

# REGULATIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC CRICKET

POLICY AND APPLICATION FORM



**Effective Date: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

*(Revised date: 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2024)*

## **ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION, SCOPE, AND PURPOSE**

- 1.1 Like most sports, 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 to both men's and women's 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.

## **ARTICLE 2: DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC CRICKET AND MODIFIED DOMESTIC CRICKET**

- 2.1 For all the cricket matches or events that take place in the USA to be called Domestic cricket or Modified Domestic Cricket, they should comply with the below criteria
  - (a) For **Domestic Cricket**, the match must comply with all of the following:
    - Use a hard leather cricket ball;
    - Played outdoors;

- Involve a minimum of six players per side; and
  - Involve ten or more overs per side.
- (b) For '**Modified Domestic Cricket**', the match comply with all of the following:
- Use a hard leather cricket ball or a softball (e.g. tennis ball, tape-ball, or other modified ball);
  - Played outdoors or indoors;
  - Involve a minimum of six players per side; and
  - Involve five or more overs per side.

### **ARTICLE 3: DOMESTIC OR MODIFIED DOMESTIC CRICKET THAT IS DEEMED APPROVED**

3.1 For Domestic Cricket or Modified Domestic Cricket to qualify to be automatically deemed to be 'approved cricket' under these regulations, they must comply with all of the criteria set out in this article

- a. The event is organized by a Member League or USA Cricket
- b. The event involves 100% USA residents
- c. The total prize money is equal to or less than \$25,000 or total event budget is equal to or less than \$100,000
- d. When the total number of USA Senior national players participating in the event is less than or equal to 4
- e. When the total number of foreign players participating in the event is less than or equal to 4 Men or less than 8 women
- f. When the matches are not to be live broadcast (live streaming over social media platforms is allowed)

3.2 Youth tournaments where all the players schedule to play comply with the age groups below or upto U19 are also automatically deemed to be "approved cricket" provided

Prior to the start of each playing season, all league members of USA Cricket must provide USA Cricket with a full list of all Domestic Cricket (in a format to be provided by USA Cricket) that they believe fall within the criteria set out in Article 3.1; and they must update USA Cricket throughout the playing season of any new Domestic Cricket that subsequently meets the same criteria.

3.3 USA Cricket will endeavor to publish the guidelines on its website all Domestic Cricket that has been effectively deemed as 'approved cricket' in accordance with these regulations.

- 3.4 USA Cricket reserves the right to: (a) notify a league member where it does not believe that any proposed Domestic Cricket meets the criteria set out in Article 3.1 and to require that league member to provide suitable evidence to support its position; and (b) to determine (at its absolute discretion) that any proposed Domestic Cricket does not meet the criteria set out in Article 3.1 and should not therefore be deemed to be 'approved cricket'.

#### **ARTICLE 4 DOMESTIC OR MODIFIED DOMESTIC CRICKET THAT REQUIRES FORMAL APPROVAL BY USA CRICKET**

- 4.1 Organizers (whether they are members of the USA Cricket or not) of all the cricket matches events played in the USA must follow the formal sanctioning process when their event or tournament comply with at least one of the below mentioned criteria
- g. Organizing body is not a member of USA Cricket
  - h. The event is not a Junior Tournament i.e. All players competing are not eligible as U19 players
  - i. When the total prize money is greater than \$25,000 or total event budget is equal to or more than \$100,000
  - j. When the total number of USA Senior National players schedule to play in the event is more than 4
  - k. When the total number of foreign players schedule to play in the event is more than 4
  - l. When the matches are to be live broadcast (Telivised)
  - m. When the per team registration fee is equal to or more than \$10,000
- 4.2 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 shall comply with all applicable laws relating to the proper exercise of its regulatory authority.
- 4.3 The following (non-exhaustive) factors will be considered in deciding whether or not to sanction a match or event:
- 4.3.1 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 such commercial partners, as this would threaten the generation of commercial income for distribution throughout the sport.

