



Sri Lanka
Cricket

Shammi Silva

President - Sri Lanka Cricket

2nd November 2023



His Excellency the President, Ranil Wickremesinghe
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
President Secretariat,
Colombo 01

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you with utmost respect to draw your urgent attention to the challenging situation that Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) is currently facing. The day-to-day operations and the professional conduct of SLC are being greatly affected due to what appears to be a deliberate harassment from the Sports Ministry. This interference and continuous condemnation with false accusations about our institute and officials are negatively hindering the administration and progress of SLC.

We seek your immediate intervention to address the following unresolved issues and ensure that SLC can function independently and efficiently to fulfil all of its responsibilities.

Hosting of ICC World Cup- Under 19

This situation is indeed critical, especially considering the significant steps taken by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) in securing the hosting rights for the ICC World Cup Under 19 competition in January 2024. The lack of response from the Ministry of Sports, despite the initial communication sent on August 3, 2023, poses a serious concern for obtaining the necessary Government support and clearance for this major event, which also promises significant financial benefits to the country.

Therefore, it is imperative that the ministry show a sense of urgency and initiate continuous communication in relation to obtaining all necessary clearances and guarantee the effective and successful organisation of the upcoming ICC World Cup – under 19 competition in Sri Lanka.

Our President attending the ICC meeting on the 17th November 2023 has to update the actual position of our status and the progress made so far to the Board.

Lanka T-10 Super League.

A growing concern arose when there was a delay in response from the Ministry regarding the proposed Lanka T10 Super League, a fast-growing new format of cricket. Despite discussions initially initiated and a detailed report submitted, as early as mid-2022 and also reminders with additional information was presented on 18 August 2023.

Due to the lack of correspondence and support from the ministry, the relevant clearances have been put on hold, which invariably delay the progress and planning of the inauguration of the Cricket carnival, which is to be held from the 10th December onwards.

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Ex-Co members representation

Duly elected Ex-Co members being volunteers, traditionally engage with discussions with their colleagues and counterparts in the other member nations during the games and in various forums. These traditions are not created by SLC, but it's been done to strengthen the bilateral relationships & goodwill among members while sharing experiences, exploring new opportunities and promoting network.

However, the Ministry of Sports which appears to be discouraging our participation and limiting the growth opportunities without realising the substantial invisible damage it's causing to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) by not allowing to stay in touch with the stakeholders and to achieve potential benefits.

Rejection of Japanese opportunities

Sri Lanka has made significant efforts to establish a strong bond and support as their favoured nation with Japanese cricket, against all other Asian cricketing giants. However, the Ministry's refusal of Sri Lanka's leadership to attend the major event in Japan last week has strained this positive relationship.

This kind of short-sighted decisions will certainly risk our strong rapport and attention gained from Japan. Our close affiliation not only holds potential benefits for cricket development but also signifies a valuable, long-term friendship with the Japanese nation, extending beyond the realm of sports.

Similarly, our participation was rejected at the following events without any basis;

- Men's ICC Cricket World Cup 2023
- Sri Lanka tour of New Zealand
- Asia Cup Championship 2022

We humbly request an urgent appointment with Your Excellency, to appraise the above critical matters and to get some direction from Your Leadership, to update the ICC in return and to commence our physical preparations to ensure the fulfilment of our commitments successfully.

With utmost respect,

Yours faithfully,
SRI LANKA CRICKET



Shammi Silva
President

Cc : Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe – Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
Mr. K. Mahesan- Secretary- Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs