Office Bearers as well as the Coaches i.e. Hardeep Sharma, Bhagwan Singh and Vinaypal Singh to make them eligible for their registration under different age groups. Due to the induction/ registration of the aforesaid Cricket players who were otherwise ineligible on account of their overage, eligible and deserving candidates have stood debarred from playing and have suffered an irreparable loss and also lost the chance of playing cricket as well as to contribute to the nation. There is an age difference of 2 to 7 years in the actual age of the Respondent No. 6 to 8 which is clear from the documents annexed with the complaint.
 - c. Though, complainant knocked the doors at different levels to different authorities in this regard but no action was taken. Ultimately, complainant was constrained to lodge a criminal complaint to SSP Mansa with the aforesaid allegations which formed the basis of FIR No. 0061 dated 7th March 2023 under section 420/465/471/120-B IPC PS City-2 Mansa against Jagmohan Singh, Secretary and some other respondents. After investigation, report under section 193 BNSS, 2023 has already been presented in the court of Jurisdictional Court, Mansa. Meanwhile instant complaint was also filed before the undersigned for taking action against Respondents under the

provisions of the Constitution of PCA seeking various relief(s) as depicted in Para No. 1.

3. In response to the notice of the instant complaint issued by the undersigned, Sh. Jatin Arora, Advocate appeared on behalf of the Respondent No. 1 to 5 and 9, whereas the Respondent No. 6, 7 and 8 initially appeared but at the subsequent stage, they slipped away from the proceedings and were proceeded against ex-parte on different dates.
4. The Respondent No. 1 and 2 filed a joint written statement/reply raising preliminary objections that instant complaint is not maintainable in its present form; that complainant has concealed the true and material facts while filing the instant complaint on frivolous grounds in order to settled his personal scores and that in view of the registration of the FIR No. 0061 dated 07th March 2023 against Respondent 2 and others, he is likely to suffer and seriously prejudiced in the trial of the said case, in the event of submission of his defence in the present proceedings. All others allegations regarding fake/ change of date in birth certificates, its fabrication and forgery or the alleged connivance have been categorically denied. It has further been alleged that moreover, Respondent No. 2 Secretary discharged his functions while inducting/registering the players in the Association for their betterment on the basis of the documents presented by the candidates or their parents etc. As such, he did not commit any violation of rules of the Mansa DCA, PCA or the BCCI. The Life Membership of PCA and voting right particularly of Respondent No. 2 has no concern whatsoever with the present controversy and that is his individual right or status. All other allegations levelled in the complaint have also been denied alleging the same to be wrong. The Respondent No. 1 and 2 accordingly, prayed for the dismissal of the complaint.
5. The Respondent No. 3, 4 and 5 also filed a joint written statement/reply denying all the allegations raised in the complaint submitting that they have no role to play in the induction/registration or selection of players for coaching. They are imparting coaching and other skills to all the aspiring players of Cricket associated with Mansa DCA and are providing their best in order to groom them to play for the country. Rest of the allegations have been denied alleging the same to be wrong and incorrect or for want of knowledge. They also prayed for dismissal the complaint qua them. As mentioned in the foregoing paragraph the Resp. No. 6 to 8 did not opt to contest/defend the complaint and slipped away from the proceedings.
6. The parties to the instant complaint have been afforded an ample opportunity to adduce/produce the documentary evidence in support of their respective claims as well as to lead any other evidence but they felt satisfied that on the basis of the documents on the file produced by the parties, the matter can be disposed of effectively.

