

GLOBAL LEAGUES HUB UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2026

WCA's September 2026 Global Leagues Hub Update highlights some of the progress and continuing issues and risks across the global domestic landscapes.

About the Global Leagues Hub Update

The rapid expansion of global domestic leagues around the world has created significant opportunities for players, fans and the global game. At the same time, the scale and speed of that growth has highlighted the importance of clearer global benchmarks, shared standards, and greater transparency.

Since the [Leagues Hub](#) launched in 2024, WCA has combined league information, contract and operational analysis, and post-event player and agent feedback to build a more consistent picture of how competitions operate in practice.

The Global Leagues Hub Update serves as a point-in-time snapshot, highlighting both good practice and identifying specific areas requiring improvement that have been raised with WCA. It will be updated on a regular basis as matters are resolved, standards change and new issues emerge.

Please note: this is a non-exhaustive list of specific recent or live issues reported to WCA. If you or a player you represent is experiencing any payment or other issues, please contact steph@theworldca.com

AREAS OF POSITIVE PROGRESS

EUROPEAN T20 PREMIER LEAGUE – setting the benchmark for new leagues

- Collectively bargained agreement with WCA, the Irish, Dutch and Scottish Players' Associations.
- Global best practice model developing and player contracts used by all teams.
- Recognised player commercial rights.
- Meaningful consultation and disputes process.

WCA COMMENT: New competitions can and should build collective player representation and protections into their foundations rather than attempt to retrofit them later.

MAJOR LEAGUE CRICKET - major progress through collective bargaining

- Collectively bargained agreement between Major League Cricket and the United States Cricketers' Association.
- Protections and benefits built into standard player contracts.

WCA COMMENT: Collective bargaining creates certainty, provides a structured way to resolve issues and is one of the strongest foundations for a sustainable professional competition, as demonstrated by the most commercially successful team sports globally.

BERMUDA SMASH INVITATIONAL - proactive independent engagement

- Organisers have engaged with WCA to assess proposed employment conditions.
- New standard player agreements have been drafted to improve balance and player protections.

WCA COMMENT: Emerging leagues do not need perfect systems from day one. Early engagement, transparency and a willingness to address gaps before players arrive are strong indicators of professional intent.

SA20 - structured player representation and commercial protections

- SA20 continues to operate within an established South African player-representation framework.
- Dedicated commercial agreements protect players' rights and recognise player contributions to the league.
- Strong league engagement with existing player wellbeing and personal development frameworks.

WCA COMMENT: Recognising the players' body and negotiating and engaging on employment, wellbeing and commercial frameworks provides a stronger long-term platform than unilateral or ad hoc arrangements.

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AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED

MAX60 CARIBBEAN - repeat payment issues resulting in player action

- Significant outstanding non-payment issues remain from 2025 and 2024 events.
- In 2025, unpaid fees led players to act, and a number of fixtures were cancelled.
- Broader regulatory concern where organisers associated with repeated non-payment issues are able to remain involved in other sanctioned or approved competitions

WCA COMMENT: Players should not have to withdraw their labour to receive contracted payments. Repeat payment issues should trigger game wide enforcement mechanisms. Improved, two-way contractual safeguards are needed across the sport.

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE - repeated and significant player non-payment

- Significant and consistent reports of late and non-payments across multiple seasons and franchises.
- Players and agents are advised to proceed with extreme caution and seek upfront payment.
- Bangladesh Cricket Board has communicated that the 2026 edition has been postponed while it works to restructure the competition following significant financial losses.

WCA COMMENT: Payment is a basic contractual obligation. Repeated payment issues should trigger game wide enforcement mechanisms. Improved, two-way contractual safeguards are needed across the sport.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE - world-leading competition, but significant player rights gaps

- Strong remuneration and payment reliability, however ongoing concerns raised including collective representation, contracting, commercial rights, and independent security oversight.
- Lack of transparency around IPL security arrangements during the May 2025 India-Pakistan escalation limited players' and National Governing Bodies' ability to make informed return-to-play decisions.

WCA COMMENT: The world's leading domestic cricket competition can also aspire to have world-leading employment standards: balanced terms, meaningful player representation, independent dispute mechanisms and independent security oversight.

BELGIUM EUT20 - standards and event delivery require follow-up

- Issues with the clarity and delivery of player arrangements and protections were identified in the 2026 season and should be addressed before next edition.
- Formal sanctioning alone is not a substitute for robust employment and operational standards.

WCA COMMENT: Events should demonstrate clear contracts, payment certainty, appropriate player representation, safety and integrity arrangements, and effective issue-resolution processes before being sanctioned.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

A league's ranking does not automatically make it good or bad. A league may be world leading in one area, while falling short in another.

The [Leagues Hub](#) is intended to be a collaborative tool for the global game, helping leagues, players and stakeholders work together to lift standards, strengthen professionalism and drive greater consistency across the global domestic landscape.

The Hub is more than a ranking exercise. By providing a structured, player-informed evaluation framework, it supports continuous improvement across domestic leagues and helps deliver better outcomes for players, leagues and the global game.