

**New Section 32 of the ICC Operating Manual**  
**(Regulations on Approved/Disapproved Cricket)**

**Questions & Answers**

NOTE: THESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE INTENDED TO BE READ ALONGSIDE THE NEW SECTION 32 OF THE ICC OPERATING MANUAL.

**1. What is being changed?**

As from 1 June 2009, the current Section 32 of the ICC Operating Manual (Unofficial Cricket Events) will be replaced with a new, revised Section 32 (Disapproved Cricket) that clarifies (1) the process for official approval of a cricket event; and (2) the consequences of participating in a cricket event that has not been approved (and is therefore deemed 'disapproved').

**2. Why has the ICC made these changes?**

With the emergence of matches and events funded by private entrepreneurs outside the auspices of Member boards, and therefore outside the regulatory framework of the ICC, the ICC Board has recognised the need to update the existing rulebook to ensure that all Members and participants are clear as to the status of particular events and as to the consequences of participating in events that have not been approved.

The sporting imperatives underlying the new rules are discussed in the explanatory notes to the new Section 32.1.

**3. Under the new rules, who will decide whether a particular match or event in a certain territory is 'approved'?**

The Member board in whose territory the proposed match or event is to be staged will have the sole and exclusive right to decide whether or not that match or event is to be 'approved' for purposes of Section 32.

The only exception to this rule is that the ICC will decide whether or not a match or event is 'approved' for purposes of Section 32 where:

- (1) the match or event is taking place in the territory of an Associate or Affiliate Member, **and** does not involve any team that is under the jurisdiction of a Full Member; **or**
- (2) the match or event is taking place at a venue that is not within the territory of any Member.

**4. How does a Member board (or the ICC) decide whether or not to approve the staging of a match or event for purposes of Section 32?**

As with any other regulatory power, the Member board will have to exercise its power to approve (or not approve) a match or event that is proposed to be staged within its territory (1) in accordance with its responsibilities as custodian of the sport in that territory; and (2) in compliance with the requirements of applicable law.

Accordingly, the Member board should always act in the best interests of the sport when exercising its discretion under Section 32, and in a manner that complies with all of the requirements of the laws to which it is subject.

The explanatory notes to Section 32.3 set out some of the factors that a Member board may take into account when exercising its discretion to approve/disapprove a match or event that is proposed to be staged in its territory.

**5. How does an event organiser apply for approval for a particular match or event?**

The event organiser will need to apply to the Member in whose territory he wishes to stage the match or event for approval under Section 32.

Each Member is required to establish a suitable procedure for receiving and determining such an application. The match or event organiser should therefore contact the relevant Member for full details of what he needs to do to apply for approval under Section 32. At the very least, the application will have to be made in writing, together with full details of the proposed match or event (including dates, venues, participants etc).

**6. Does a Member have to approve each and every match of a proposed league or tournament?**

No, a Member does not need to approve each match separately. For example, it may grant block approval for matches to be played in its territory as part of a particular league or tournament (e.g., it may grant approval for “all matches played as part of the XYZ League”) or for all matches played below a certain level.

A Member may also delegate to regional members authority to grant or withhold Section 32 approval for matches or events to be staged within their respective regions.

**7. What are the consequences if a Member does not approve a proposed match or event that is proposed to be held in its territory (or if the ICC disapproves a match or event in accordance with Section 32.1.2)?**

If the Member (or the ICC, where applicable) does not grant approval for a particular match or event, there are a number of important consequences for Members and players, officials and other participants. These are detailed in the new Section 32.4.

In particular, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law:

- A Member must not (and must procure that any organisation or individual that is under its jurisdiction does not) (1) participate in the unapproved match or event; or (2) release any player, coach, match official or member of staff to participate in the unapproved match or event.
- A Member board must impose appropriate disciplinary sanctions on any organisation or individual under its jurisdiction who breaches the above prohibition. It must also recognise and give effect in its territory to any such sanctions imposed by a fellow Member board. Further, it must make it a condition of eligibility to participate in cricket matches or events played under its jurisdiction that the individual or organisation in question has not participated in any form of unapproved cricket for a specified period.
- The nature and scope of the sanction to be imposed will be for the Member board concerned to determine, following proper process, and taking into account the facts and circumstances of the particular case. No particular sanction can be specified in advance. However, the explanatory notes to Section 32.4.7 confirm the view of the ICC and its Members that, save in exceptional circumstances, it would be justified to take the view that a person who has participated in an unapproved match or event should ordinarily not be selected or permitted to participate in official matches or events for a minimum of 12 months thereafter.

**8. How do you find out whether a match or event has been approved?**

A Member must publish a list of all matches and events that it has approved to be played within its own territory. It should update that list from time to time so that it is always accurate and complete. It should also send a copy of the list to the recognised players' association in that territory (if any) at the time of publication.

If there is any doubt as to the status of any particular match or event, the Member should provide clarification upon request.

**9. What if a match or event has not been approved but also has not been disapproved by a Member?**

If a match or event has not been approved by the Member in whose territory it is to be staged, it will be deemed to be disapproved for the purposes of Section 32. In other words, the onus is on the event organiser to obtain approval for its match or event from the relevant Member board. If it fails to do so, the match or event is deemed disapproved for purposes of Section 32.

**10. If a Member grants approval for a match or event to be staged in its territory for purposes of Section 32, does the Member therefore become 'responsible' for the safety, etc. of that event?**

No. The only consequence of the Member's grant of approval under Section 32 is to permit participation in that match or event without the consequences that follow from participation in a 'disapproved' match or event. The Member's grant of approval does not amount to any endorsement of the match or event or of the security or safety arrangements made for the match or event. Instead, those arrangements remain the sole responsibility of the match or event organiser.