7. I have heard the Ld. Counsel for the complainant Sh. Deepak Gupta as well as the Ld. Counsel for the other contesting respondents and also have meticulously gone through the documents available on file and referred to during the course of arguments.
8. The contention of the Ld. Counsel of the Complainant Sh. Deepak Gupta is that it is a undisputed fact that Mansa District Cricket Association was brought into the existence and got affiliation with PCA as required so that, the monetary/pecuniary and other facilities required for the players for their grooming and acquiring skills in the field of Cricket could be released by the PCA to Mansa DCA but the secretary Mansa DCA in connivance with coaches and the defaulter players started committing frauds and other violations of the provisions, instruction and guidelines of the PCA and BCCI. The Office Bearers of Mansa DCA, Coaches and Parents of the budding players in collusion with each other started registering the ineligible and underserving candidates by showing the age of the candidates less than that of the actual date of birth. For that purpose, they also managed to procure the certificates with different date of birth than the actual one and in the instant case, Respondent No. 6 to 8, who were not eligible as per their actual date of birth, submitted fake and fabricated certificates issued by the different authorities, who are otherwise not competent to issue those certificates.
9. At this juncture, Ld. Counsel has referred to such certificates pertaining to Jaspreet Singh, Saksham Mittal and Randeep Singh Annexure P-12 in which the actual DOB of Jaspreet Singh is 18.12.1999 whereas fake DOB is 18.12.2006, actual DOB of Saksham Mittal is 04.04.1997 whereas fake DOB is 04.09.2003 and actual DOB of Randeep Singh is 01.04.2001 whereas fake DOB is 01.11.2003. On the basis aforesaid certificates, they were inducted/registered with the Mansa DCA with view to facilitate their participation in the game as player(s) even though, they were not eligible as per their actual DOB. Thus, complainant is entitled to relief(s) claimed through the instant complaint.
10. On the other hand, Ld. Counsel for the Respondent No. 1 & 2 Sh. Bhriagu Dutt Sharma has argued with vehemence that the Respondent No. 1 & 2 have been falsely roped in, in the instant complaint as well as in the criminal complaint on account of political vendetta. There was no complaint of any sort against the Respondent no. 2 who remained Secretary of the Mansa DCA for a sufficient long time and he has been discharging his functions/duties as a Secretary honestly and diligently. The Respondents No. 1 & 2 have been doing their best to provide world class coaching to the students/selected players of Mansa DCA. Otherwise also, Secretary of the Association while relying upon the documents submitted by each player supported by a duly sworn affidavit(s) forwards the same to PCA. There is no mechanism or responsibility of the

Secretary of the concerned DCA to verify the genuineness of the certificates submitted by each player. Hundreds of students are being enrolled every year with Mansa DCA and it is not feasible to verify the genuineness of documents particularly when there are no guidelines of PCA with regard to the obtaining of affidavits from each player. Otherwise also, FIR No. 0061 already been registered and in which investigation is complete and challan has already been presented. Any order passed in the instant complaint may adversely affect the prospectives of criminal case.

11. Finally, it has been submitted by Ld. Counsel for Respondents No. 1 & 2 that Jagmohan Singh Respondent No. 2 is no more the Office Bearer of Mansa DCA, as the elections was conducted of Mansa DCA in the month of November 2024 and some other person has already been elected as Secretary of Mansa DCA. The allegations being absolutely false and frivolous, the complaint qua Respondents No. 1 & 2 deserved to be dismissed.
12. As regards, the Respondent No. 3 to 5, who are working as coaches at the relevant time, it has been contended by their Ld. Counsel Sh. Jatin Arora that they have no role to play in the registration/induction or selection of candidates/ the budding players and that entire process has to be undertaken by the other members of the Mansa DCA. They are just the employees of Mansa DCA and are getting remuneration for rendering their services. Their duties are only to impart training and skills to the players. Thus, complaint against them is otherwise not sustainable and it deserves to be dismissed qua them.
13. It has also been stressed by Sh. Jatin Arora, Counsel for Respondent No. 9 that he has been wrongly and falsely dragged in the instant complaint by the complainant. There is no allegation against him that he committed any cheating and forgery with regard to his actual date of birth. Moreover, he was registered with Mansa DCA with his actual DOB i.e. 10.03.2006 and he was otherwise eligible for his registration/induction in the Mansa DCA.

Jaspal Singh
04/09/2025

14. I have given a thoughtful consideration to the aforesaid submissions made by the Ld. Counsel for the parties and have scanned the documents with their assistance.
15. Undisputably, Mansa DCA was created and registered with the Punjab State Corporative Society Act, 1961. Subsequently, it got an affiliation with the PCA. Before proceeding to decide the controversy, it would be appropriate to have a glance on the aims and objects of the PCA as well as Mansa DCA.

16. The main object of the PCA at the state level and Cricket Association at District level is to improve the standard and quality of the game of Cricket, recognizing that the primary stakeholders are the players and Cricket fans in its area of operations, and that accountability, transparency and purity integrity of the Game are the core values; and to provide for measures necessary for promotion and development of the game of Cricket, welfare and interest of Cricketers and elimination of unethical and unfair practices in the Game of cricket; as well as to strive for sportsmanship and professionalism in the game of Cricket and its governance and administration; inculcate principles of transparency and ethical standards in players, team officials, umpires etc. and to foster the spirit of sportsmanship and the ideals of cricket amongst school, college and university students and to educate them regarding the same beside other things relevant for the proper functioning of the organization and the flourishing of the game of Cricket.

