

Case No.6 (OMB) of 2025.

Re: Reference of dispute in respect of Satya Sandhi by Mr.Abdul Masood through his letters dated 8th July, 2024 and 13th August, 2024.

Subject:- Proceeding under Section 23 of the WB Societies Registration Act, 1961 against CAB.

Present:-

For Complainant

1. Mr. Abdul Masood appearing in person.
2. Ms. Debanwita Pramanik, Advocate.
3. Md. Sajid Hussain, Advocate.
4. Mr. Sayan Roy, Advocate.
5. Mr. Simon Arora, Advocate.

For Opposite party

1. Mr. Sandip Kumar De, Senior Advocate.
2. Mr. Malay Kumar Singh, Advocate.
3. Mr. Kaustav Banerjee, Advocate.

For CAB

1. Mr. Kaushik Mandal, Senior Advocate.
2. Ms. Manali Bose, Advocate.

Order No. 9 dated 22nd November, 2025.

In view of the order passed by the undersigned in another subsequent proceeding being case no. 19 (OMB) of 2025 between the same parties on 22nd November, 2025, the undersigned holds that since the dispute involved in this proceeding is also the subject matter of the suit being Title Suit no. 8 of 2013 pending before the learned Civil Judge (Junior Division) 3rd Additional Court at Alipore, the parties are relegated to the said suit for adjudication of the present disputes as it has been already held in case no. 19 (OMB) of 2025, that the learned Civil Court is the appropriate forum for disposal of the present dispute pending before the undersigned. Hence, the present proceeding is also disposed of in order to avoid conflict of decision. Interim order passed earlier stands discharged.

CAB is directed to communicate this order to all concerned, at the earliest.

Jyotirmay Bhattacharya
Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya
Former Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta,
Presently, Ombudsman, Cricket Association of Bengal

Case No.19 (OMB) of 2025.

Re: Dispute raised by Mr. Abdul Masood, Hony. General Secretary, Satya-Sandhi, referred by the Hony. Secretary, CAB under Rule 70(1)(a) of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Rules.

Present:-

For Complainant

None appears

For Opposite party

1. Mr. Sandip Kumar De, Senior Advocate.
2. Mr. Malay Kumar Singh, Advocate.
3. Mr. Kaustav Banerjee, Advocate.

For CAB

1. Mr. Samrat Sen, Senior Advocate.
2. Mr. Kaushik Mandal, Advocate.
3. Ms. Manali Bose, Advocate.

Order No.2 dated 24th November, 2025.

CAB has submitted an application through email on 23rd November, 2025, praying for passing further order in this proceeding which was objected to by Abdul Masood through his letters dated 23rd November and 24th November, 2025. Abdul Masood has intimated his difficulties in appearing today due to his pre-occupation in other matter. In fact he has not appeared today. There is no representation from his side.

Be that as it may, in view of the order passed by the undersigned on 22nd November, 2025, in the above matter relegating the parties to the suit being Title Suit No. 8 of 2013 pending before the Learned Civil Judge (Junior Division) 3rd Additional Court at Alipore and thereby disposing of the pending proceeding before the undersigned, no further order need be passed by the undersigned on the application submitted by CAB. The application is disposed of.

CAB is directed to communicate this order to all concerned, at the earliest.



Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya

**Former Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta,
Presently, Ombudsman, Cricket Association of Bengal**

Case No.19 (OMB) of 2025.

Re: Dispute raised by Mr. Abdul Masood, Hony. General Secretary, Satya-Sandhi, referred by the Hony. Secretary, CAB under Rule 70(1)(a) of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Rules.

Present:-

For Complainant

1. Mr. Abdul Masood, appearing in person.
2. Ms. Debanwita Pramanik, Advocate.
3. Md. Sajid Hussain, Advocate.
4. Mr. Sayan Roy, Advocate.
5. Mr. Simon Arora, Advocate.

For Opposite party

1. Mr. Sandip Kumar De, Senior Advocate.
2. Mr. Malay Kumar Singh, Advocate.
3. Mr. Kaustav Banerjee, Advocate.

For CAB

1. Mr. Samrat Sen, Senior Advocate.
2. Mr. Kaushik Mandal, Advocate.
3. Ms. Manali Bose, Advocate.

Order No. 1 dated 22nd November, 2025.

There is an earlier proceeding between two rival groups relating to identity issues of SATYA SANDHI Club. The said proceeding was registered as Case No. 6 (OMB) of 2025 which is pending before the undersigned.

