

UTMUN



INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL

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A LETTER FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Dear Delegates,

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the governing body of cricket, the second most popular sport worldwide. Much like the UN, the ICC brings representatives from all cricket-playing countries together to make administrative decisions about the future of cricket. Unlike the UN, however, not all countries have an equal input; the ICC decides which members are worthy of “Test” status (Full Members), and which are not (Associate Members). While the Council has experienced many successes, including hosting the prestigious World Cup and promoting cricket at a grassroots level, it also continues to receive its fair share of criticism, predominantly regarding the ICC’s perceived obstruction of the growth of the game within non-traditionally cricketing nations and prioritizing the commercialization of the sport over globalizing it. For many die-hard fans of cricket, perhaps including yourself, cricket is more than *just* a sport -- it’s a way of life. This committee attempts to illustrate the gravity of the topics being debated in the ICC board room in Dubai and the conflict that arises due to inherent conflicts in the best interests of each Member Board. The format and hosts of the most prestigious tournament, the 2027 edition of the Cricket World Cup must be decided, setting the tone of how the ICC is perceived on a global scale within the next decade or so. The ICC and its members’ commitment to growing the game, particularly in other global events, will also be scrutinized in our second topic. Finally, the third topic, focused on women’s cricket, will be closely followed by fans of the game, considering the overwhelming support women’s cricket received in a recently conducted survey by the ICC.

We recognize that this is an eccentric committee, finding credible sources for which might prove to be a challenge. As such, I strongly urge each of you to review this carefully crafted guide to begin your research. Please do note that this is by no means an exhaustive report of everything that may be covered during our debates and discussions; we strongly encourage that you use this report as a starting point and conduct your own research based on the information gathered through this guide. Helpful sources and guiding questions are listed after the entire report and after each topic respectively.

I look forward to this exciting committee and all that you have to offer. Good luck with the research process and please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any point with questions you may have. See you all in February!

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BACKGROUND

Cricket is a British sport popularized more than two centuries ago, predominantly in former colonies. The sport is played between two teams of 11 players each. Teams take turns batting, with the objective of out-scoring the opponent. Cricket has three distinct formats: Tests, one-day internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20s (T20s). Delegates are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the basic rules of the game, found [here](#).



TOPIC A: CRICKET WORLD CUP 2027

Held once every four years since the inaugural tournament in 1975, the ICC Cricket World Cup (CWC) is the most prestigious 50-over cricket tournament, attracting billions of viewers from around the world. Qualifying teams compete in a round-robin format, before progressing to the knockout stages generally comprising of quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final. The winner of the final is crowned World Champions. With 5 World Cups titles, Australia is the most successful team, followed by India and West Indies (2 each), and Pakistan and Sri Lanka (1 each).

Table 1: ICC CWC Winners and Hosts¹

Year	Winner	Runner Up	Teams competing	Hosts
1975	West Indies	Australia	8	England
1979	West Indies	England	8	England
1983	India	West Indies	8	England
1987	Australia	England	8	India and Pakistan
1992	Pakistan	England	9	Australia and New Zealand
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia	12	India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
1999	Australia	Pakistan	12	England*
2003	Australia	India	14	South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka	16	West Indies
2011	India	Sri Lanka	14	India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh [#]
2015	Australia	New Zealand	14	Australia and New Zealand
2019			10	England and Wales
2023			10	India

*Some matches were held in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Netherlands

¹ "Cricket World Cup", *Encyclopedia Britannica*, last modified 1 October 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/sports/Cricket-World-Cup>

#Pakistan, initially set to co-host this CWC, was stripped of its rights due to security concerns

QUALIFICATION

As observed in *Table 1*, the number of competing teams, and therefore the criteria for qualifying, is not consistent. For the 2011 and 2015 World Cups, all Full Members -- ten at that time -- qualified, with Associates competing for the remaining four spots through various qualifying tournaments. The 2019 and 2023 tournaments will see a revised structure, with the host nations qualifying automatically, along with the top seven teams ranked as per the ICC ODI rankings before a predetermined date around 18 months prior to the CWC. The remaining spots will be awarded to the winners and runners-up of a qualifying tournament.

