

It was the bowlers who won us the game. I know I have to say that being a batsman, but I know how tough it was given the dew. But this must be one of the best comebacks in this format for India."

ROHIT SHARMA
AFTER THE NAGPUR T20I

IOA cries foul over age limit, autonomy issues in draft Sports Code

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 10

THE INDIAN Olympic Association has opposed the proposal to restrict the age limit of office-bearers in National Sports Federations (NSFs) to 70 years and 'strongly objected' to the exclusion of state Olympic Associations from the IOA as per the draft National Code for Good Governance in Sports (NCGGS) 2017.

In its feedback submitted to the sports ministry on Sunday, the IOA also disapproved of the provision in the draft code for the government to nominate or constitute an Athletes' Commission, arguing they are 'duty bound to protect autonomy of sports federations', while seeking clarity on a clause pertaining to exemption from revealing details about commercial contracts under the Right to Information Act.

The sports ministry shared the draft of the NCGGS with the sports federations on October 7 and later set November 10 as the

deadline to submit feedback. In the meantime, the ministry has relegated the code to the back-burner and it has been suggested that a new committee be formed to have a re-look at the proposed draft. However, no timeline has been set for the formation of the panel as well as redrafting the code.

The federations and ministry were earlier at the loggerheads following the proposal in the NCGGS that no minister, MP, MLA or government servant shall be an office-bearer or board member of a federation. However, sports minister Kiren Rijiju had said after meeting the NSFs that the government would be open to relaxing this clause.

The IOA, sources said, submitted its feedback to ensure their suggestions and objections are taken into consideration when the new committee meets to re-draft the code.

It has been proposed in the code that a member will be 'disqualified' after 'attainment of the age of 70 years'. The IOA, however, has argued that even though the norm



The Narinder Batra-led IOA has proposed that every national sports federation be allowed to follow the age limit of their respective international federation, or a uniform age limit of 75 be imposed. Express file

is in sync with the Olympic Charter, the International Olympic Committee has not enforced it on all International Federations.

Instead, the IOA has proposed that every NSF be allowed to follow the age limit of their respective international federation, or a uniform age limit of 75 be imposed. "Considering the longevity of a person's term at the IOC, the rule of relieving membership at the age of 70 years is optimal for the IOC. But given the differences in the membership and governance structure between the IOC and NOC (National Olympic Committee), that rule of age limitation cannot be implemented in toto for all members on the Board in the NOC. If there has to be a limitation, 75 years proposed as the age limit," the IOA said.

It added: "The NSFs should be permitted to follow the age limit as per the governance principle of the respective IF. Besides, there is no law of the land that limits the age of a person for honorary service in a society or non-profit organisation."

The draft - which states that the IOA and

federations 'shall be deemed to be a public authority' - exempts the bodies from revealing commercial details under the RTI Act. The IOA has raised doubts over the move and questioned if it contradicts the provisions under the Act. "The doubt is whether this contradicts the provision in the Right to Information (RTI) Act, whereby the Public Information Officer (PIO) cannot deny information citing commercial confidence for agreements between a public authority and private party," the IOA has pointed out.

The sports code was first formulated in 2011. It spelt out election procedures, age and tenure norms for office-bearers and brought federations under the RTI Act, among other decisions. However, it was argued in 2014 that some of the points in the code were not updated as per the requirements of modern-day sport.

Consequently, on the direction of the Delhi High Court, the ministry re-constituted a panel that revised the sports code in 2017. However, due to various complications, it has not yet been enforced.

KPL fixing probe gets a shot in arm, international bookie nabbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 10

THE BENGALURU crime branch police got a major breakthrough in the Karnataka Premier League match-fixing investigation on Sunday when they arrested an "international cricket bookie", Sanyam Gulati.

The bookie was in hiding in the West Indies after the KPL fixing scam surfaced and was arrested on the basis of a look-out circular issued by the police. He is alleged to have used the services of an Indian Premier League and KPL entertainer Bhavesh Bafna to influence players to indulge in fixing during KPL matches.

