

SPEED POST

Date: 24.08.2026

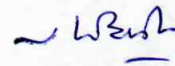
To,

**Honorary Secretary,
Jharkhand State Cricket Association,
Keenan Stadium, Jamshedpur,
Jharkhand-831001.**

Subject- Regarding matter of Shri Ranjit Singh and Shri Santosh Kumar.

Dear Sir,

In the above matters, Common order was passed by me on 22.08.2026. Same was sent to all the parties by mail as well as by speed post. The entire records (in original) of both matters are also being sent to you by speed post. Kindly acknowledge the same.



**(Justice V.K. Bist)
Formal Chief Justice
Ombudsman and Ethics Officer
Jharkhand State Cricket Association**

Copy to: -

- 1- Shri Ranjit Singh, Vaishali House, Adalhatu, Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834008.**
- 2- Shri Santosh Kumar, Vaishali House, Adalhatu, Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834008.**

BEFORE OMBUDSMAN-CUM-ETHICS OFFICER
JHARKHAND STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION

In the matter between:

Shri Ranjit Singh

Petitioner

Vs.

Jharkhand State Cricket
Association & Anr.

Respondents

AND

In the matter between:

Shri Santosh Kumar

Petitioner

Vs.

Jharkhand State Cricket
Association & Anr.

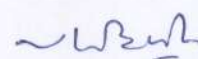
Respondents

~ WBh

Order

Shri Ranjit Singh, resident of Vaishali House, Adalhatu, Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834008 and Shri Santosh Kumar, resident of Vaishali House, Adalhatu, Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834008 (hereinafter referred to as the petitioners) have sent separate petitions/complaints. They have requested to intervene under Rule 37(Grievance Redressal) of the Rules & Regulations (for short the Rules) of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (for short JSCA) in respect of Non-Redressal of Membership-Related Grievance.

In their petition both of them have stated that they are life member of JSCA. Earlier they had submitted written representations to the Secretary, JSCA on 17.10.2025, through courier and also via e-mail, raising issues pertaining to their membership rights and matters affecting their standing as Life Member of the Association. But no response, acknowledgment, clarification or action was communicated to them by the Secretary, JSCA. Non-response had resulted in denial of a



legitimate right to grievance redressal and was in contravention of the procedure laid down under the Rules.

It is stated that the matter related to disputes concerning membership rights and internal conduct within the Association, which falls squarely within the ambit of Rule 37(1)(a) &(b) of the rules.

Since facts of the case of both the petitioners are same and identical and their matter were also considered by JSCA together, petitions of both the petitioners are being considered together.

JSCA submitted one common reply to the petitions and also annexed the copies of Enquiry Report in the matter, copy of Show Cause Notices given to the complainants and copy of minutes/meeting of Committee of Management (for short referred as COM).

It is stated by JSCA that both are own brothers and were life members of JSCA. They were allotted a shop through the licensee of the association. One news item was published in the daily newspaper Prabhat Khabar on 20.05.2025 relating to unauthorized online marketing of

~ W Burt

the facilities and properties located inside the JSCA Stadium Complex by petitioners. The COM, which is the highest executive body of the association decided to constitute an Inquiry Committee to ascertain the correct facts and circumstances and report to the COM. The Committee conducted an inquiry in the matter and submitted its report on 22.07.2025 to COM. Report was placed by the COM in its meeting dated 28.07.2025. The Committee in its finding found unauthorized use of JSCA property, photograph for unlawful commercial gain. Committee also found that photographs of various venues and amenities belonging to JSCA were uploaded without permission on various websites under the name of M/s Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd. Both the petitioners at the same time were Director of Company and also members of JSCA and Country Cricket Club. Same was found as deliberate and unauthorized advertisement of JSCA properties for personal commercial benefit, in direct violation of JSCA's policies and without any formal consent or agreement. Committee also noted following additional misconduct of the complainants.

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- i. Non-payment of Electricity charges: Despite a clear directive issued by Country Cricket Club on 25th December 2019, Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd failed to pay electricity dues to date.

~ WBH

- ii. Illegal use of electricity:
Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd continues to draw electricity from JSCA lines without a separate meter.
- iii. Illegal use of Water Supply:
The restaurant is utilizing JSCA's water connection without any authorization and payment.
- iv. Use of DG set facility:
Samagra Restaurant has been benefitting from JSCA's DG set backup without any formal approval or payment.
- v. Unauthorised occupation of Hall space:
The hall located above the leased shop to Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd (first floor) is also found to be illegally occupied and used by the Samagra for commercial purpose."