Since one club viz. SATYA SANDHI having its registered office at 181/5A, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700004 is receiving grants from CAB, the other club under the same name and style SATYA SANDHI having its registered office at 16A, Balu Hakkak Lane, Kolkata - 700017, objected to release of such grant in favour of SATYA SANDHI having its registered office at 181/5A, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700004. Both the rival groups are claiming that they are the persons who are entitled to represent SATYA SANDHI Club. In this context, following

two identity issues were framed and those issues are now being considered by the undersigned :-

1. As to which SATYA SANDHI, is the Club which is affiliated with CAB.
2. As to who are the persons who can be present SATYA SANDHI, which is a Club affiliated with CAB.

Pending consideration of those two issues, the undersigned by his order being no. 6 dated 6th September, 2025, restrained CAB from disbursing any further grant and/or money in favour any of the aforesaid clubs viz. SATYA SANDHI having its registration no. SO147270 of 2007-2008 and also the club having its registration no. 11071 of 1949 respectively until the above dispute is ultimately resolved by the undersigned.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned herein that, SATYA SANDHI Club which had its registered address at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata – 700004 and subsequently shifted to 16A, Balu Hakkak Lane, Kolkata – 700017 is having registration no. SO147270 of 2027-2028. Whereas the other SATYA SANDHI Club which has its office at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata – 700004 is also claimed to have registered the said club under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961 having registration no. 11071 of 1949.

It was reported that, CAB has been strictly complying with the aforesaid interim restraint order passed by the undersigned. Thus, no further grant was extended by CAB to any of the groups.

There was a further development in the light of the aforesaid context. As a matter of fact, none of the above rival groups was allowed to participate in the last AGM of the CAB held on 22nd September, 2025, by virtue of an identical restraint order passed by the Election Officer.

Lastly, on 15th November, 2025 when the above proceeding was fixed for hearing, learned Counsel appearing for the CAB, informed the undersigned that a list of 30 players had been sent by SATYA SANDHI club having registered office at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata -700004 for their registration with CAB, so that the said club can participate in N.C. Chatterjee Memorial Tournament, 2025, organized by CAB. It was submitted by the learned Counsel of CAB that, CAB does not want to involve into any litigation between two rival groups having conflicting claims. As such, CAB depends upon the decision of the undersigned.

The undersigned was also informed that, as per the fixtures for second division one day tournament (League-cum-Knock out) for the Cricket Session 2025-2026, 17th November, 2025 was the date fixed for the match between SATYA SANDHI and Ballygunge Sporting Association.

Learned counsel appearing for the complainant in Case No. 6 (OMB) of 2025, initially contended that, when CAB, acting on the interim order passed by the undersigned, has stopped disbursement of money in favour of any of such clubs and also debarred Mr. Saroj Kumar Ghosh, Organizing Secretary of SATYA SANDHI club having its address at 181/5A, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata 700004 from participating in the last AGM, CAB now cannot allow the players mentioned in the list sent by SATYA SANDHI club under the signature of that Saroj Kumar Ghosh, to be registered by CAB for participating in the ensuing N.C. Chatterjee Memorial Tournament, 2025 organized by CAB. He, however, submitted that, considering the future prospect and career of those players, those players may be registered and also may be allowed to participate in the matches organized by CAB under the banner of CAB or under any other banner without any reference being made to Saroj Kumar Ghosh.

At this juncture, Mr. De, learned counsel representing the club having its registered office 181/5A, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700004, submitted by drawing the attention of the undersigned that the entitlement of any club to participate in the tournament organized by CAB is not the subject matter of dispute as referred to in the complaint being complaint no. 6 (OMB) of 2025, submitted by the complainant to the undersigned. As such, he requested the undersigned not to enter into such dispute.

Considering such submission of Mr. De, and after considering the nature of the dispute involved in the aforesaid proceeding, the undersigned held that, no such dispute was involved in the said proceeding. Whether SATYA SANDHI club having its registered office at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata -700004 was entitled to receive grant from CAB was the only dispute raised before the undersigned in the said proceeding. Accordingly the undersigned refused to pass any order on the prayer of the learned Counsel of CAB.

Fact remains that CAB, after taking into consideration of the submission made by the learned Advocate of the complainant that the players sent by SATYA SANDHI may be allowed to be registered and/or participate in the matches to be organized by CAB under the banner of CAB or under any other banner without any reference being made to Mr. Saroj Kumar Ghosh, allowed those players to participate in the match fixed on 17th November, 2025 without referring to Mr. Saroj Kumar Ghosh and/or also without mentioning the address of the club, but with the seal of CAB.

