



## **BCCI AGE VERIFICATION PROGRAMME 2025 – 2026 SEASON**

### **Qualification Rules for**

### **Men Under–16 (Vijay Merchant Trophy) / Women U–15 Tournament**

*It is deemed that every player participating in the age-based tournament has gone through the BCCI Age Verification Programme and consents to the same.*

*All the dates mentioned in this document are dynamic in nature and will be updated according to the Seasons.*



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## 1. Background of the Age Verification Programme (“AVP”)

- a. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is a body for promotion and development of cricket in India and the BCCI is responsible for ensuring that appropriate protocols are put in place to ensure a level playing field for competitive participation of players in its age group tournaments, by ensuring competition only between players of similar skeletal maturity.
- b. While the process of determining skeletal maturity of players is detailed subsequently herein, players are advised that for the Under – 16 (boys) and Under – 15 (girls) tournament, the BCCI shall only permit those players who would satisfy both – (i) the BCCI adopted scientific method of determining skeletal maturity known as the TW3 method; and (ii) the chronological age. Accordingly, in this protocol, the expression “Under – 16 / Under – 15 (TW3)” in relation to the players shall mean those players whose skeletal maturity has been tested and found to be 16.4 or below in case of boys or 14.9 or below in case of girls in the TW3 method of testing. **The players and their legal guardian, by participating in the Under – 16 / Under – 15 tournaments and skeletal maturity tests, agree to be bound by the TW3 method to verify the age.**



## 2. The Determining Factor

- a. The BCCI shall follow the TW3 method of assessment of skeletal maturity (Tanner, Healy et al), an internationally recognized testing method of Bone Age and it will be the sole determining factor for eligibility to participate in BCCI Under – 16 (boys) / Under – 15 (girls) tournaments. **No other process or methodology shall be acceptable.**
- b. In this eligibility process, x-ray image of a boys' left wrist and hand bones would be examined by a software 'BoneXpert' which will assess the skeletal maturity and assign a rating that goes up to 16.5. Only players rated below 16.4 or below according to the parameters of the TW3 rating system shall be eligible to participate.
- c. In this eligibility process, x-ray image of a girls' left wrist and hand bones would be examined by a software 'BoneXpert' which will assess the skeletal maturity and assign a rating that goes up to 15. Only players rated below 14.9. or below according to the parameters of the TW3 rating system shall be eligible to participate.
- d. The cut-off date for both the tournaments is 1<sup>st</sup> September of that season. For example, the cut-off date for season 2025-26 will be 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and for the season 2026-27 will be 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 and so on.
- e. For the purposes of this document, cut-off date means players born before that date will be considered as per their declared date of birth to be eligible for U-16 Vijay Merchant (Boys) or U-15 Girls Trophy.
- f. For U-16 Vijay Merchant (Boys) tournament only players between the age of 14-16 (as per declared date of birth) and for Girls U-15 tournament players between 12-15 (as per declared date of birth) are allowed for x-ray protocol and subsequent participation in the tournaments.
- g. All players are required to undergo the TW3 bone test before participating in U-16 Boys' and U-15 Girls' Tournaments.
- h. This policy can be changed/modified by the BCCI at its sole and absolute discretion. The BCCI further reserves the right to annul the policy and introduce a new policy at its sole and absolute discretion.



### 3. Documentation

- a. All boy players will, as a first step, be required to submit to the State Association scanned original birth certificate and school mark sheets from the previous three (03) years for the purpose of identifying their chronological age and only those players who are born on or after **1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 but on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 (for 2025-26 season)** shall be entitled to undergo the selection process based on the TW3 rating system. It is however clarified that for the purpose of assessing eligibility to participate in the BCCI Under – 16 (TW3) Tournaments, such chronological age shall not be the sole determining factor.
- b. All girl players will, as a first step, be required to submit to the State Association scanned original birth certificate and school mark sheets from the previous three (03) years for the purpose of identifying their chronological age and only those players who are born on or after **1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 but on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013** shall be entitled to undergo the selection process based on the TW3 rating system . It is however clarified that for the purpose of assessing eligibility to participate in the BCCI Under – 15 (TW3) Tournaments, such chronological age shall not be the sole determining factor.
- c. The dates mentioned above are for 2025-26 season but for every subsequent season, a year will be added to above dates to be in line with the proper criterion of U-16 Vijay Merchant Boys Tournament and U-15 Girls Tournament.



#### **4. The parameters of the TW3 rating system**

- a. The TW3 bone age rating system evaluates age up to 16.5 years for boys and 15 years for girls.
- b. For new players (boys), a current TW3 bone age rating of 16.4 or below is mandatory for the player to be eligible to participate. Similarly, for new players (girls), a current TW3 bone age rating of 14.9 or below is mandatory for the player to be eligible to participate.
- c. For the subsequent season's participation, (as per current participation limit, a (boy) player can participate in these tournaments only for a maximum of two seasons and a (girl) player can participate in these tournaments only for a maximum of three seasons) a **+1** factor will be added in the current rating and eligibility or the lack of it will be conveyed along with current season's ratings. However, the players who have been declared ineligible due to this +1 factor for the next season will be entitled to undergo another bone test next season provided they are chronologically U-16 and U-15 for boys and girls respectively. If they satisfy the above-mentioned criteria (in point b) in next bone test, they'll be allowed participation in U-16 and U-15 tournament of that season.
- d. It is however clarified that players who have already been declared eligible because of +1 factor, need not undergo another bone test for subsequent season and they will continue to remain eligible to participate in next season's U16/U15 tournament.
- e. It is also clarified that the players who fail the first bone test itself – meaning the score of 16.5 for boys and 15 for girls will not be eligible to undergo another bone test for the next season.