Despite reversing its initial decision to limit the 2015 CWC to host ten teams, the ICC is remaining steadfast in its plans to shrink the 2019 and 2023 tournaments to ten teams each. ICC CEO Dave Richardson attributed the desire to increase competitiveness at future tournaments as a driving factor in revising the structure: “We want the World Cup to not just be window-dressing but a shop window for cricket at the highest level.”² Brian Lara, one of the most prolific batsmen the game has seen, echoed Richardson’s sentiments and added that the growth of the sport would be unharmed by the reduced number of teams competing in the World Cup: “All the countries that are taking to the sport as of late are naturally attracted to T20 format since it’s the most exciting. Moving onto the longer formats, you want good quality and intense cricket and only the best teams in the world can offer that.”³

Associate Members are, of course, impacted the most by this revised structure; it is very likely that no Associates partake in the ten-team CWCs. As such, this approach has been subject to widespread criticism by players, Members, and fans alike. One of the sport’s all-time greats and Lara’s contemporary, Sachin Tendulkar, implored the ICC to reconsider this “backward step” in growing and globalizing the game by not allowing Associates to compete against top teams on the highest stage. Tendulkar further insisted that traditionally weaker teams are capable of competing against stronger teams; Ireland, and Kenya, for instance, experienced great success in past tournaments, causing major upsets by defeating established cricketing teams such as England, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.⁴

HOSTING

World Cup hosts are determined by the ICC’s Executives’ Committee, which comprises of the CEO, secretary, a group of ex officio, all Full Members, and three Associate Members

² “ICC to stick with reduction to 10 teams for 2019 Cricket World Cup”, *Irish Times*, 27 March 2015, <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/icc-to-stick-with-reduction-to-10-teams-for-2019-cricket-world-cup-1.215489>

³ “Brian Lara AMA,” *Reddit*, last updated 13 September 2018, https://www.reddit.com/r/Cricket/i_am_brian_lara_former_west_indian_cricketer_and/

⁴ “Sachin Tendulkar: Limiting ICC World Cup to 10 teams a backwards step,” *Indiatimes*, last modified 4 March 2015, <https://www.india.com/icc-cricket-world-cup-2015/sachin-tendulkar-limiting-icc-world-cup-to-10-teams-a-backward-step-30499>

placed on the Committee on a rotational basis.⁵ Countries bidding to host the CWC submit their documents of intent to the ICC, followed by a presentation on why they should be selected to host the tournament. A two-third majority from Member countries on the Committee is then required to “win” the bid.

The ICC further regulates CWC hosting through implementing an quasi-formal rotation policy, so as to ensure each of its Full Members have an equal opportunity of hosting rights -- once every 20 years or so. This policy is not rigid, however; the emergence of cricketing giants in Asia, along with the rapid economic growth means that the Indian subcontinent is economically more lucrative than a tournament in the Caribbean or South Africa. It is this logic that drove the 2023 World Cup to India.⁶

IN THIS COMMITTEE

The hosts and format for the 2027 Cricket World Cup have yet to be determined. In this committee, the ICC has decided that to facilitate the growth of cricket and its World Cup, it will award hosting rights to traditionally weaker cricketing nations. Recognizing that such Members may not have the economic capabilities to host such a tournament, the ICC is mandating a cost and revenue model whereby Full Members and the Council will bear 60% of the costs of the tournament among them. This also means that they will be entitled to a proportional share of the revenues from that tournament. This is illustrated in further detail in *Table 2*:

Table 2: The revenue-cost model for the proposed 2027 Cricket World Cup

Member Board	Share of revenue received and cost contributed
Board(s) of host nation(s)	40%
International Cricket Council	10%
Board of Control for Cricket in India	10%
England and Wales Cricket Board	5%
Cricket Australia	5%
Cricket South Africa	4.5%
Pakistan Cricket Board	4.5%
West Indies Cricket Board*	4%

⁵ “ICC Chief Executives’ Committee,” *International Cricket Council*, <https://www.icc-cricket.com/about/the-icc/structure/committees>

⁶ “Asia to host 2011 World Cup,” *ESPN Cricinfo*, last modified 30 April 2006, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/story/245789.html>

New Zealand Cricket	4%
Sri Lanka Cricket	4%
Bangladesh Cricket Board	3%
Zimbabwe Cricket	2%
Cricket Ireland	2%
Afghanistan Cricket Board	2%

To clarify, the BCCI, for example, will pay for 10% of the tournament’s costs but will also be entitled to 10% of revenues stemming from CWC 2027. This structure means that the members who have a higher cost percentage contribution will, of course, hold a higher stake in ensuring the tournament is as financially successful as possible.