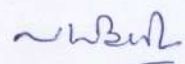
The Committee reached to the conclusion that action of petitioners as Directors of M/s Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd. constitute gross misconduct, unauthorized commercial exploitation of utilities and occupation of JSCA property. After noting above facts, the Committee made following recommendation:

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— W. B. —

- i. Immediate termination of any access or occupancy given to M/s Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd within JSCA premises.
- ii. Issue of cease and desist notice to all websites and platforms hosting the unauthorized images.
- iii. Remove Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd. from any future association with JSCA/CCC.
- iv. To terminate the Life membership of JSCA and CCC of Mr. Ranjit Singh and Mr. Santosh Kumar the two Directors of Samagra Restaurant Pvt. Ltd.
- v. Strengthen internal monitoring mechanism to track any third-party misuse of JSCA/CCC facility or name."

Report was considered and accepted by COM. However, the COM decided to issue Show Cause Notice dated 29.07.2025, asking them as to why action may not be taken against them under Clause 31 of the Constitution of the association. Notice was issued to them. In response to the Show Cause Notice, a common reply dated 04.08.2025 was submitted by the petitioners raising technical issues. No attempt was made to rebut the allegations and the findings of the inquiry committee. After submission of reply by the petitioners, the COM



held a meeting on 09.08.2025 considering the report regarding the petitioners and resolved to expel them from the membership of the association. This decision of the COM was placed for consideration before the general body in Annual General Meeting held 10.08.2025 and the general body of the Association duly confirmed the decision of the COM to expel them from the association. Shri Ranjit Singh also attended the said Annual General Meeting.

Respondent in its reply further stated that it is established that the decision to expel petitioners from the membership of the association is based on clear and categorical findings of an inquiry committee duly constituted by the association based on cogent and unimpeachable evidence.

It is further stated that Rule 31 and Rule 37 of the JSCA constitution operate in distinct and separate fields and are intended to address different situations. Rule 31 specifically vests disciplinary jurisdiction in the COM to take cognizance of acts of indiscipline or misconduct committed by any individual member, affiliated member, official or player of the Association. The Rule expressly empowers the COM to suspend or expel such person,

~ WBeH

subject to confirmation by a Special General Meeting or the ensuing Annual General Meeting within the stipulated period. The Rule itself incorporates the safeguard of natural justice by mandating that the concerned party shall have the right of hearing when the allegations are investigated. Thus, Rule 31 constitutes a complete and self-contained disciplinary mechanism for dealing with misconduct and indiscipline within the Association. While, Rule 37 falls within the broader framework of grievance redressal through the Ombudsman mechanism. The object and purpose of Rule 37 is materially different. Clause 37(1)(a) pertains to disputes and differences between or amongst the Association, its Members and the Cricket Players' Association, while Clause 37(1)(b) contemplates situations where complaints are received against a member or Administrator for acts detrimental to the interest, reputation or harmony of the Association. In such cases, the Apex Council, upon receipt of a complaint, may issue a show cause notice and thereafter refer the matter to the Ombudsman for adjudication. The said provision is therefore essentially dispute-resolution and complaint-driven in nature.

The respondent further stated that the existence of Rule 37 does not either expressly or impliedly curtail,

~ W. B. S.

dilute or extinguish the independent disciplinary powers specifically conferred upon the Committee of Management under Rule 31. If the interpretation sought to be advanced by the complainants is accepted, Rule 31 would be rendered otiose and redundant, despite the Constitution having consciously vested disciplinary authority in the COM. Such an interpretation would violate settled principles of interpretation requiring that all provisions of a constitution or statute be harmoniously construed so as to give effect to each provision rather than rendering one nugatory.

Petitioners have sent their rejoinder on 20.06.2026 in which they have reiterated that despite the lapse of more than six months from the date of submission, and notwithstanding several reminders addressed to the concerned authorities, no action or communication was received regarding the redressal of the grievance. Consequently, being left with no alternative efficacious remedy, they approached the Ombudsman, BCCI on 08.04.2026, seeking intervention and adjudication of the matter in accordance with the grievance redressal mechanism prescribed under Rule 37 of the JSCA Rules and Regulations. Upon consideration of applications the Ombudsman, BCCI issued a show-cause notice dated

~ W Burt

08.04.2026 to the Honorary Secretary, JSCA, directing submission of reply within 30 days and further permitting the petitioners to file a rejoinder, if required, within 14 days thereafter.

The Petitioners thereafter written that in view of proceedings initiated by the Ombudsman, BCCI they may be provided additional time within which the adjudication process from the Ombudsman, BCCI is likely to be completed and a final order may be expected in the matter.

On 20.07.2026 Honorary Secretary, JSCA has sent reply to rejoinder dated 20.06.2026 in which he has stated that before the BCCI the petitioners suppressed the fact that the complaints made by them before the Ombudsman appointed by the JSCA is pending in which cognizance has already been taken and reply of JSCA has already been submitted. Secretary, JSCA also informed BCCI that original and appropriate forum for the adjudication of the alleged dispute raised by the complainants is the Ombudsman appointed by the JSCA and not the Ombudsman, BCCI. All these facts were brought to the notice of the Ombudsman, BCCI by JSCA in its reply.