## 5. The BCCI Age Verification Program Protocol

- a. All the State Associations will appoint a State Association AVP officer who will be the one-point contact for the concerned State Association's AVP ("**State Association AVP Officer**"). They will report to the Hon. Secretary of the concerned State Association and liaise with the BCCI.
- b. The BCCI will send each affiliated State Association, the following:
  - i. **This document** enlisting the AVP rules on eligibility; and
  - ii. **Registration form:** This is to be filled in electronically by the State Association and emailed to the BCCI AVP department minimum of **three days** before all the fresh players undergo the radiology protocol. **Please note that the form should be filled in alphabetical order of the first name of the players and all the values entered in given format only. In the states where use of surname isn't prevalent, second / middle name should be entered in the surname column. The form will be sent back to the State Association for corrections; in case it is not in the desired format.**
- c. **Radiology Centres:** The State Association will contact the radiology centre in its home venue, as nominated by the BCCI, for undertaking a digital x-ray of the left wrist and hand of the players. The radiology protocol **MUST** be completed at the **BCCI nominated radiology centre** in each State Association's jurisdiction under the supervision of an observer appointed by BCCI ("**BCCI Observer**"). Please note that, any x-ray images done in the absence of a BCCI Observer **will not be accepted** and the radiology protocol will have to be repeated. All players are advised to contact their respective State Associations for further information regarding the radiology protocol.
- d. Notwithstanding point 5(c) above, the State Association may request BCCI for an alternate radiology centre for the radiology protocol. In such scenario, the State Association is required to contact the BCCI in writing, a minimum of 5 days prior to the appointment date, with the details of the radiology centre.
- e. **Aadhar Card:** The BCCI Observer will verify the original Aadhar Cards of all the players before they undergo the radiology protocol. All players must carry original government issued Aadhar Card as the valid photo I.D. while reporting for the radiology protocol. It is hereby clarified that photocopies of Aadhar Card will not be accepted. **Any player without a valid original photo I.D. (i.e., the Aadhar Card) will not be allowed to undergo the x-ray protocol. Aadhar card must be updated with recent photograph.** Hence the players must, and the State Associations are encouraged to inform the players that they must, get their **Aadhar updated with latest photograph as soon as possible (and not later than 6 months prior to submitting the documents)**. It must be noted that only UIDAI issued PVC Aadhar Card with updated photograph and proper QR code will be accepted as a valid photo ID and no other ID is valid for the purposes of AVP.



Figure: UIDAI issued PVC – Aadhar card.





## 6. Submission of data to the BCCI

- a. The radiology centre/ BCCI Observer will email the X-ray images directly to the BCCI without any involvement of the State Association, immediately after radiology protocol. Therefore, the State Associations are requested to inform the concerned radiology centres to have their IT support ready for the same. X-rays must be emailed to the BCCI in presence of BCCI AVP observer on the same day and no x-rays emailed thereafter will be accepted. However, please note that the BCCI observer will not wait beyond reasonable time for the same, and therefore clear instructions should be passed to the radiology centre.
- b. The State Associations will then send to the BCCI scanned original birth certificates and school mark sheets for the previous three (03) years of all the players who have undergone the x-ray protocol. For example, for Season 2025-26, school marksheets of academic year 2022 – 23, 23 – 24 and 24 – 25 are to be submitted. In case, school marksheets don't have date of birth printed, Bonafide certificates for all three years from the school must be submitted. In addition to above, current academic year's (2025-26) Bonafide certificate needs to be submitted. The State Association AVP Officer will verify the **ORIGINAL** birth certificates and all the documents of each player before forwarding it to BCCI. Photocopies of original documents are not acceptable. **Please note that it is the responsibility of the State Association to verify all the documents including birth certificates before sending it to the BCCI.**
- c. Upon receipt and assessment of the date of birth proof documents, and the x-rays, the BCCI will analyse the x-ray images through BoneXpert software. Cost for this analysis/interpretation will be borne by the concerned State Association. In case the software fails to analyse x-ray due to technical reasons, and in case any player is determined ineligible by the software, such x-ray will then be referred to the radiologist on the BCCI panel. The decision of radiologist on the BCCI panel regarding the eligibility will be final.
- d. The BCCI reserves the right to request additional documentation including fresh X-ray reports as may be necessary. Further, the BCCI may, at its sole discretion seek additional information and clarifications from the parent(s) of the concerned player, as may be necessary.
- e. The BCCI Age Verification Department will compile the eligibility reports and inform the respective State Associations the results of the AVP, as soon as practicable.
- f. The BCCI will maintain a data bank of all the BCCI AVP results. Each State Association will be given their section of this data bank for their records and future references. The players and their legal guardian, by participating in the TW3 process, shall be deemed to have consented to the storing of their date for the purposes of age verification.



## **7. Miscellaneous**

- a. Any player submitting fraudulent date of birth proof documents (including but not limited to, birth certificate, school documents, etc.) will be disqualified and debarred from participating in any BCCI and state association tournaments for two (02) years from the date of such disqualification. After completion of their two-year ban period, they will not be allowed to participate in any BCCI age group tournaments.
- b. After the commencement of the Vijay Merchant Tournament / Girls U – 15 tournaments, no State Association will be allowed to conduct x-ray protocol of fresh players for age verification purposes.
- c. The decision by the BCCI AVP department with respect to any decision taken under this policy will be final and binding.
- d. The players and their legal guardian, by participating in the Under – 16 / Under – 15 tournaments, agree to be bound by the TW3 method to verify the age.
- e. This document is uploaded on the BCCI website, and it is deemed that every player participating in the age-based tournament has gone through the BCCI Age Verification Programme and consents to the same.
- f. Please note that maximum number of players allowed for radiology protocol is 70 each for boys and girls per association/per season.
- g. Players may contact their respective State Associations for further information regarding the AVP.