

REGULATIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC CRICKET



Effective Date: 1 December 2020

ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION, SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 Cricket depends for its effective organization, administration and development on a pyramid regulatory structure, with national cricket federations exercising control over cricket in their respective territories, and the International Cricket Council (**'the ICC'**) addressing global issues where its members consider that collective action is required.
- 1.2 This pyramid governance structure is vital to the regulatory integrity of the sport, enabling the ICC and its members to ensure the uniform application of rules protecting the sport and its stakeholders throughout the sport, wherever it is played, and to hold all participants accountable under those rules in a fair and transparent fashion.
- 1.3 Through its Regulations on Sanctioning Events (**'the ICC's Regulations'**), the ICC has put in place regulations that govern how domestic cricket matches and events are to be sanctioned (i.e. approved) around the world and the principles that should be followed by its members when sanctioning such matches and events in their territories and by participants when they are considering whether or not to play in any such match or event.
- 1.4 The ICC's Regulations outline that the starting position is that, subject to some exceptions, it is the exclusive right and responsibility of USA Cricket to retain control over cricket matches and events played within the USA (**'Domestic Cricket'**), and therefore to determine whether or not such Domestic Cricket should be approved or not.
- 1.5 USA Cricket has adopted these regulations (which apply equally to men's, women's and junior cricket) in accordance with the ICC's Regulations to establish a mechanism by which Domestic Cricket played in the USA is to be officially approved (see flowchart attached at Appendix 1).

ARTICLE 2: DEEMED APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC CRICKET

- 2.1 To minimize the administrative burden of reviewing and approving the large volume of domestic cricket played across the country, USA Cricket:
 - (a) has specifically pre-approved the following:
 - any cricket match or event organized by schools or as part of school/community programs within the USA (**'School Cricket'**); and

- any informal cricket matches or events that do not meet the minimum criteria set out in either Article 2.2.3(a) or (b) (**'Informal Cricket'**); and
 - (b) grants to all leagues, clubs, academies and other organizations who are members of USA Cricket the right to stage Domestic Cricket that is automatically deemed to be 'approved cricket' provided that such Domestic Cricket complies with the provisions of this Article 2.
- 2.2 For Domestic Cricket to qualify to be automatically deemed to be 'approved cricket' under these regulations, each of the following criteria must be met:
- 2.2.1 The cricket match or event must be organized by, or affiliated to, a league, club, academy or other organization which is a current registered member of USA Cricket, and in good standing with USA Cricket.
 - 2.2.2 The clubs/teams that are scheduled to compete in the cricket match or event must each be current registered members of USA Cricket, and in good standing with USA Cricket.
 - 2.2.3 The cricket match (or matches within the event) must meet one of the following minimum criteria:
 - (a) To be automatically deemed as approved **'Senior or Junior Domestic Cricket'**, the match must comply with all of the following:
 - use a hard leather cricket ball;
 - be played outdoors;
 - involve a minimum of six players per side; and
 - involve ten or more overs per side.
 - (b) To be automatically deemed as approved **'Modified Domestic Cricket'**, the match must not comply with all of the criteria set out in 2.2.3(a), but instead must comply with all of following:
 - use a hard leather cricket ball or a softball (e.g. tennis ball, tape-ball or other modified ball);
 - be played outdoors or indoors;
 - involve a minimum of six players per side; and
 - involve five or more overs per side.
 - 2.2.4 In addition, the cricket match or event must not involve any of the following criteria (the **'Article 3 Threshold Criteria'**):

- (a) where there are more than four players scheduled to play in the match or event who have played for any national representative team of an ICC Full Member or Associate Member with ODI status within the last twelve months;
- (b) where there are more than four players scheduled to play in the match or event who have played for any USA Cricket nationally representative team within the last twelve months; or
- (c) where the matches are to be broadcast or streamed live (or near live) through either a television broadcast or digital delivery platform in which the recording of the content being broadcast or streamed is captured by more than one camera ; or

GUIDANCE NOTE: This Article 2.2.4(c) is not intended to capture any matches being broadcast or streamed through a single-camera or mobile phone (or similar) production arrangement that is broadcast purely for social (and not commercial) purposes.

- (d) where the overall match or event budget forecasts the generation of more than \$20,000 in total commercial income to be generated.