- 4.3.2 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.
  - 4.3.3 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.
  - 4.3.4 The safety and suitability of the proposed venue(s).
  - 4.3.5 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.
  - 4.3.6 The extent to which the matches would be covered by appropriate anti-corruption and anti-doping services sufficient to ensure the practical implementation and enforcement of the relevant regulatory requirements.
- 4.4 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:
- 4.4.1 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;
  - 4.4.2 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;
  - 4.4.3 No person who has previously been suspended for a period of at least twelve months from 'approved cricket' by the ICC or one of its members may be involved in any way in the organization of the match or event in question;
  - 4.4.4 All foreign players must obtain a valid No Objection Certificate ('**NOC**') from their respective member board prior to participating in the match or event;
  - 4.4.5 Adequate safety and security arrangements must be put in place, including to satisfactorily address the risks associated with COVID-19;

- 4.4.6 The organizer must be responsible for ensuring compliance by players, team owners, 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;
- 4.4.7 A 'sanctioning fee' may be imposed 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 the 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 (see Article); and
- 4.4.8 Securing suitable third-party and general public liability insurance.
- 4.4.9 Indemnification of USA Cricket and its officers and staff from any liability related to the tournament and to hold them harmless
- 4.4.10 The event organizer is responsible for providing the copy of the player immigration document showing their status, should the USA Cricket request for one
- 4.4.11 Upon the request of USAC, the event organizer is responsible for submitting an audit of financial statements, an audit of financial reporting, and allows the review of all but not limited to matters related to financial information
- 4.5 Any application for approval of a cricket match or event under this Article 4 must be made by completing the "Application for Approval by USA Cricket of a Domestic Cricket Event" document (attached in Appendix 1) and submitting it to USA Cricket as early as possible and not less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled start of the match or event.
- 4.6 All applications should be addressed to:

*FAO: USA Cricket Operations*  
*Email: [operations@usacricket.org](mailto:operations@usacricket.org)*
- 4.7 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.

- 4.8 To ensure clarity, all decisions by USA Cricket to sanction a match or event pursuant to this Article 4 shall be confirmed in writing. An application for sanction may not be deemed approved unless and until such written confirmation is issued.
- 4.9 All the umpires schedule to officiate for the event must be from the list of USAC approved list of umpires. No third party is allowed to supply or provide umpires to officiate for the event unless instructed or approved by USAC.
- 4.10 ACU officer schedule to officiate for the event must be from the list of ICC or USAC approved list of ACU officers. No third party is allowed to supply or provide ACU officers to officiate for the event unless instructed or approved by USAC.

## **ARTICLE 5: DISAPPROVED CRICKET**

- 5.1 If a domestic cricket match or event has not been deemed to be approved in accordance with Article 3 nor formally approved by USA Cricket pursuant to Article 4, then it will be 'disapproved cricket' for the purposes of these regulations.
- 5.2 No individual, club/team or league member of USA Cricket may participate in any way in any 'disapproved cricket' at any time. It is the responsibility of each party person to establish that a particular match or event constitutes 'approved cricket' under these regulations and not 'disapproved cricket' before participating in it.
- 5.3 Where any individual, club/team or league member of USA Cricket participates in 'disapproved cricket', then 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.
- 5.4 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 5.2. USA Cricket will therefore establish an appropriate transitional period following the Effective Date (see Article 6.3, below) during which time these regulations will be widely circulated and explained and assistance will be provided to leagues seeking to become members of USA Cricket members. During such transitional period, USA Cricket will not seek to take punitive action in respect of genuine cases of inadvertent non-compliance with Article 5.2.

## **Article 6:**

Key requirements to hold an event include are as following:

1. In adherence to USA Cricket's commitment to maintaining the integrity of amateur athletics, stringent measures have been implemented to safeguard the amateur status, eligibility and welfare of all participating athletes. These measures encompass thorough vetting processes to ensure health and safety, medical facilities, compliance with established amateurism regulations, ongoing education initiatives to empower athletes with the knowledge necessary to uphold their eligibility status, and vigilant monitoring to promptly address any potential violations. In addition, all organizations conducting these events will implement and abide by USA Cricket policies and procedures to prevent the abuse, including emotional, physical, and child abuse of amateur athletes participating in amateur athletic activities applicable to USA Cricket.
2. To uphold the credibility and transparency of USA sanctioned cricket competition outcomes, comprehensive provisions have been established to validate all records established during the event. All cricket scores will be recorded via the app and the game will be officiated by official designated match officials or qualified umpires. This entails the implementation of robust verification protocols, including the use of certified match officials, state-of-the-art scoring technologies, and adherence to International Cricket Council (ICC) recognized rules regulations. Additionally, avenues for appeals and challenges are provided, ensuring fair play, discrepancies or concerns, if any, including regarding record-setting performances are thoroughly investigated and addressed in a fair and impartial manner.
3. USA Cricket's dedication is to uphold international standards in amateur athletics, particular attention has been given to the specific requirements outlined for cricket competitions. Recognizing the unique regulations and traditions governing the sport of cricket, USA Cricket's validation procedures encompass adherence to the guidelines set forth by ICC and USA Cricket.