"International bookie Sanyam has been arrested. He is a resident of Haryana. He was absconding in the West Indies. LoC was issued. He is arrested in the case of match fixing done by Bhavesh Bafna," the Bengaluru crime branch police said on Sunday.

Bafna - a celebrity drummer who entertained fans in T20 leagues like the KPL, the TNPL and the IPL - and Gulati approached Bellary Tuskers fast bowler Bhavesh Gulecha to give more than 10 runs in an over in a KPL game in the 2019 season, police said.

Bafna was arrested in October by the crime branch police after a complaint by Gulecha. According to Gulecha, he was offered the prospect of playing in the IPL and Rs two lakh as advance for meeting Gulati and accepting the deal. The cricketer claims to have turned down the offer.

Bafna's name cropped up when the police were investigating the Belagavi Panthers owner Asfak Ali Thara's role in the fixing scandal. Thara was the first person to be arrested in the case. He and Bellary Tuskers owner Arvind Venkatesh Reddy are alleged to have conspired with bookies and players to fix games in the league, including the including the 2019 final which the Tuskers lost.

Last week, Bellary captain CM Gautam, who has also led the Karnataka Ranji team in the past, and his team-mate and first-class player Abrar Kazi were arrested by the Bengaluru police for their alleged involvement in fixing at least four matches over the last two seasons.

Bellary owner Reddy, a real estate businessman who also co-owns the Karnataka Tuskers team in the Abu Dhabi T10 League, has been named in police reports but has not been arrested as yet.

A total of eight persons, including four players and a team owner, have been arrested so far in the KPL fixing scam. Gulati is the first major cricket bookie to be nabbed in connection with the scandal. Another bookie, Jatin Sethi, named in the Bafna-Gulecha case is absconding.

"The KPL fixing scam runs really deep and there are many big names involved. These will emerge as investigation progresses and evidence is gathered," a senior police official said.

Pak first-class players turn backs on red-ball cricket to play T10

Karachi: Three uncapped Pakistani players have walked out of their first-class teams, insisting they wanted to play for a franchise in the T10 league in Abu Dhabi, giving a new turn to the ongoing tussle between players and the Pakistan Cricket Board. Fast bowler Haris Rauf and batsmen Mirza Ehsan Baig and Sohail Akhtar have apparently decided to fly out to Abu Dhabi, although the board is yet to issue NOCs to players for the tournament.

"These three players informed their teams in domestic first-class cricket after the national T20 championship that they couldn't play any longer in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy as they were going to play for their Pakistan Super League franchise, Lahore Qalanders," a well-informed source said. PTI

Chahar strikes biggest 6 of them all

Medium pacer runs through Bangladesh's batting line-up on his way to best-ever bowling figures in T20Is; India win series 2-1



20 BALLS-7 RUNS-6 WICKETS

Washington Sundar ruffles Deepak Chahar's hair during the third and final T20I against Bangladesh on Sunday. India won the decider by 30 runs.

■ Deepak Chahar's 6/7 against Bangladesh are the best figures ever in T20Is. He also becomes the first Indian to clinch a hat-trick in T20Is and the 11th player overall to do so.

■ Chahar is the fourth bowler to take a six-wicket haul in T20Is. SL spinner Ajantha Mendis did it twice: 6/8 vs Zim in 2012 and 6/16 vs Aus in 2011. Yuzvendra Chahal, 6/25 vs Eng in '17, is also in this list.

■ This is the first instance where a bowler picked up two wickets in two balls thrice in the same innings. Chahar first shot into the limelight when he took 8-10 on his Ranji debut against Hyderabad in 2010.

