



**ORDER IN THE MATTER OF:**

**PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD**

and

**AHMAD SHEHZAD**

***Disciplinary Proceedings under the PCB Anti-Doping Rules 2016***

1. A decision / Agreed Sanction dated 04<sup>th</sup> October 2018 ( '**the Agreement**' ) in accordance with Article 8.4 of the PCB Anti-Doping Rules 2016 (the "**PCB Rules**") was reached between Pakistan Cricket Board ("**PCB**") and Mr. Ahmad Shehzad ("**AS**") in respect of his violations of the PCB Rules. It was also agreed that a period of Ineligibility of four (4) months would be imposed on AS. Accordingly, AS's period of Ineligibility would expire at 11:59pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018. A copy of the Agreement is attached as Annexure A.
2. On 19th October 2018 PCB issued a show cause notice to AS stating therein *inter alia* that it had come to the PCB's attention that AS had *prima facie* violated the terms of the PCB Rules and the Agreement by participating in various matches as a part of the Muslim Gymkhana Cricket Club's team during the aforementioned period of Ineligibility. AS was required to show cause as to why proceedings under the applicable rules should not be initiated against him. A copy of the PCB's show cause notice dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 is attached as Annexure B.



3. AS responded to PCB's show cause notice vide email dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 the contents of which are reproduced below:

*"First let me unreservedly tender my apology for my error of judgement. Although ignorance of rules is no excuse, I would nevertheless like you to know that I was unaware of Article 10.11.1.1 of the PCB rules. This is due to my only having played these games at club level, but I can assure you I would never wilfully breach the rules as prescribed.*

*Had I been aware that this was a violation , I would never have played cricket at any level at this point in time.*

*My reason was simply to go back to my roots as I felt I needed to do something for the community after having faced a four month penalty . Initially i went back to my club to see if I could help inspire the kids at club level and to teach them the importance of cricket at grass roots. When I was asked to play a few games by my club to help the kids , I seriously did not know that I couldn't even play a few friendly games with the club kids. Hence I was openly tweeting about my experience.*

*If i knew it was a violation I would never have played let alone tweeted.*

*I can only sincerely apologise for my violation and only say that the purpose was nothing more but to be of service to the people without any monetary reward. I therefore plead your leniency.*

*I am now completely clear in what I can and cannot do during my period of ineligibility. Such error of judgement will not be repeated ever again."*

A copy of AS's email dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 is attached as Annexure C.

4. PCB found this explanation unsatisfactory and vide email dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 required AS to appear for a personal hearing before the undersigned in order to better explain his version of events and defence.
5. AS appeared for the personal hearing on 30<sup>th</sup> October and reiterated the contents of his earlier email. He further added that:
- a. after the ordeal he had faced, he felt remorse and thought to make his fault good by playing and inspiring youngsters at his club;



- b. he had played 9 matches all after the execution of the Agreement;
- c. these matches were friendly in nature and were not organized by LRCA or any Zone. The participating teams comprised ordinary children from streets, and there were even no professional umpires supervising the game. In fact the participating players were non-registered players;
- d. he had been honest with PCB and hadn't hid anything. The fact was that he was aware that he could not play professional cricket while undergoing the period of Ineligibility; however, he did not know that he could not play friendly cricket as well;
- e. he apologized and admitted that playing club cricket while undergoing period of Ineligibility, was an unintentional error on his part; however, he was not guided by anyone even at the club when he played the matches.

A copy of the minutes of the personal hearing held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 are attached as Annexure D.

- 6. it is important at this juncture to examine Article 10.11.1.1 of the PCB Rules which states as follows:

*"No Cricketer or other Person who has been declared Ineligible may, during the period of Ineligibility, play, coach or otherwise participate or be involved in any capacity in: (a) a Match or any other function, Event or activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programs) authorised, organised, sanctioned, recognised or supported in any way by the National Cricket Federation or by anybody that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by the National Cricket Federation; (b) any Match or any other function, Event or activity authorised or organised by any professional league or any international or national level tournament/Event organisation (whether or not the party authorising or organising the Match or event in question is a Signatory, any club or other body that is a member of, or affiliated to, or licensed by, a Signatory or a Signatory's member organisation); (c) any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a government agency; or (d) a Competition or activity (other than authorised anti-doping education or rehabilitation programmes) authorised or organised by any Signatory, Signatory's member organisation, or a club or other member organisation of a Signatory's member organisation. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such Cricketer or other Person shall not, during any period of Ineligibility, be given accreditation for, or otherwise granted access to, any Match, function, event or activity of the type referred to in this Article and any such accreditation previously*

*issued shall be withdrawn. In addition, the National Cricket Federation shall take all steps within its power to have the period of Ineligibility recognised and enforced by all other relevant parties, including all other Signatories pursuant to Article 15 of the World Anti-Doping Code.”*

7. Article 10.11.3 of the PCB Rules states that:

*“Where a Cricketer or other Person who has been declared Ineligible violates the prohibition against participation during such period of Ineligibility, a new period of Ineligibility shall be added to the end of the original period of Ineligibility. The new period of Ineligibility equal in length to the original period of Ineligibility may be adjusted based on the Cricketer or other Person’s degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case...”*

8. In addition to AS’s admission of participating in ‘friendly matches’ PCB has procured the scoresheets of the matches wherein AS has participated as a playing member of Muslim Gymkhana Club’s team. Copies of the scoresheets are attached as Annexure E.
9. It is clear that the said ‘friendly matches’ are not part of any tournament or event organized by the Lahore Regional Cricket Association or one of its Zones. These matches were, however, organized, recognized and/or supported by Muslim Gymkhana Cricket Club which is an Active Club affiliated with the PCB.
10. From a plain reading of the PCB Rules, in particular the applicable provisions reproduced above, and examination of the adduced evidence it is clear that AS has violated the prohibition against participation during his period of Ineligibility and has resultantly violated the terms of the Agreement.
11. Accordingly, the provisions of Article 10.11.3 are attracted and provide a range of upto 4 months as a new period of Ineligibility to be added from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 onwards, to be adjusted based on AS’s degree of fault and other circumstances of the case. The following factors have been taken into consideration:
  - a. The immediate admission of fault by AS;
  - b. The honesty with which AS has pleaded his case and apology;
  - c. The intent behind playing the matches was not to go under the radar and violate PCB’s Rules, but to give back to his original club and to its youngsters; and
  - d. The matches wherein AS participated were in fact friendly club matches.



12. AS is a National cricketer who has represented the Pakistan National Teams in 13 International Test matches; 81 ODIs; and 57 T20Is. AS has been the recipient of numerous anti-doping lectures. He is also aware of his obligation to acquaint himself of the PCB Rules. AS admits and it is pertinent to highlight that ignorance of law is no excuse. Moreover, it is unimaginable as to why whilst undergoing a period of Ineligibility extra care and caution was not exercised by AS to ensure compliance with PCB Rules and the Agreement.
13. In view of the foregoing and being mindful that the instant decision will also serve as a constructive lesson not only to AS but to other cricketers, that strict adherence to applicable rules and regulations is mandatory, a new period of Ineligibility of six (06) weeks is imposed on AS which shall commence from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Subhan Ahmad', is written over a horizontal line.

**Subhan Ahmad**  
Chief Operating Officer