4. It is important for everyone conducting an USA Cricket event to ensure the health, safety of our athletes and spectators attending the competition, and to safeguard everyone's personal welfare, stringent safety precautions including medical supervision, crowd management, and venue inspections will be conducted and or provided throughout the duration of the competition. A team of qualified medical professionals, including physicians, physiotherapists, and sports therapists, will be on standby to address any medical concerns or emergencies that may arise. Pre-event medical screenings, if necessary, may be conducted to identify any underlying health issues, and appropriate measures will be taken to accommodate athletes with specific medical needs.

## ARTICLE 7: SANCTIONING FEES & PAYMENT TERMS

USA Cricket will impose standard and additional sanctioning fees to approved Domestic events as per the **Article 4** of this document.

The following tables illustrates the Fee structure for events that requires sanctioning as per section 4.1

Base Fee: (Applicable when gross revenue is more than \$25K)

	Category 1 Gross Revenue between \$25K and \$100K	Category 2 Gross Revenue between \$100K to \$500K	Category 3 Gross Revenue >\$500K
<b>Men</b>	5% of the Gross	10% of the Gross	10% of the Gross
<b>Women</b>	5% of the Gross	10% of the Gross	10% of the Gross
<b>Foreign Players</b>	\$1000 per player	Upto 2 per team	\$1000 per player
<b>Conditions for playing XI</b>	Two U23 per team	Two U23 per team	N/A

Application and Additional Foreign Player Fees:

		Application Fee USAC Member	Application Fee Non-USAC Member	Base Fee	Development Fee For each additional Foreign Players	Foreign Team
<b>Men</b>	U19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Not for Profit	N/A	\$500	Applicable	\$1000	Contact USAC
	For Profit	N/A	\$2000	Applicable	\$1000	Contact USAC
<b>Women</b>	U19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Not for Profit	N/A	\$250	Applicable	\$100	Contact USAC
	For Profit	N/A	\$500	Applicable	\$250	Contact USAC

Notes:

1. Total gross revenue of the event including but not limited to Team Fee, Sponsorships, Broadcasting.

2. Foreign Player: A player on a) B1/B2 visa or b) holds a O1/P1 visa and resided in USA for less than 1 year from the event start date.
3. When Base Fee is applied upto 2 foreign players per team are allowed.
4. The event must not have more than 4 players of ICC Full Members who represented their country in the last 24 months from the event start date.
5. Event organizers are responsible to provide proof of eligibility of each player participating in the event including foreign players.
6. USA will not support or be responsible for any VISA for the players participating in a 'Deemed Approved' or 'Sanctioned' event, the responsibility to ensure all players participating in the event comply with USA Immigration laws lies with the Organizers of the event. USAC will not provide NOC's or Support Letters.

#### **ARTICLE 8: DISPUTES, AMENDMENT, AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

- 6.1 These regulations shall be governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Colorado; and any challenge to any decision made pursuant to these regulations shall be brought in accordance with USA Cricket's dispute resolution processes.
- 6.2 USA Cricket will assign a Tournament observer to the event to guide the event organizer with USA Cricket guidelines. Organizers should provide access to the officials, material, and facilities as needed. Organizers must not pay any fee directly to the Tournament Observer.
- 6.3 The modified regulations shall come into force and effect on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and remain effective until they are revised (**'the Effective Date'**).
- 6.4 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.