- 2.3 Where any of the Article 3 Threshold Criteria are present, irrespective of the nature of the match or event to be played, the formal approval process described in Article 3 must also be followed.
- 2.4 Prior to the start of each playing season, all members of USA Cricket must provide USA Cricket (in a format to be provided by USA Cricket) with a full list of all Domestic Cricket that they believe meets the criteria set out in Article 2.2; and they must update USA Cricket throughout the playing season of any new Domestic Cricket that subsequently meets the same criteria.
- 2.5 USA Cricket will endeavor to publish on its website all Domestic Cricket that has been effectively deemed as 'approved cricket' in accordance with these regulations.
- 2.6 USA Cricket reserves the right to: (a) notify a member where it does not believe that any proposed Domestic Cricket meets the criteria set out in Article 2.2 and to require that such member provide suitable evidence to support its claim to the contrary; and (b) determine (at its absolute discretion) whether any proposed Domestic Cricket does not meet the criteria set out in Article 2.2 and should not therefore be deemed to be 'approved cricket'.

ARTICLE 3: DOMESTIC CRICKET THAT REQUIRES FORMAL APPROVAL BY USA CRICKET

- 3.1 Organizers (whether they are members of USA Cricket or not) of all cricket matches or events played in the USA which do not meet all of the criteria set out in Article 2 for such matches or events to be deemed to be approved must seek prior written approval from USA Cricket.
- 3.2 In determining whether a match or event should be approved, USA Cricket will consider its responsibilities as the custodian of the sport in the USA and under the ICC's Regulations (including any responsibility thereunder to seek formal approval from the ICC) and shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of its regulatory authority.
- 3.3 The following (non-exhaustive) factors will be considered in deciding whether or not to sanction a match or event:
- 3.3.1 The extent to which the proposed match or event may be accommodated within the existing domestic and international playing calendar without conflict or compromising USA Cricket's ability to create a fair and equitable calendar, balancing collective and individual interests of stakeholders and formats in a manner that serves the best long-term interests of the sport.
- Explanatory Note:** It is common for a sport's commercial partners to require certain commitments to protect their respective investments in the sport. To the extent that transpires, USA Cricket should not put itself in breach of its commitments to any of its commercial partners, as this would threaten the generation of commercial income for distribution throughout the sport.*
- 3.3.2 The extent to which the proposed match or event would help to promote and develop the sport in the territory in question in accordance with strategic objectives of USA Cricket, or would advance any charitable or benevolent purpose.
- 3.3.3 The maintenance and promotion of the health and welfare of all participants in the proposed match or event, including but not limited to the extent of any protocols, safeguards and plans to mitigate against risks arising in respect of COVID-19.
- 3.3.4 The safety and suitability of the proposed venue(s).
- 3.3.5 Whether the organizer of the proposed match or event is willing to make a binding, unqualified and unconditional commitment to stage the match or event in accordance with and subject to all applicable ICC and/or USA

Cricket regulations; and whether that commitment would be enforceable in practice.

- 3.3.6 The extent to which the matches would be covered by appropriate anti-corruption, anti-doping, and public health protocols and services sufficient to ensure the practical implementation and enforcement of any relevant regulatory requirements.
- 3.4 Approval by USA Cricket of such matches or events may be granted on a conditional basis. For example (but without limitation), USA Cricket may provide its approval of the event or match but with some (or all or more) of the following conditions:
- 3.4.1 particular matches or events must be played in accordance with and subject to codes of conduct, anti-corruption rules, anti-doping rules, and/or other rules, regulations, practices or procedures that are consistent with the rules, regulations, practices and/or procedures of USA Cricket;
 - 3.4.2 no person who has been banned from participation in the sport for a period that covers the match or event may participate, directly or indirectly (e.g., through an interest in any participating team or franchise) in that match or event;
 - 3.4.3 all foreign players must obtain a valid No Objection Certificate ('**NOC**') from their respective member board prior to participating in the match or event;
 - 3.4.4 adequate safety and security arrangements must be put in place, including to satisfactorily address the public health risks associated with COVID-19;
 - 3.4.5 the organizer must be responsible for ensuring compliance by players, venue owners and commercial partners with all relevant requirements, rules, regulations and conditions governing the staging of the match, and this should be reflected in all contracts with relevant third parties;
 - 3.4.7 a 'sanctioning fee' may be imposed by USAC on the event organizer which appropriately reflects the commercial value of staging the match or event in the territory of the USA, the global profile of the match or event and commercial model applied, the time secured for such match or event within the USA Cricket domestic playing calendar and the administrative costs of processing any such application; and
 - 3.4.8 the organizer must be responsible for securing suitable third-party and general public liability insurance.