~ W B Singh

I have considered the rival submissions made by the parties and have gone through the record available with me.

As already stated that both the petitioners in their rejoinder reply have written that they have also approached the Hon'ble Ombudsman BCCI. Their request was considered and Hon'ble Ombudsman, BCCI issued notice on 08.04.206 to Honorary Secretary, JSCA asking him to file reply within 30 days and thereafter to petitioners to file rejoinder within 14 days. They have further stated that in view of the fact that proceedings have been initiated by Ombudsman, BCCI additional time be provided till proceedings before BCCI are completed and final order is passed.

As per record, the petitioners filed their petitions/complaints before me on 11.11.2025 in which notice was issued by me to Honorary Secretary, JSCA and comments were sought on 19.12.2025. I also received reply/comments from Honorary Secretary, JSCA and rejoinder reply from the petitioners. I find that petitioners approached to Hon'ble Ombudsman, BCCI subsequent to my taking cognizance in the matter as per Rules and Regulations of JSCA. Petitioners should have informed

~ Wish

the Hon'ble Ombudsman, BCCI that they have already approached the Ombudsman and Ethics Officer, Jharkhand State Cricket Association against the order passed by Committee of Management, JSCA and the proceedings are at the final stage. Rules of JSCA provides for appointment of the Ethics Officer and the Ombudsman and also give power to the Ethics Officer and the Ombudsman. Therefore, the matter pertaining to the petitioners can only be looked into by the Ethics Officer/Ombudsman appointed by JSCA not by the Ombudsman, BCCI.

Both the petitioners have requested to intervene under Rules 37 of the Rules of JSCA in respect of Non-Redressal of Membership Related Grievance. On the other hand, the stand of JSCA is that the Rule 31 constitute a complete and self-contained disciplinary mechanism for dealing with misconduct and indiscipline with the Association and the action taken under Rule 31 is fully within the jurisdiction and authority vested in the Committee of Management under the Constitution of the Association.

For proper appreciation Rule 31 and Rule 37 of the Rules are being reproduced below:

" Rule 31. MISCONDUCT

~ W. B. S. R.

The Committee of Management shall have the power to take cognizance of any act of indiscipline or misconduct of any Individual member, Affiliated member, official or player of the Association and to suspend or expel such member, official or player subject always in case of suspension or expulsion to a confirmation by a Special General Meeting called for such purpose or the following Annual General Meeting, within 200 days of such suspension or expulsion. In all such cases the party concerned shall have the right to be heard when the relevant charge or allegation is being investigated.

If the Association expels or suspends a member in accordance with the procedure laid down, such member, in the event of he being a member or office bearer in any affiliated unit of the Association, will be deemed to have been expelled or suspended, as the case may be, from such affiliated unit. Conversely, if any affiliated unit of the Association either expels or suspends one of its members for an act of indiscipline or misconduct, such member, in the event of he also being a member of the Association, shall be deemed to have been expelled or suspended, as the case may be, from the Association."

" Rule 37. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

(1) The types of disputes/differences that form the Ombudsman's ambit and the procedures for redressal are:

W. B. B.

(a) Member, Association & Franchises
Disputes

Any disputes between or among the Association, its Members and the Cricket Players' Association shall be automatically referred to the Ombudsman who shall pass appropriate orders after hearing all the parties and exercising all powers of enquiry and hearing as the Ombudsman deems fit before appropriate orders are passed.

(b) Detriment caused by Member or
Administrator

If any Member or any Administrator of the association commits any act of indiscipline or misconduct or acts in any manner which may or likely to be detrimental to the interest of the association or the game of cricket or endanger the harmony or affect the reputation or interest of the association or refuses or neglects to comply with any of the provisions of the Memorandum and/or the Rules and Regulations of the association and/or the Rules of conduct framed by the association,

~ W. B. S. N.

the Apex Council, on receipt of any complaint shall issue a Show Cause Notice calling for explanation and on receipt of the same and/or in case of no cause or insufficient cause being shown, refer the same to the Ombudsman who shall pass an appropriate order after providing opportunity of hearing to the parties

(c) Misconduct or Breach by Others

In the event of any complaint being received from any quarter or based on any report published or circulated or on its own motion, of any act of indiscipline or misconduct or violation of any of the Rules and Regulations by any Player, Umpire, Team Official, Selector or any person associated with the association, the Committee of Management shall refer the same within 48 hours to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee to make a preliminary enquiry.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committees shall forthwith make a preliminary inquiry and call for explanations from the concerned person(s) and submit his report to the Committee of Management not later