SATYA SANDHI club having its address at 16A, Balu Hakkak Lane, Kolkata - 700017, represented by Abdul Masood, submitted two letters dated 25th October, 2025 and 15th November, 2025 respectively to CAB as CAB allowed SATYA SANDHI Club represented by his rival group to participate in the said tournament, which gives rise to a dispute which is referred to by CAB

to the undersigned for his decision under Rule 70 (1) (a) of CAB Rules. The said proceeding was registered as case no. 19 (OMB) of 2025.

Learned counsel representing the parties were heard at length. A demurrer application was also taken out by SATYA SANDHI club having its address at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700004, for dismissal of the reference. Mr. De, learned counsel appearing in support of such demurrer application pointed out that already a civil suit being Title Suit No. 8 of 2013 filed by SATYA SANDHI having its registered office at 16A, Balu Hakkak Lane, Kolkata - 700017, and another against CAB is pending before the Court of the learned 3rd Additional Civil Judge, (Junior Division) at Alipore. He submitted that, in the said suit SATYA SANDHI club having its registered office at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700004, has been added as defendant no. 2 in the said suit. Reading the reliefs claimed by the plaintiffs in the said suit, he submitted that identical reliefs are prayed by the plaintiff in the said suit against CAB and his client. He further contended that, since the subject matter of the suit is identically same with the subject matter of dispute involved in this proceeding, the present proceeding pending before the undersigned is not maintainable. In addition, he submitted that, even the dispute which is raised and/or referred to the undersigned by CAB does not come under provision of Rule 70 (1) (a) of the CAB Rules. As such, according to him, the undersigned should not enter into such dispute raised by CAB. He further contended that when a comprehensive suit is pending before a competent Civil Court, involving identical issues and for the identical reliefs, the undersigned should not entertain the reference. He thus, invited the undersigned to refer the parties to the pending suit for resolving their dispute once for all without passing any interim order in as-much-as passing of any interim order by the undersigned according to him, may ultimately influence the civil suit in deciding the rights of the parties in the pending suit.

All parties fundamentally agreed with the submission of Mr. De, but considering the urgency involved in this matter as the next Match is fixed on 25th November, 2025, invited the undersigned to relegate the parties to the present suit with some interim arrangement so as to avoid any pandemonium at the field where the next match is scheduled to be held. He, however, contended that in the Register maintained by CAB, SATYA SANDHI having its address at 181/5A A.P.C. Road, Kolkata - 700004 is shown as a club affiliated to CAB.

Considering that the next match is scheduled to be held on 25th November, 2025, some sort of interim arrangement is necessary and accordingly it is directed that the match, fixed on 25th November, 2025, will remain postponed for the time being with liberty to both the parties to approach the learned Civil Court in the pending suit for seeking appropriate relief including the relief for replay of the match scheduled to be played on 25th November, 2025 on any subsequent date and the decision which will be passed by the learned Civil Court in this regard, goes without saying that will be binding upon the parties. This direction is passed without prejudice to the rights and contention of the parties in the pending civil suit.

It is clarified that in the event none of the parties approaches the Civil Court or fails to bring appropriate order on their conflicting claims as to their legal rights to participate in any tournament organized and/or to be organized by CAB, from the learned Civil Court by 1st December, 2025, the match fixed on 25th November, 2025, where SATYA SANDHI will not be able to participate, may be treated as "walk over" in favour of the opposite team or replayed at the discretion of the CAB.

Before parting with, the undersigned wants to add that though under Rule 70 (1) (a) of CAB Rules, the undersigned has the jurisdiction to entertain such dispute but since the jurisdiction of the learned Civil Court has not been ousted by the CAB Rules and the learned Civil Court is no doubt a superior Court for deciding all civil disputes between the parties, the undersigned feels that, the present dispute should be dealt with and/or resolved by the learned Civil Court which has elaborate jurisdiction to decide all complicated issues relating to civil disputes by trial on evidence. Keeping in mind the aforesaid principles of law and also for the purpose of avoiding conflict of decision, the undersigned, instead of entering into such dispute, prefers to leave the issue to be decided by the learned Civil Court once for all. It is also made clear that, since the learned Civil Court has elaborate jurisdiction to pass interim order in the suit, the learned Civil Court may pass appropriate interim order in this proceeding on its own merit and according to its own wisdom and without being influenced and or guided by the interim arrangement made by the undersigned hereinabove.

The proceeding is thus disposed of.

CAB is directed to communicate this order to all concerned, at the earliest.



Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya
Former Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta,
Presently, Ombudsman, Cricket Association of Bengal