3.5 Any application for approval of a cricket match or event under this Article 3 must be made by completing the "Application for Approval by USA Cricket of a Domestic Cricket Event" document (attached at Appendix 2) and submitting to USA Cricket as early as possible and not less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled start of the match or event.

3.6 All applications should be addressed to:

FAO: Cricket Operations Director (Richard Done)
USA Cricket
Suite 7, 1 First Street
Los Altos, CA 94022
United States of America
Email: richard.done@usacricket.org

3.7 No match or event may take place unless formal approval has been granted by USA Cricket and any conditions associated with such approval have been fully complied with.

3.8 To ensure clarity, all decisions by USA Cricket to sanction a match or event pursuant to this Article 3 shall be confirmed in writing. An application for sanction may not be deemed approved unless and until such written confirmation is issued.

ARTICLE 4: DISAPPROVED CRICKET

4.1 If a domestic cricket match or event has not been pre-approved in accordance with Article 2.1(a), nor deemed to be approved in accordance with Article 2.1(b), nor formally approved by USA Cricket pursuant to Article 3, then it will be 'disapproved cricket' for the purposes of these regulations.

4.2 No individual, club/team, academy, league or other member of USA Cricket may participate in any way in any 'disapproved cricket' at any time. It is the responsibility of each party to establish that a particular match or event constitutes 'approved cricket' under these regulations before participating in it.

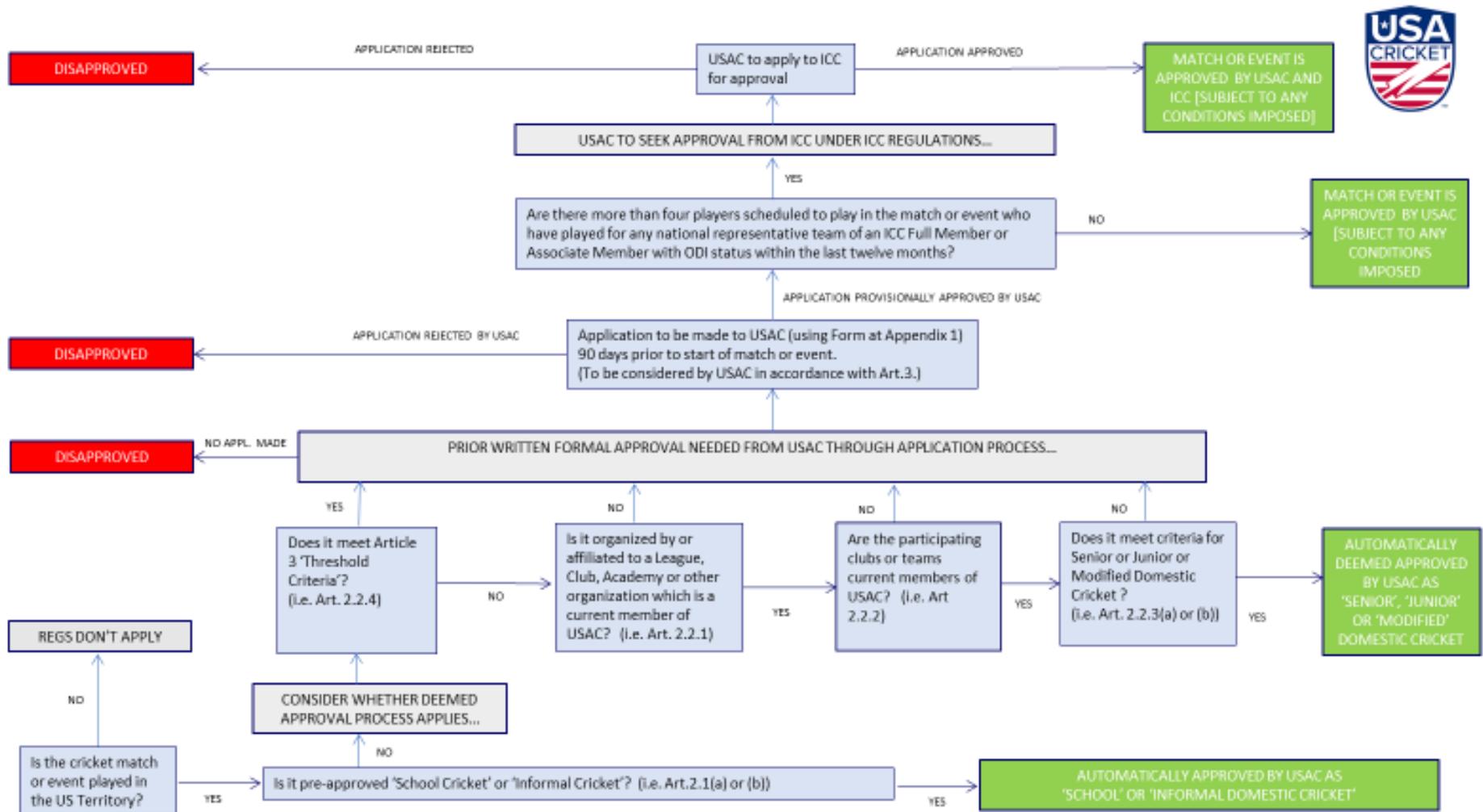
4.3 Where any individual, club/team, academy, league or other member of USA Cricket participates in 'disapproved cricket', then, subject to Article 4.4, below, the matter shall be referred to the USA Cricket Disciplinary Committee who will consider the case and make a ruling as to whether to exclude such third party from the benefit of participating in 'approved cricket' for an appropriate period in accordance with the principles outlined in the ICC's Regulations.