~ W Bush

than 15 days from the date of reference being made by the Committee of Management. On receipt of the report, the Committee of Management shall forward the same to the Ombudsman, who shall call for all particulars and unless it decides that there is no prima facie case and accordingly drops the charge, hearing shall commence on the case and the same shall be completed as expeditiously as possible by providing a reasonable opportunity to the parties of being heard. If, despite due notice, any party fails to submit any cause or submits insufficient cause, the Ombudsman shall after providing hearing to the parties concerned, pass appropriate order. In the event any party refuses and or fails to appear despite notice, the Ombudsman shall be at liberty to proceed ex-parte on the basis of the available records and evidence.

(d) By the Public against the BCCI

Where a member of the public is aggrieved concerning ticketing and access and facilities at stadia, the same may be

~ W. B. S.

brought in the form of a complaint to the Ombudsman."

From the perusal of above rules, it is clear that Rule 31 specifically deals with misconduct which is disciplinary jurisdiction vested in Committee of Management. COM is given power to suspend or expel member, official or player of Association. I am in agreement with the arguments advanced on behalf of JSCA that Rule 31 constitutes a complete and self-contained disciplinary mechanism to deal with misconduct and indiscipline within the Association, whereas Rule 37 provides grievance redressal. Rule 37(1)(a) pertains to disputes between or among the Association, its Members and the Cricket Players' Association. Rules 37(1)(b) deals with the detriment caused by the Member or Administrator. Rule 37(1)(c) deals with misconduct or breach by others whereas Rule 37(1)(d) deals with grievance of public against BCCI.

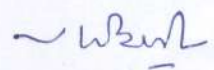
Present case, no doubt, was rightly dealt by the COM, JSCA under the provision of Section 31 of the Rules.

Petitioners' prayer in their petitions/complaints was for taking cognizance of their complaints under Rule 37.

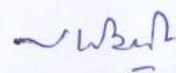
~ WBH

Their complaints were sent to Honorary Secretary, JSCA and comments were sought. Reply was received and necessary copies of record were also sent alongwith their reply. In their petitions/complaints petitioners have made complaint that they sent representation to the Secretary, JSCA on 17.10.2025 raising issues pertaining to their membership rights and matter affecting their standing as a Life Member of the Association. Non-response has resulted in denial of legitimate right to grievance redressal and is in contravention of the procedure laid down under the JSCA Rules and Regulations. Neither they supplied copies of representation dated 17.10.2025 nor they have given facts in details regarding their membership dispute. However, copies of these letters were supplied to me by the Honorary Secretary, JSCA. Those representations of the petitioners were against the termination of their Life Membership of JSCA. Without denying the allegations levelled against the petitioners, the petitioners cannot raise question on correctness of the order of COM.

Petitioners' main ground of challenge is that failure of the Secretary, JSCA to acknowledge or process their grievance violates the principle of fairness and transparency.



As already held by me that present matter was dealt by the COM, JSCA under the provisions of Section 31 of the Rules. COM of JSCA got conducted an inquiry on the basis of news item published in daily newspaper Prabhat Khabar and a Committee was constituted which submitted its report on 22.07.2025. Same was placed before the COM for its consideration in its meeting dated 28.07.2025. The COM considered the report and accepted the same. However, the committee decided to issue a Show Cause Notice to both the persons along with the copy of the inquiry report which comprised, both the charges as well as the findings of the inquiry committee, asking the petitioners as to why action may not be taken against them under Clause 31 of the Constitution of the association. Accordingly, show cause notices dated 29.07.2025 were issued to both along with a copy of the inquiry report directing them to show cause as to why action may not be taken against them under the provisions of the constitution of the JSCA. The petitioners replied the show cause notice but did not reply or deny the charges but only technical objections were raised. Therefore, in my view, it cannot be said that opportunity of placing their case was not offered to the petitioners and there is violation of natural justice.



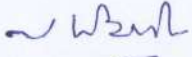
Here it is also necessary to state that copy of reply of JSCA was sent by me to the petitioners for their rejoinder reply on 23.05.2026 in which I specifically asked petitioner to inform whether they want physical hearing in the matter, which could be held at suitable place in Jharkhand but they did not ask for such physical/personal hearing.

In view of above discussion, complaints/petitions filed by the petitioners are rejected.

Copies of this order is being sent to all the parties by mail as well as by Speed post.

Records pertaining to both the petitioners are being sent to the Honorary Secretary, Jharkhand State Cricket Association by speed post.

22.08.2026


22.08.2026

Justice V.K Bist (Retd.)

Ombudsman/Ethics Officer

Jharkhand State Cricket Association