■ While Chahar is the first Indian bowler to claim a hat-trick in the T20Is, four others - Chetan Sharma, Kapil Dev, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohd Shami - have achieved the feat in the 50-over format.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 10

DEEPAK CHAHAR had not done too much to catch the eye when Chennai Super Kings picked him at the 2018 IPL auction. On paper, the medium pacer had all the attributes to prosper in the game's shortest format.

However, a series of intermittent injuries had cluttered his mind and dampened his spirit. He had a fairly middling debut season for Chennai - 10 wickets from 12 matches at an average of 27.80. However, captain MS Dhoni and coach Stephen Fleming helped him find his verve and also rekindle his passion for the game. The likes of Dwayne Bravo, Lungi Nigidi and bowling coach Andrew Bichel also played crucial roles in helping Chahar hone his skills further. This was backed by a regimented fitness routine. He was no longer dependent only on swing to outwit batsmen. He began to touch 140kmph mark regularly and even expanded his repertoire by adding deceptive cutters and a knuckle ball.

Chahar finally began to taste success the following season, when he turned into one of Dhoni's foremost weapons. Chennai may not have won the 2019 IPL title, but Chahar enhanced his reputation by consistently removing top-order batsmen, which ended in him scalping 22 wickets from 17 matches at an impressive average of 21.90. The breakthrough IPL season also saw Chahar bowling according to the match situation and exploit batsmen's weaknesses.

This was evident against Bangladesh in

Nagpur, where the 27-year-old returned scarcely-believable figures of 6/7 in 3.2 overs - the best ever by a bowler in T20Is - and finished the match with a hat-trick. His efforts were largely instrumental in India romping home to an eventually comfortable 30-run win and seal the three-match series 2-1.

It was a match in which Rohit Sharma's team effectively went in a bowler short - having replaced all-rounder Krunal Pandya with Manish Pandey. Despite the best efforts from India's batsmen - they finished at 174/5 batting first - there was a worry that Bangladesh's effective middle order could exploit the situation.

However, Chahar continuously punched holes in the visitors' plans. First up, he removed Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar off consecutive deliveries to derail the chase, and just when a 98-run third-wicket stand between young opener Mohammad Naim and Mohammad Mithun was turning into a match-winning one, Sharma brought back his main strike bowler.

Chahar did not disappoint his captain; he dismissed Mithun with a devious slower delivery that swerved and forced a mistimed stroke. At this stage, Chahar's figures read 2-0-3-3. He was then summoned towards the fag end of the innings to mop up Bangladesh's tail.

This spectacular performance not only highlighted the rapid strides Chahar has taken, but also underlined that India would not miss the services of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, sitting out with a hamstring injury. Consequently, Chahar's brilliance even rubbed off on the rest of his

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team-mates. All-rounder Shivam Dube, who was playing only his second T20 International, also played a stellar support act by pegging Bangladesh back with three quick wickets in the middle overs.

Rahul, Iyer make waves

Last week, BCCI posted a video on Twitter that showed KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer participating in a fitness challenge organised by the team's strength and conditioning coach Nick Webber. The batsmen were entrusted with an arduous task - make as many waves as possible on parallel ropes under 30 seconds. Iyer won the challenge, having performed 50 waves in the stipulated time as compared to Rahul's 45.

Cut to Sunday evening and the duo continued to make waves, this time on the cricket field. When Iyer joined Rahul, India were in a spot of bother at 35/2 in the sixth over. They had already lost their irreplaceable captain and Shikhar Dhawan cheaply. Quite often in the past, India's top 3 comprising Sharma, Dhawan and Virat Kohli have scored the bulk of the team's runs, leaving precious little for the middle order. But on Sunday, the stage was set up perfectly for Rahul and Iyer. Through a mixture of sumptuous stroke-play and

deft running, they gave the innings the requisite momentum.

Rahul, in particular, was batting like a dream, piercing the off-side field with ridiculous ease. Iyer, on the other hand, survived a chance early on when Aminul Islam Biplob dropped him even before he had opened his account.