## ARTICLE 9: Application process



- 8.1 Below are the steps involved in the application process for all the events complying under the article 4
- a) For the event falling under the criteria of USAC sanctioning approval needed, complete the below sanctioning application, 120 days before the event start date.
  - b) Email the completely filled application to [operations@usacricknet.org](mailto:operations@usacricknet.org) with the subject "**Sanctioning Application** – *Event Name and From Date -To Date*". Please make sure the application is complete along with teams/players information, etc.
  - c) Applicant will receive the acknowledgement of the application and the invoice for the Non-refundable *Application Fee* as per the amount mentioned above in the document
  - d) Applicant must pay the Non-refundable Application fee immediately. Only then the application will be reviewed otherwise application will not be reviewed until USAC receives the *Application Fee*.
  - e) After the initial review if USAC requires any additional information, applicant must respond to USAC promptly with the requested information. Please remember time is of essence here.
  - f) Also if ICC sanctioning approval is required, USAC will inform the applicant about it and the applicant must submit the ICC application to USAC, to the same email address mentioned above
  - g) Once USAC is able to conditionally approve the application, USAC will inform the applicant about the same and sends the invoice for the *Base Fee*
  - h) Once USAC receives the *Base Fee* amount, USAC will issue a conditional sanctioning letter
  - i) Applicant must submit the final squads no later than 30 days before the event start date. Failure to do so will delay the Full sanctioning and also USAC reserves the right to revoke the conditional sanctioning and mark the event as Disapproved event. Please remember once the final squads are sent, applicant can't change the squads or teams or team owners without prior approval from USAC/ICC(if needed)
  - j) Once USAC receives and reviews the final squads, USAC will send the invoice for *Development Fee* to the applicant.
  - k) Once USAC receives the *Development Fee* amount, USAC will issue the Full sanctioning letter
  - l) Please remember, sanctioning from USAC doesn't give the applicant a right to use USAC logos or ICC logos but only applicant can mention in their website or flyers with text saying "Approved by USAC", without any USAC or ICC logos.

## Appendix 1:


### Application for Sanctioning by USA Cricket of a Domestic Cricket Event

Applicants are requested to please complete the form below and submit the requested information to USA Cricket Operations, at the following email address: [operations@usacricket.org](mailto:operations@usacricket.org).

S. No	Particular	Details
1.	Event Organizer/Promoter  <i>Please provide the full legal name of the Organizer/Promoter under which this event is organized</i>	
2.	Proposed Event  <i>2.1 Proposed name of event, 2.2 Structure 2.3 Proposed format, i.e., 50 overs, T20, etc.</i>	
3.	Proposed Date(s) From Date and To Date	
4.	Proposed Venue(s)	

	<p><i>Please provide the Name and physical address of the proposed venue(s)</i></p>	
5.	<p><b>Participating Teams</b></p> <p><i>Team names and details of the owners of the teams. Use this template to fill the Team Owner details and send it along with this application</i></p>  <p>Team Owners.xlsx</p>	
6.	<p><b>Participating players</b></p> <p><i>List the types of players participating, Foreign, USA National, Domestic (Senior, U23, U19). Use this template to fill the Player details and send it along with this application</i></p>  <p>Players List.xlsx</p> <p><i>Note: Players residing in the USA but not eligible to play for the USA are considered foreign;</i></p>	
7.	<p><b>Is the match/event being televised or live streamed?</b></p> <p><i>All relevant details including broadcast/stream provider details and in which countries.</i></p>	
8.	<p><b>How will USA Cricket benefit from staging this event, financially or otherwise?</b></p>	

	<i>How will this event help USA Cricket to achieve its strategic objectives?</i>	
9.	If a third party is involved in the organization/promotion of the event, how will the event benefit from its involvement?	
10.	<p>What arrangements are in place and who is responsible for the following:  Note: Please provide detail responses for each of the questions below. Inadequate responses will only delay the application process</p> <p>10.1 - The payment of players and match officials?  <i>In particular, if and how are such payments guaranteed?</i></p> <p>10.2 - Safety and security risks to participants</p> <p>10.3 - COVID-19 risks to participants</p> <p>10.4 - Anti-corruption rules and protocols that comply with ICC requirements</p> <p>10.5 - The appointment of Match Officials</p> <p>10.6 - Player Behavior (Code of Conduct)</p> <p>10.7 - Anti-doping rules and protocols that comply with ICC requirements</p>	

<p>11.</p>	<p>Details of how the event will be funded.</p> <p><i>Provide a detailed event budget and identify key companies and individuals who are funding the event and the amount they are providing.</i></p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Any other comments to be considered in the assessment of the application?</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Franchise Owners /sponsors attestation</p> <p>Please get the self-attestation from each team owner and also all the sponsors for this event. Use this template</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Self Attestation.docx</p> </div>	



Additional Notes/Comments:

On behalf of the applicant, I confirm that: The information submitted in this application is true and correct; and that until the such event has been formally approved by USA Cricket in writing that it will not constitute 'approved cricket' under these regulations. All the below details are required, without complete details, USAC can't review the application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name of the Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID: \_\_\_\_\_

For USAC use only:

Application reviewed and approved by:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_