



MAHARASHTRA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

OFFICE OF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Mr. ASHOK LAVASA (EO & Former Central Election Commissioner of India) & Mr. K.F. WILFRED (AEO & Former Senior Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India)

MCA ELECTIONS 2026-29

(Affiliated to The Board of Control for Cricket in India 10-1-37),
(Registered Under Societies Reg. Act, 1860) (Maharashtra 565/Pune),
(Registered Under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 Reg. No F-1042/Pune).

GSTIN 27AAATM2192D1ZS

Email: elections@cricketmaharashtra.com

BEFORE THE ELECTORAL OFFICER

MAHARASHTRA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

(2026-2029)

Order on Objection dated 26th December 2025 filed by Mr. Ajay Gupte

Parties and Description

1. The present objection is filed by Mr. Ajay Gupte, a Full Member of the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) in the category of Life Member, as recognised under the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of MCA (MoA).
2. On scrutiny of the records placed before me, it is evident that the Objector is a duly recognised Full Member of the MCA and has locus to file an objection to the Draft Voter List.

Election Schedule and Limitation to raise Objection

3. Under the election schedule notified by the undersigned, any objections to the Draft Voter list was scheduled to be received on 26th December 2025 by 1:00 pm. The present objection of Mr. Ajay Gupte has been received between 6 and 7 PM, which is after 1:00 pm on 26th December 2025, i.e., beyond the stipulated time for filing objections.
4. Notwithstanding the delay, and in order to ensure that every genuine concern of a Full Member is given due consideration and that the process remains transparent and fair, I have, in exercise of my discretion as Electoral Officer, taken the objection on record and considered it on merits.
5. This order, therefore, deals with the objection on the substantive grounds raised.

Scope of Objection and Grounds Urged

6. Broadly, the Objector has *inter alia* raised the following grounds:
 - a. That in the Draft Voter List, no individual members have been identified in the membership categories of Founder Gymkhana, Institutional Members, Affiliated Clubs and District Cricket Associations, and only the member entity name is mentioned without specifying the individual voter.



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- b. That the Chief Executive Officer extended the submission timeline for representatives till 30th December 2025 without the Electoral Officer's concurrence, which constitutes an unauthorised issuance of amendment to the Election Program.
- c. That objections submitted to the email address mentioned in the Election Program notification are bouncing back, indicating that an incorrect email address was provided.

Record and Material Placed Before the Electoral Officer

- 7. Pursuant to the objection, response from MCA was sought. MCA has placed before me:
 - a. The relevant provisions of the MoA, including the definitions of "Member/ Full Member" and categories recognised under Rule 3(a);
 - b. Material showing that the established practice in previous MCA elections has been to list only the Member Entity names in the voter list for these categories;
 - c. Factual chronology regarding the request for submission of representatives and the subsequent extension granted by the CEO;
 - d. Details of the typographical error in the Election Program notification dated 22nd December 2025, wherein an incorrect email ID was inadvertently mentioned, and the remedial measures taken through a corrigendum issued by the Assistant Electoral Officer under my instructions.

Findings and Reasons

- 8. On Non-Identification of Individual Members in the Draft Voter List:
 - a. The Objector contends that the Draft Voter List does not identify individual members in the membership categories of Founder Gymkhana, Institutional Members, Affiliated Clubs and District Cricket Associations, and only mentions the member entity name without specifying the individual voter.
 - b. On the plain reading of Rule 1(A)(p) and Rule 3(a) of the MoA, the categories of Member/Full member are expressly recognised and exhaustively enumerated. These include, *inter alia*, district associations, individual life members, patrons, benefactors, institutional members (colleges), founder gymkhana, special gymkhana and affiliated club members, and former international cricketers hailing from the jurisdiction of the MCA who are granted automatic full membership.



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- c. It is evident from a plain reading of the MoA that membership is granted to these entities and not to individuals. The voting rights vest in the member entity, which then exercises such rights through an authorised representative. The identity of the representative is a matter to be determined by the member entity in accordance with its own internal governance procedures.
 - d. At the stage of publication of the Draft Voter List, the purpose is to identify which entities are eligible to vote in the elections. The identification of the specific individual who will exercise the voting right on behalf of the entity is a subsequent step, which naturally follows after the entity's eligibility to vote is established and confirmed.
 - e. The Objector has not pointed to any provision in the MoA or any rule that mandates the identification of individual representatives at the stage of publishing the Draft Voter List. In the absence of any such mandatory requirement, the practice of listing member entities in the Draft Voter List cannot be faulted.
 - f. Furthermore, MCA has placed on record that this practice has been consistently followed in previous elections conducted by the MCA. The Objector has not demonstrated how this practice is contrary to the MoA or any other governing rule, nor has he shown that it causes any prejudice to the electoral process or to any stakeholder.
 - g. The objection appears to conflate two distinct stages in the electoral process: (i) determination of eligible voting entities, and (ii) identification of authorised representatives of such entities. The Draft Voter List addresses the first stage. The second stage is addressed when Member Entities nominate their representatives, or cast their votes.
 - h. In view of the above, I find no merit in this objection. The Draft Voter List, insofar as it lists member entities without specifying individual representatives for the categories of Founder Gymkhana, Institutional Members, Affiliated Clubs and District Cricket Associations, is in accordance with the MoA and established practice.
9. On Election Scheduling, Short Timelines and the CEO's Communication.
- a. The Objector contends that the CEO of MCA extended the submission timeline for representatives till 30th December 2025 without the Electoral Officer's concurrence, and that this constitutes an unauthorised amendment to the Election Program.