Iyer rode his luck and marched on. When the two were at the crease, no score looked inconceivable. Their alliance yielded 59 runs in a shade under seven overs. Inexplicably though, just when Rahul had looked impregnable, he holed out to Liton Das at long-off for a sublime 35-ball 52. The Karnataka batsman kicked the turf in disgust as he walked off. A feather-bed track on offer and with an insipid Bangladesh bowling attack, a three-figure score was there for the taking.

Rahul's departure did little to hamper Iyer's belligerence. He tore into off-spinner Afif Hossain for three consecutive sixes to race to his maiden T20I half-century. In doing so, the Mumbaier also gave India the desired thrust in the middle overs. When he departed for a whirlwind 33-ball 62, India had comfortably set their sights on a score in excess of 170.

Splendid hands from Rahul and Iyer would only add to the selectors' dilemma when captain Kohli returns to the fold. Through this knock, Iyer only reaffirmed his credentials as a power-hitter in the middle order - someone who has the ability to back the efforts of either Sharma and Kohli - or as he displayed tonight, could also act as the pivot and set match-winning targets.

SCORECARD >>> India vs Bangladesh

3rd T20I | Nagpur | Toss: B'desh

INDIA 174/5 IN 20 OVS

R Sharma b S Islam 2 (6b)

S Dhawan c Mahmudullah b S Islam 19 (16b, 4x4)

KL Rahul c Liton b Al-Amin 52 (35b, 7x4)

S Iyer c Liton b S Sarkar 62 (33b, 3x4, 5x6)

R Pant b S Sarkar 6 (9b)

M Pandey not out 22 (13b, 3x4)

S Dube not out 9 (8b)

■ Extras: (w 2)

■ Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Rohit Sharma, 13 ov), 2-35 (Shikhar Dhawan, 5.2 ov), 3-94 (KL Rahul, 12.1 ov), 4-139 (Rishabh Pant, 16.1 ov), 5-144 (Shreyas Iyer, 16.5 ov)

■ Bowling:

Al-Amin Hossain 4-0-22-1

Shafiu Islam 4-1-32-2

Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-42-0

Aminul Islam 3-0-29-0

Soumya Sarkar 4-0-29-2

Afif Hossain 1-0-20-0

BANGLADESH 144 IN 19.2 OV

Liton Das c Sundar b Chahar 9 (8b, 2x4)

Mohd Naim b Dube 81 (48b, 10x4, 2x6)

S Sarkar c Dube b Chahar 0 (1b)

Mohd Mithun c Rahul b Chahar 27 (29b, 2x4, 1x6)

Mushfiqur b Dube 0 (1b)

Mahmudullah b Chahal 8 (10b)

Afif Hossain c & b Dube 0 (1b)

A Islam b Chahar 9 (9b, 1x4)

S Islam c Rahul b Chahar 4 (6b)

M Rahman c Iyer b Chahar 1 (3b)

Al-Amin Hossain not out 0 (0b)

■ Extras: (lb 3, w 2)

■ Fall of wickets: 1-12 (Liton Das, 2.4 ov), 2-12 (Soumya Sarkar, 2.5 ov), 3-110 (Mohammad Mithun, 12.6 ov), 4-110 (Mushfiqur Rahim, 13.1 ov), 5-126 (Mohammad Naim, 15.3 ov), 6-126 (Afif Hossain, 15.4 ov), 7-130 (Mahmudullah, 16.5 ov), 8-135 (Shafiu Islam, 17.6 ov), 9-144 (Mustafizur Rahman, 19.1 ov), 10-144 (Aminul Islam, 19.2 ov)

■ Bowling:

Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-27-0

Washington Sundar 4-0-34-0

Deepak Chahar 3.2-0-7-6

Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-43-1

S Dube 4-0-30-3

■ India won the match by 30 runs. India won the three match series 2-1.



Coming in at No.4, Shreyas Iyer scored a whirlwind 62 off 33 balls. PTI