**11. If a match or event has been approved by the relevant Member under Section 32, does it have the status of 'official' cricket for record-keeping purposes?**

No. Whether or not a match or event is classified as 'official' for record-keeping purposes is determined, as previously, by Section 33 (Official Cricket), which has not been amended.

**12. Do the new rules apply to a player who has made a commitment before 1 June 2009 to play in a particular match or event?**

No, the new regulations are not to be applied retrospectively. The validity and effect of any prior commitment will fall to be assessed by reference to the rules in place at the time the commitment was made.

**New Section 32A of the ICC Operating Manual**  
**(Domestic Cricket Events)**

**Questions & Answers**

NOTE: THESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE INTENDED TO BE READ ALONGSIDE THE NEW SECTION 32A OF THE ICC OPERATING MANUAL.

**1. Why has Section 32A been introduced?**

With the emergence of new domestic events that have to be accommodated into an increasingly busy cricket calendar, the ICC Board has decided that regulations are required to recognise and protect the primacy of international cricket as the pinnacle of the game, by introducing a mechanism that permits Member boards to determine when players who are qualified to play international cricket for them may participate in other Members' domestic events.

The regulatory imperatives behind this decision are explained in further detail in the notes to Section 32A.4.

**2. How does Section 32A protect international cricket?**

Section 32A protects the primacy of international cricket by requiring a Member board to make it a condition of a foreign player's participation in its domestic event(s) that the player's own Member board (i.e., the Member for which the player plays/or is qualified to play international cricket) does not object to his participation in such event(s).

The foreign player may only participate in the domestic event(s) if (and to the extent that) his Member board issues a 'No Objection Certificate', or 'NOC', confirming that it has no objection to that participation.

If the Member board declines to issue a NOC, then the original Member board cannot allow the player to participate in its domestic event. Instead, the player has to be released (where required) to play international cricket for his Member board.

**3. What form must the NOC be in?**

An NOC is simply a written document stating whether or not the relevant Member board objects to its player playing in the other Member's domestic cricket event. There is no set format required for the NOC. A letter will suffice.

The NOC may state that the Member board only objects to the player playing in part or parts of a domestic event. So, for example, it could say it only objects to the player playing in a domestic league on the dates when it wants him to participate on its behalf in international matches/events. (These dates could include time required for travelling,

training, other preparation for the international match/event, etc.). The player would then be able to play in the domestic league on all other dates.

**4. On what basis may a Member board decline to issue an NOC for one of its players to participate in another Member's domestic event(s)?**

That will be a matter for the Member board to decide, acting in accordance with its responsibilities as custodian of the sport within its territory, and in compliance with all applicable laws.

The explanatory notes to Section 32A.4 detail some of the factors that a Member board may wish to consider in exercising its discretion.

**5. Does this mean clubs/counties/provincial teams/regional teams have to release their players for international cricket?**

Yes. However, there is one exception to this. A club/county/provincial team/regional team is only bound to release a player to play for an Associate Member for the following matches:

- ICC Cricket World Cup matches
- ICC Champions Trophy matches
- ICC World Twenty20 matches
- ICC U19 Cricket World Cup matches
- ICC World Cup Qualifiers
- ICC World Twenty20 Qualifiers
- ICC U19 Cricket World Cup Qualifiers
- All one day internationals and Twenty20 internationals against Full Members

**6. What if they do not release their players in accordance with the new regulations?**

If the player's Member board has objected to his participation in a domestic event during a particular period, then the player will not be able to participate in that domestic event during that period.

It will be the responsibility of the Member board in whose territory the domestic event is played to enforce that regulation (subject to the requirements of applicable law), i.e., to ensure that a foreign player does not play in a domestic event under its jurisdiction unless he has a valid and applicable NOC from his Member board for the relevant period.

This should be made a part of the Member board's regulations. It should also be put into the rules issued by the organiser of the event, i.e., those rules should require presentation of a valid NOC as a condition of a foreign player's eligibility to participate in the event.

In any case, if a club/country/provincial team/regional team attempts to field a player in a domestic event who does not have the necessary NOC, the Member board in whose territory that event is staged will be required (subject to the requirements of applicable law) to prevent that from happening, and/or to take appropriate disciplinary action against the player and/or team(s) involved.

**7. Do the new rules apply to all foreign players, or only those who are contracted by their Member board?**

The new rules apply to all foreign players, whether or not they are under contract to their Member board.

**8. What if a foreign player has retired from international cricket and therefore no longer has any relationship with his home Member board?**

The player is required to obtain an NOC from the Member for whose national representative team that player last played, notwithstanding that he has retired from international cricket.

**9. What if a foreign player has not yet played for any Member Board and/or would be eligible to play for more than one Member board?**

He must obtain an NOC from the Member board for whose national representative team he is eligible to play pursuant to Section 35 of the ICC's Operating Manual. If he is eligible to play for more than one Member board, he must designate one of those Member boards as the relevant Member for purposes of Section 32A, and must get an NOC from that Member board.

**10. What if a Member board considers that it is not entitled to prevent one of its players from participating in a domestic cricket event, whether for legal reasons or otherwise?**

In that case the Member should simply issue the NOC, stating that it has no objection or is not in a position to object to the player participating in the relevant domestic cricket event.

**11. When will these new regulations become operative?**

These new regulations will become operative as from 1 June 2009.