

Case No. 4 (OMB) 2025.

Re: W.P.O No. 591 of 2024 (Bhudeb Mukherjee & Others –Versus- The Board of Control for Cricket in India and Others).

Present:-

For Bhudeb Mukherjee.

Mr. Kaustav Banerjee, Advocate.

Mr. Avilas Agarwal, Complainant.

For CAB

Mr. Samrat Sen, Senior Advocate.

Order No. 5, dated 1st November, 2025.

The complainants are Life Members of CAB. They claimed that they were entitled to enjoy the privilege of free entrance in the 2023 World Cup, Match held at Eden Gardens, Kolkata as per the provision contained in Rule 17 (ii) of the Memorandum and Rules of Cricket Association of Bengal. They alleged that they were deprived of enjoying such privilege as free tickets were denied to them. That is the crux of the complaint contained in their complaint which is presently under consideration before the undersigned, in view of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.

Mr. Sen learned Senior Counsel appearing for CAB, informs the undersigned that the decision of the Apex Council relating to distribution of free tickets for the World Cup held at Eden Gardens, Kolkata in 2023, is the subject matter of challenge in the present complaint before the undersigned.

Mr. Sen further informs the undersigned that the Apex Council has since been reconstituted with the new members elected in September, 2025. He thus contended that neither the erstwhile Apex Council is presently the decision making authority nor there is any possibility of exhibiting 2023 World Cup Match again in 2025 or subsequently nor presently there is any scope for creating an opportunity for the Life Members to enjoy the World Cup Match, 2023. As such, the issue relating to justifiability in denying the free tickets to the Life Members following the decision taken by the erstwhile Apex Council, has now become merely an academic issue which need not be decided by the undersigned presently. He further submitted that, the policy decision regarding distribution of free tickets amongst the members of CAB is taken by the Apex Council in the light of the restriction and/or conditions imposed by ICC / BCCI for the matches organized by ICC / BCCI. As such, distribution policy depends upon several variable factors, such as, the nature of restrictions and conditions imposed and/or to be imposed by ICC / BCCI. He thus contended that, the distribution policy of the Apex Council is not a static one.

Mr. Sen also informs the undersigned that the reconstituted Apex Council has decided to give free ticket to all individual members of CAB including the Life Members for the

Test Match between India -vs- South Africa which is scheduled to be exhibited at Eden Gardens, Kolkata between 14th November, 2025 and 18th November, 2025 without prejudice to their rights and contentions regarding interpretation of Rule 17(ii) of the said Rules.

He further informs the undersigned that, no other match is scheduled to be exhibited at Eden Gardens in 2025. He also informs the undersigned that henceforth whenever any match, be it Test Match or T-20 or One-Day Match or World Cup Match etc. will be exhibited at Eden Gardens, free ticket distribution policy will be formulated by the Apex Council, depending upon the factors as mentioned above and if any of the Members of CAB feels agreed against such distribution policy of CAB, he / she is free to approach the undersigned to ventilate his / her grievances and under such situation, the undersigned can take the ultimate decision in the light of the provision of Memorandum and Rules of CAB and other applicable factors such as, restrictions, conditions to be imposed by the organizer of the matches from time to time. He thus concluded by submitting that since no useful purpose will be served by deciding the issue involved in the complaint which is presently a dead issue, valuable time need not be wasted either by the undersigned or by the parties for deciding the said issue which is purely an academic one.

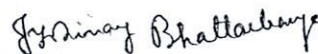
Mr. Banerjee learned Counsel appearing for the complainants seeks leave to file a supplementary affidavit for bringing further materials on record particularly the order passed by the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta in a proceeding recently initiated by the complainant and the relevant cause papers which according to him, will ultimately guide the undersigned in resolving the issue involved in the complaint which is presently sub-judice before the undersigned.

On such prayer being made by Mr. Banerjee, leave is granted to his client to file supplementary affidavit by 30th November, 2025.

Let this matter be posted for hearing on 13th December, 2025 at 5 p.m. on the same venue.

Si.

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.