At this time, there are three distinct bids: The United Arab Emirates, a Singapore-Malaysia bloc, and a US-Canada-West Indies bloc. Delegates will be responsible for carefully reviewing each bid, the details of which are indicated below, and selecting a host as per ICC’s standards outlined previously. You will also be tasked with determining the qualification structure of the tournament, which includes the number of participating teams and how they will qualify for the CWC, while considering the how this impacts the length of the tournament and amount of funding required from each Board.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

History

Cricket rose to prominence in the UAE during the 1980s thanks to the South Asian expat community. The Sharjah Cricket Stadium in particular became a popular venue for first-class, domestic, and international tournaments, including the Asia Cup, the Indian Premier League, and the blind Cricket World Cup, and hundreds of neutral bilateral fixtures across all three formats. In fact, with 226 matches played to date, Sharjah holds the record for the most number of ODIs played at one venue. However, match fixing allegations in the late 1990s harmed the reputation of cricket in UAE, and international fixtures there slowly dwindled.⁷ The country’s venues slowly regained its popularity after Pakistan, and now Afghanistan, started using it as their “home” ground, following security concerns in those countries. Since 2005, the ICC has been headquartered in the Emirate city of Dubai.

Infrastructure

The UAE is home to four international venues across three cities. Investments in cricket infrastructure have totalled to tens of millions of dollars in the last decade or so, with the Abu

⁷ “Sharjah Cricket Stadium”, *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/unitedarabemirates/content/ground/59392.html>

Dhabi's \$22 million stadium being a tangible example of the importance placed on the sport in the country.⁸ All four venues are relatively close in physical proximity to one another; estimated travel time between two furthest grounds, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, is 2 hours via road. This allows for games to be scheduled close to one another without incurring many transportation costs or wearing players down.

Table 3: Breakdown of major cricketing infrastructure in UAE

Ground	City	ODIs hosted	Capacity	Ranking*
Sharjah Cricket Stadium	Sharjah	226	16 000	77
Dubai International Cricket Stadium ⁹	Dubai	18	25 000	36
ICC Academy Ground ¹⁰	Dubai	10	No permanent stands (NPS)	NA
Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium	Abu Dhabi	31	20 000	53

*Global ranking of venue based on audience capacity

Attendance and viewership

The 2015 CWC attracted more than two billion viewers from around the world and more than a million attendees overall.¹¹ We will be referencing these figures as a benchmark moving forward. Emirate grounds, on average, have a lower capacity than Australian/New Zealand grounds. Therefore, average ticket costs may need to be increased and more emphasis may need to be placed on television viewership to match revenues. Given fans from the Indian subcontinent account for 90% of all cricket fans, it is imperative to schedule matches at favourable viewing times for those in that timezone.¹²

The UAE has a significant advantage in both respects; its large South Asian diaspora comprised of a large majority of sold-out matches during the 2014 IPL and 2018 Asia Cup. Moreover, the country is only two hours behind Indian Standard Time (IST), making for ideal viewing for both day and day/night matches for viewers in the subcontinent.

⁸ "Sheikh Zayed Stadium", *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/unitedarabemirates/content/ground/59396.html>

⁹ "Dubai International Stadium," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/unitedarabemirates/content/ground/392627.html>

¹⁰ "ICC Academy," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/canada/content/ground/481147.html>

¹¹ "Cricket World Cup 2015: India & Pakistan fans usurp the limelight," *BBC Sport*, last modified 15 February 2015, <https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/31479487>

¹² "ICC survey reveals over a billion fans - 90% in subcontinent," *ESPN Cricinfo*, last modified 27 June 2017, ICC survey reveals over a billion fans - 90% in subcontinent

SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

History

Cricket was an important recreational aspect of the British colonizers in Singapore and Malaysia. In fact, the two of the oldest recreational clubs in both countries -- Singapore Cricket Club and the Royal Selangor Cricket Club -- remain prominent cricketing venues to this date. Post-independence, cricket's popularity declined, and the sport could not compete with the likes of football (soccer) and badminton. However, multiple bilateral and multilateral tournaments in the 1990s and 2000s, including the Singer Cup and the 2008 U19 World Cup, rejuvenated the local population's passion for the sport. The local cricket teams in both countries also saw great successes in recent years, being promoted to the highest division of the World Cricket League, just below stronger Asian Associates like UAE and Hong Kong. With its central location, increasing popularity, and government support, Singapore was being considered by the ICC as a potential location to move its headquarters to.¹³

