

Dear players and players' association staff,

Please see below update on a number of key areas we are progressing on behalf of players and associations around the world. It includes updates on:

- **Player Advisory Boards**
- **ICC Events - ICC / WCA Agreement (2024) and Enforcement**
- **Global Player Support in Domestic T20 Leagues**
- **WCA Global Commercial Program**
- **Guidelines on How International Labour Rights Apply to Professional Cricketers**
- **Men's and Women's International Team Meetings**
- **Global Player Welfare and Development**

WCA remains focused on strengthening outcomes for players and contributing to the long-term growth of the game. We are continuing to make strong progress across our priority areas, while navigating misguided opposition from parts of our game's leadership as a result. If you have any questions or comments following these updates, please let us know – our contact details are at the end of this summary and we always welcome a discussion.

As always, our progress is built on the **strength of players and associations** working together globally. We remain committed to **ensuring players are properly represented, protected and positioned** to help the game release its full potential.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Kind regards,



**Tom Moffat**

Chief Executive

### **Player Advisory Boards**

- Welcome to **Rashid Khan, Chamari Athapaththu, Wayne Madsen, Maddie Green and Daryl Mitchell** who have recently joined our PAB's
- We thank **Tim Southee and Sophie Devine** for their strong contributions as they come off the PAB
- The PAB's were established in 2018 and are an important layer of WCA's governance, alongside our member associations, in ensuring we are accurately representing global player views, and can get information into each dressing room on short notice if needed

## ICC Events - ICC / WCA Agreement (2024) and Enforcement

Following the landmark agreement that WCA reached with the ICC in 2024, the ICC / its members' approach so far has been to frustrate this agreement and **prevent, or slow, players from receiving entitlements** under it. We are making progress in ensuring you do, including on:

### *ICC Square Up Payment*

- **ICC exceeded its forecast revenue** in the 2015 – 2023 Events cycle, and players who were affiliated to WCA during that cycle are **entitled to a percentage of that excess**
- This is an important principle and although the sums of money are not significant, we are finalising the detail with ICC and will communicate to eligible players shortly

### *Mobile Game Dispute*

- WCA players have licensed commercial (image) rights for ICC licensed products to WCA exclusively
- The ICC and its members have made systematic efforts to not engage with us (you) on the development of an **ICC mobile game**, and to try and **'go around' players collectively**
- Our Board is **united on defending your rights** legally should the ICC and its members proceed down their current path, and to ensure players achieve a fair outcome

### *Squad Terms Dispute*

- In the lead up to the men's T20 World Cup the **ICC sent a non-approved version of Squad Terms** to several WCA affiliated groups. It differed from the version WCA negotiated for players, and contained very few protections for players
- In response we raised a dispute with ICC, ensured the impacted players signed the correct Squad Terms and sent them to the ICC, to ensure they **received the protections** other WCA players do
- For future events we encourage players to send Squad Terms to us or your players' association before signing so we can confirm it is the correct approved version

### *Back of Bat Sponsor Restrictions*

- We are continuing to push for ICC to **unlock the back of bat space** for players in ICC Events, so players can have commercial sponsors on their bats like they do in other cricket during the year
- In June we attended a mediation with ICC in London, and are now seeking an **expert ruling**

## Global Player Support in Domestic T20 Leagues

### *Leagues Hub Relaunch*

- This month we relaunched our [Leagues Hub](#). The Leagues Hub was originally established in 2024 and evaluates each major league against a range of criteria identified by players, players' associations and agents as critical to professional standards and player welfare
- These indicators have been further updated and consolidated into a **single overall rating out of 100** for each league, offering a clear **benchmark across the global T20 landscape**, supporting **better outcomes for players** while strengthening standards across the global game

### *DT20 Global Benefits Program*

- Over the last 6 months we have also piloted the **DT20 Global Benefits Program**, ensuring some more coordinated, consistent communications and service provision (i.e. around player welfare, security, non-payment issues) for WCA affiliated players competing in domestic leagues
- We will continue to evolve this offering – it's designed to complement existing players' association offerings where there is one, and provide a base level of **support for all WCA affiliated players**

## WCA Global Commercial Program

- Our program now includes most of the best men's and women's players in the world - more than **650 current international players across 16 countries**. All of them have aggregated certain global collective commercial (name, image, likeness) rights through WCA
- Since establishing the program we have achieved some **significant outcomes for players** which would not have been possible without players working together through WCA globally, including:
  - The NFT Settlement reached with ICC (2021) - approx. **USD 10M to WCA players only**
  - WCA / ICC Agreement, prize money & commercial rights payments (ICC Events 2024 - 27) – **an additional forecast USD 70M to players through to 2028**
  - Landmark global group licensing agreement with [Winners Alliance](#) (2024) – unlocking *new* collective earning opportunities for players, currently forecast at approximately **USD 3.5M through to 2029**. Winners Alliance have reached licensing agreements with companies including Nautilus, Next Wave, Dream, Sweet, Panini (trading cards)
  - Royalty payments to players will flow this year, and we continue to work with Winners to **stop unauthorised uses of player commercial rights** by an est. 100+ companies globally
- Players should be aware that several governing bodies have made it clear that they do not like that players have autonomy over their own name, image and likeness, and that they would prefer to 'own' your image (in all contexts). If you have any queries on any aspect of the detail of the program please let us know so we can **clarify any misinformation** that may be presented to you
- More information about our commercial program can be accessed [HERE](#)

### Guidelines on How International Labour Rights Apply to Professional Cricketers

- In March a delegation from the [World Players' Association](#), including WCA, attended the International Labour Organisation in Geneva – to negotiate guidelines on how **international labour rights** that apply to all workers around the world, should apply to athletes
- The relevant rights include, for example, the rights to freedom of association, to organise, and to collectively bargain. These are **highly relevant in cricket** – because we see players denied them in some parts of the world, and increasingly at global level (i.e. some players have faced intimidatory behaviour for forming or joining a players' association / WCA, or negotiating collectively)
- We achieved a positive outcome which confirms that governments, and sporting bodies, have a **duty to uphold these rights**. You can read more [HERE](#)
- We will continue to use this work in our advocacy for players around the world including to ensure that all players are provided with a **safe space to be represented** if they choose to be

### Men's and Women's International Team Meetings

- In October and February we met with the WCA men's and women's international teams at their respective **World Cups** in India and Sri Lanka
- The meetings were our annual opportunity to update players on progress we are continuing to make, and on the upcoming **challenges and attacks** on player rights that we have seen recently
- We were also able to obtain **player feedback** on upcoming key issues including 2027 ICC / WCA MOU negotiations, the Olympics, and other matters

### Global Player Welfare and Development

- In 2024 we established the [WCA Global Hardship Fund](#) to support players in financial hardship who meet certain criteria. A number of players have now benefitted from the fund
- The WCA Board has also approved the establishment of a **Global Welfare and Development Fund** to support players more proactively where they do not have access to such support via a domestic players' association. In the pilot phase of this a number of players were able to access education grants ,and we are in the process of building out this offering to support more players
- In the leadup to IPL and PSL we have continued to **provide independent security and contractual advice** with respect to the conflict in the middle east, and its impact on player arrangements. Whilst this remains particularly challenging in countries in which there are no domestic players' associations, we will continue to provide expert information to assist players with their individual decisions, and we engage [ESI](#) (Reg Dickason) to provide that advice

**Key WCA contacts:**

HQ:

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