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- b. It is necessary to distinguish between the functions of the Electoral Officer in conducting elections and the administrative functions of the MCA in coordinating with its members.
- c. The Election Program notified by the Electoral Office prescribes the schedule and procedure for conducting elections, including timelines for filing nominations, scrutiny, withdrawal, campaigning, polling, and counting. These are matters within the exclusive domain of the Electoral Office.
- d. However, the process by which a member entity internally determines which individual will represent it before the MCA is an internal matter of that member entity. The request by the MCA to member entities to communicate the names of their representatives is an administrative coordination function to facilitate the smooth conduct of elections, and on instructions of the Electoral Office. It does not alter or amend the Election Program in any manner.
- e. The material placed before me shows that, upon certain representations by members regarding the practical difficulty of convening their internal meetings and processes, a communication extending the time to submit names of representatives up to 30th December 2025 was issued. This communication by the CEO of MCA does not deal with the election schedule or the conducting of elections and hence, I cannot accept the contention that any such communication by the CEO is an overreach of the Electoral Officer's sole authority as alleged by the Objector.
- f. The communication issued by the CEO extending the deadline for member entities to submit names of their representatives does not modify any timeline prescribed in the Election Program. It does not affect the date of filing nominations, the date of elections, or any other substantive aspect of the electoral process as notified by the Electoral Officer.
- g. The Objector has not demonstrated how this administrative extension causes any prejudice to the electoral process or violates any provision of the MoA or the Election Program. The extension appears to be a reasonable accommodation to enable Member Entities to complete their internal processes in accordance with their respective rules and procedures.
- h. The MoA does not prescribe a rigid minimum period for nomination of representatives. The question is therefore whether the period prescribed is so unreasonable as to render the election process "*totally haphazard, hasty and improper*". I am satisfied that the CEO's communication was within the scope of administrative coordination and does not



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constitute an encroachment upon the Electoral Officer's authority. There is no amendment to the Election Program, unauthorised or otherwise, thereby warranting a dismissal of such a misleading allegation.

10. On Emails Bouncing Back from Incorrect Email Address.

- a. The Objector contends that emails submitted to the email address mentioned in the Election Program notification are bouncing back, indicating that an incorrect email address was provided.
- b. It is evident that a typographical error occurred in the original notification dated 22nd December 2025, whereby the email address was mentioned as "election@cricketmaharashtra.com" instead of elections@cricketmaharashtra.com as correctly indicated in the letter head used in the said notification. Such typographical errors, while regrettable, can occur in the course of administrative processes.
- c. The critical question is whether adequate and timely remedial measures were taken to ensure that no objector is prejudiced by this error.
- d. I note that upon the error being brought to notice, a corrigendum was promptly issued clarifying the correct email address. More importantly, the corrigendum provided a reasonable mechanism to ensure that objectors who had attempted to submit objections to the incorrect address were not denied their right to object.
- e. The corrigendum specifically provided that objections already submitted to the incorrect email address would be considered valid if re-sent to the correct address along with supporting documentation (the original email and bounce-back notification). A deadline of 27th December 2025, 9:00 PM was provided for such re-submission, which allowed reasonable time for compliance.
- f. The corrigendum was published on the MCA website and notice board, ensuring wide dissemination of the correction.
- g. In my assessment, the remedial measures taken were adequate, reasonable, and timely. They ensured that no objector would be prejudiced by the typographical error. Any person who genuinely attempted to submit objections to the incorrect address had the opportunity to rectify the situation by re-submission within the extended timeline.



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- h. The Objector has not demonstrated that he was prejudiced by these events or that the remedial measures were inadequate. The objection appears to be more in the nature of pointing out an error that has already been corrected, rather than demonstrating any continuing prejudice or irregularity in the electoral process. More importantly, it is a matter of fact, that regardless of the inordinate delay in filing of objections, the same have been adequately considered.
11. For the reasons recorded hereinabove, I am of the considered view that:
 - a. The objection, though filed beyond the prescribed time, has been taken on record and examined on merits in exercise of discretion.
 - b. The Objector, being a Full Member, has locus to raise concerns; however, no cogent material has been placed before me to establish that the Draft Voter List is vitiated by the alleged irregularities.
 - c. The practice of listing Member Entities without individual representatives in the Draft Voter List is in accordance with the MoA and established precedent.
 - d. The extension for submission of representatives (extended up to 30th December 2025) by the CEO does not disclose such arbitrariness or unreasonableness as would warrant any interference with the election process and does not constitute any amendment to the Election Program.
 - e. Adequate and timely remedial measures have been taken to address the typographical error in the email address, ensuring that no objector is prejudiced.
12. Accordingly, the objections raised by Mr. Ajay Gupte stand rejected herewith.

Signed under my hand and authority, on this 29th day of December 2025.

Ashok Lavasa
Electoral Officer
MCA Elections 2026-2029