Infrastructure

Singapore is home to two cricket grounds with extensive domestic and some international hosting experience in cricketing and non-cricketing tournaments. The Padang hosted the Singer Cup between India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan in 1996, and co-hosted numerous other tournaments organized by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) with the Kallang facility in the recent past.¹⁴ It also regularly hosts international hockey, football, and rugby tournaments.¹⁵ Malaysia's two grounds have also hosted prominent multilateral tournaments such as the tri-series between Australia, India and West Indies in 2006 and the U19 Cricket World Cup in 2008, which saw the rise of stars like Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, and Trent Boult, among others.¹⁶

Singapore's new multisport National Stadium, despite having yet to host an international cricket fixture, has emerged as a top contender to host future ODIs and T20s in a neutral location, with support from the ICC. The venue has, to date, hosted football tournaments featuring teams like Juventus, Arsenal, Everton, Brazil, and Japan, along with World Club 10s Rugby.¹⁷

Travel time between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur is convenient -- around 45 minutes by air or 90 minutes by a proposed high-speed rail system. This allows the games to be scheduled closer to one-another, without players or fans feeling the fatigue of travelling.

¹³ "Singapore's Sports Hub Impresses," *Asian Cricket Council*, last modified 29 August 2013, <http://www.asiancricket.org/index.php/news/august-2013/2708>

¹⁴ "Singapore Cricket Club," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/59389.html>

¹⁵ "Tournaments," *Singapore Cricket Club*, <http://www.scc.org.sg/tournaments>

¹⁶ "Kinrara Academy Oval," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/256592.html>

¹⁷ "Singapore's new National Stadium sells out Japan-Brazil clash," *Yahoo News*, last modified 12 October 2014, <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/singapore-s-new-national-stadium-sells-out-japan-brazil-clash--but-will--appalling--pitch-hold-up-030457777-soccer.html>

Table 4: Breakdown of major cricketing infrastructure in Singapore and Malaysia

Ground	City	ODIs hosted	Capacity	Ranking
Kallang Cricket Ground ¹⁸	Singapore	9	NPS	NA
Singapore Cricket Club ¹⁹	Singapore	5	NPS	NA
Singapore National Stadium ²⁰	Singapore	0	55 000	5*
Kinrara Academy Oval ²¹	Kuala Lumpur	10	4 000	>100
Bayuemas Oval ²²	Kuala Lumpur	1	NPS	NA

* Assuming the ground meets ICC standards

Attendance and viewership

Most major matches attracting large crowds would have to take place at the National Stadium for the tournament to be economically viable and logistically feasible. Though temporary stands can be erected at the other locations -- as they were for past tournaments -- they are not ideal for a tournament of such prestige as the World Cup. However, both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur being central Asian locations, touristic attractions, and home to large subcontinent expats means that it is not unreasonable to assume that sizeable crowds will make an appearance throughout the tournament. As for viewership, both locations are only two-and-a-half hours ahead of India, making all day-night and day games accessible for viewers tuning in from the subcontinent.

CANADA, USA, AND WEST INDIES

History

The sport was introduced to North America by British colonizers more than a century ago. Canada and the US played the first ever international cricket match as early as 1844. The ensuing rivalry is said to be the first international rivalry across all sports, with the two nations contesting frequently in the cities New York, Toronto, and Montreal. The fixtures drew thousands of attendees and millions of dollars -- adjusted to inflation -- in bets.²³ Following the Civil War, cricket steadily lost out to the likes of hockey and baseball as the most popular sport in the region. At this time, popularity for the sport grew rapidly in the Caribbean islands. As

¹⁸ "Kallang Cricket Ground," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/59387.html>

¹⁹ "Singapore Cricket Club," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/59389.html>

²⁰ "About us," *Sports Hub*, <https://www.sportshub.com.sg/about>

²¹ "Kinrara Academy Oval," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/256592.html>

²² "Bayuemas Oval," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/304364.html>

²³ "The oldest international conflict of them all," *ESPN Cricinfo*, last modified , <http://www.espncricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/141170.html>

travelling between islands became increasingly feasible, more bilateral matches were played between island nations, before organizing a collective team under the West Indies banner. Cricket has since been an integral aspect of Caribbean culture.²⁴ The West Indies team won the first two World Cups, and was amongst the most feared and strongest international teams in the latter half of the 20th century. The bloc of islands also successfully hosted the 2007 edition of the CWC.