- 4.4 USA Cricket acknowledges that the implementation of these regulations creates a significant change to the manner in which domestic cricket in the USA is currently regulated and therefore carries risks of inadvertent non-compliance with Article 4.2. As a result, USA Cricket has determined that for a period of not less than six months following the Effective Date (see Article 5.2, below) these regulations and their practical application and consequences will be widely circulated and explained to members of the USA cricket community. During such transitional period, USA Cricket will not take punitive action against any third party in respect of genuine cases of inadvertent non-compliance with Article 4.2.

ARTICLE 5: DISPUTES, AMENDMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE

- 5.1 These regulations shall be governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of California; and any challenge to any decision made pursuant to these regulations shall be brought in accordance with USA Cricket's Dispute Resolution Processes.
- 5.2 These regulations shall come into force and effect on 1 December 2020 (**'the Effective Date'**).
- 5.3 These regulations may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by USA Cricket, with such amendments coming into effect on the date specified by USA Cricket.

Appendix 1: Flowchart for Sanctioning by USA Cricket of a Domestic Cricket Event



Appendix 2: Application for Sanctioning by USA Cricket of a Domestic Cricket Event

Applicants are requested to please complete the form below and to submit the requested information to Richard Done, the USA Cricket Operations Director, at the following email address: richard.done@usacricket.org

1	Event Organizer/Promoter Full details of organizations/individuals involved in the organization of this event and their respective responsibilities (where more than one).	
2	Proposed Event Proposed name of event, structure and proposed format, i.e. 50 overs, T20 etc.	
3	Proposed Date(s)	
4	Proposed Venue(s)	
5	Participating Teams Team names and details of the owners of the teams	
6	Participating players Names of all participating players, the make-up of teams including whether any 'foreign' players will be included in the teams and if so, how many and from which countries.	

7	<p>Is the match/event being televised or live streamed? All relevant details including by whom and in which countries.</p>	
8	<p>How will USA Cricket benefit from staging this event, financially or otherwise? How will this event will help USA Cricket to achieve its strategic objectives?</p>	
9	<p>If a third party is involved in the organization/promotion of the event, how will the event benefit from its involvement?</p>	
10	<p>What arrangements are in place and who is responsible for the following:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The payment of players and match officials? In particular, if and how are such payments guaranteed? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and security risk to participants 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 risks to participants 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-corruption rules and protocols that comply with ICC requirements 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment of Match Officials 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player Behavior (Code of Conduct) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-doping rules and protocols that comply with ICC requirements 	
11	Details of how the event will be funded Provide a detailed event budget and identify key companies and individuals who are funding the event and the amount they are providing.	
12	Confirmation that no individual who is the subject of a suspension imposed by the ICC or any Member Board shall have any involvement in the organization, promotion or staging of, and shall not participate in the event	
16	Any other comments to be considered in the assessment of the application?	

On behalf of the applicant I confirm that:

- the information submitted in this application is true and correct; and
- that until such event has been formally approved by USA Cricket in writing that it will not constitute 'approved cricket' under these regulations.

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Signed

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Date

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Name

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Name of Applicant (if different to the signatory)