



# BCCI revamp: On Lodha panel recommendations

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The Supreme Court has been pragmatic in tweaking the Lodha norms on running cricket.

- Two years after accepting the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee's recommendations, the Supreme Court has now extended some concessions to those aggrieved by the rigorous rules, which aimed to revamp cricket administration in the country.
- The most significant change concerns the cooling-off period prescribed for office-bearers before they are allowed to contest for a subsequent term.

## **Tweaked norms**

### **Cooling-off period**

- Against the panel's view that every office-bearer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in the national board or in a State association, should have a three-year break after a three-year term, the court has now allowed two three-year terms — that is, a tenure of six years — before the mandatory break kicks in.
- The logic behind a cooling-off period is that office-bearers should not be given lengthy tenures that enable them to establish personal fiefdoms.
- The argument against it is that the experience and knowledge that an office-bearer gains over three years should not be frittered away, and a second term could help consolidate such learning's.
- The Bench has accepted the logic behind this and chosen to defer the cooling-off period until completion two terms.

Given that there is a nine-year aggregate limit as well as an age limit of 70 for any office-bearer, this change may not amount to any significant dilution of the core principle that there should be no perpetuation of power centres.

### **'One State, one vote'**

The Lodha panel had also favoured the 'one State, one vote' norm. This norm has been overruled.

- Gujarat and Maharashtra will have three votes each, as the associations of Baroda and Saurashtra in Gujarat, and Mumbai and Vidarbha in Maharashtra will have separate votes.
- In this, too, the court has accepted the reasoning that associations that had contributed significantly to Indian cricket need not be stripped of their full membership.

Whether the changes adopted by the court while finalising a new constitution for the BCCI differ in significant ways from what was proposed by the Lodha committee will be a matter of debate.

However, judicial intervention has been immensely helpful in making cricket administration more efficient and professional, and addressing the credibility deficit of recent times.

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