17. Adverting to the facts of the instant complaint and the relief(s) sought, allegations projected by the complainant are that the candidates/students namely Jaspreet Singh, Saksham Mittal and Randeep Singh were not eligible to be registered/inducted as players in the Mansa DCA on account of their age i.e. Date of Birth but by obtaining the fake certificates showing their less age than that the actual one, they were made eligible for registration/induction in the training and their participation in the different matches for their personal gain.

18. As regards the submission of the Ld. Counsel of Respondent No. 1 and 2 that no mechanism or responsibility of the Secretary of the concerned DCA to verify the genuineness of the certificate submitted by each player and he is supposed to forward the papers to the PCA, undersigned does not find any merit in this contention. He was the Secretary of the Mansa DCA and as such, he was duty bound to discharge his functions honestly and diligently. He cannot wriggle out or escape from his responsibility on the mere fact that there were hundreds of students/ candidates in the association who are to be guided and groomed. Rather, it is evident from the documents available on record that Jaspreet Singh, Saksham Mittal and Randeep Singh changed their DOB from their actual DOB and succeeded in getting registration in Mansa DCA thereby devastating and knocking down the career of other eligible and deserving candidates/players, the future of nation. Number of complaints were also filed earlier and the matter was also raised in Mansa DCA but it appears that none of the Office Bearers of Mansa DCA paid any heed which ultimately resulted in violation and infringement of the aims and objects of the PCA.

19. It would also not be out of place to mention here that fake/manipulated DOB certificates/school leaving certificates were relied upon just to facilitate ineligible and underserving candidates/players at the time of their registration in Mansa DCA which ultimately proved detrimental to the interest and career of the eligible players. Moreover, as per the PCA Inter-District Cricket Tournaments Rule 6 (a) (ii), it is incumbent upon the District Secretary to verify the documents prescribed under the rules for eligibility along with the affidavit for the said documents and correctness of age to be executed by the player(s). Thus, this shows that all is not well in the organization/association i.e. Mansa DCA. These factors also go to show that such manipulation was to give undue advantage to particular players at the time of their registration and detrimental to the interest of eligible and deserving one's. Similarly, it also appears that the other Office Bearers of the Mansa DCA also did not discharge their functions diligently and honestly to achieve the aim and object of the Cricket Associations. It also cannot be expected or even imagined that they were not aware about these facts which were being highlighted time and again. To cater the needs of the players and for their upliftment and flourishing of the game of Cricket as well as to generate the faith and confidence among the people or the Cricket lovers, some steps are required to be taken by the undersigned while dealing with the instant complaint.

20. Accordingly, undersigned is of the considered view that it would be just, apt and proper as well as justifiable to order de-affiliation of Mansa District Cricket Association with Punjab Cricket Association on account of the various factors referred above, whereas the other relief(s) claimed are declined at this stage, particularly in view of the fact that the criminal case is already sub-judice before the court at Mansa. As regards, the removal of Life Membership of Jagmohan Singh it is suffice to say that it has nothing to do with the post of Honorary Secretary of Mansa DCA rather, the said Life Membership is absolutely independent and not due to the reason that he was the secretary of Mansa DCA. As such, his removal from the Life Membership of PCA can't be questioned by the complainant.

21. So far as the registration of the FIR referred to above and presentation of challan before the criminal court Mansa is concerned, it is a matter of record and is to be decided or adjudicated upon independently by the concerned court taking into consideration all the materials available before it. It is made clear that the instant order shall have no bearing or binding effect on the merits of the criminal case which deserves to be decided on merits purely on the evidence adduced in said case that's too, without being influenced by any observation made in this order.

22. In the light of aforesaid discussion, this complaint is partly accepted to the effect that the Mansa District Cricket Association is hereby de-affiliated from Punjab Cricket Association with immediate effects, whereas all other relief(s) claimed through instant complaint are declined. The Secretary, Punjab Cricket Association is directed to take appropriate measure/action so that the game of Cricket and career of the players at district Mansa may not suffer, immediately. The complaint stands disposed off.
23. A copy of the order be conveyed to the parties through email/WhatsApp for information and upload on Official PCA website. And thereafter, File be consigned to record room.

Pronounced in open court.

Date: 04.09.2025


(Jaspal Singh) 04/09/2025

Former Judge Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh

Ombudsman-cum-Ethics Officer, PCA