Infrastructure

The US and Canada presently have one and two international cricket grounds respectively. Although the Central Broward stadium in Florida has yet to host an ODI, it has been a popular location for numerous T20 games from the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), and for the West Indies national team. Similarly, Maple Leaf Cricket Ground hosted the inaugural edition of Global T20 Canada -- a Canadian-based T20 tournament featuring international cricketing stars. Toronto's second ground, the Toronto Cricket, Skating, and Curling Club, also hosted an annual Sahara Cup tournament between India and Pakistan from 1996 to 1998. The West Indies, on other hand, boast 15 international grounds, many of which hosted matches during the 2007 CWC.²⁵

Of course, a major anticipated issue will be the travel time between grounds, particularly if travelling from a Caribbean island to Toronto, which is anticipated to take around 5 hours -- a large economic and logistic burden. To circumvent this issue, the tournament could be split into multiple parts and host each leg in a single geographic area before moving on to another one.

Listed below are some of the more prominent and larger cricket grounds.

Table 5: Breakdown of major cricketing infrastructure in USA, Canada, and Caribbean

Ground	City	ODIs hosted	Capacity	Ranking
Maple Leaf Cricket Ground ²⁶	King City	12	7 000	99
Central Broward Regional Park Stadium ²⁷	Lauderhill	0	20 000	53
Queen's Park Oval ²⁸	Port-of-	67	25 000	36

²⁴ "West Indies Cricket Board," *International Cricket Council*, <https://www.icc-cricket.com/about/members/americas/full/21>

²⁵ "Toronto Cricket ,Skating, and Curling Club," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/56708.html>

²⁶ "Maple Leaf Cricket Ground," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/378262.html>

²⁷ "Central Broward Regional Park Stadium," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/378262.html>

²⁸ "Queen's Park," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/59475.html>

	Spain			
Kensington Oval ²⁹	Bridgetown	35	28 000	28
Sabina Park ³⁰	Kingston	38	20 000	53

Attendance and viewership

While there traditionally exists strong support and passion for cricket across the Caribbean, attendance for local cricket matches has been steadily decreasing in the recent past, owing to the troubles faced by the West Indies Cricket Board and the national team alike. Moreover, although the tournament may attract vacationers, constant travelling from one island to another may prove to be an inhibitor for fans. Meanwhile, in the US and Canada, cricket remains an obscure sport outside of the subcontinent diaspora. As such, attracting non-traditional fans may prove to be a challenge for matches held in these location. Viewership, however, faces the most severe threat -- the venues are nine-and-a-half hours behind Indian Standard Time, meaning a day game would only begin at 7:30 IST, with day-night fixtures starting past midnight. This may prove to be a major inhibitor; the effects of this issue must be studied thoroughly whilst examining this bid.

²⁹ "Kensington Oval," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/59429.html>

³⁰ "Sabina Park," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/content/ground/59548.html>

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is your country's ranking as per the ICC ODI men's team [rankings](#)? How would your strategy for increasing or shrinking the number of participating teams in the CWC 2027 differ based on these rankings?
2. What is the popularity of cricket in your country? How would viewership be impacted by a neutral location hosting the Cup?
3. How much of the cost for CWC 2027 is your country expected to incur? What are the strategic implications with respect to expanding the tournament to more teams, which will cause the Cup to go on for a longer period of time?
4. Which of the three bids, per your Board, is most profitable? Which has the most potential to grow the sport? What is your Board's priority?
5. Who are your Board's allies you can work with to lobby other Members?
6. What strategies, not limited to development and investment promises, can you employ to persuade other Members?



TOPIC B: GROWTH OF THE GAME

INTRODUCTION

Cricket is a game played by over a billion people worldwide, yet the game goes virtually unnoticed in many places around the world. The ICC recently conducted a market research project to research strategies on how to expand the influence of the game (see: *Figure 1*). These findings show that cricket has a large reach, with over 300 million participants. Yet, viewership in many countries is steadily declining. The ICC has decided that a possible route to increase the game's influence is to tap into largely untouched markets of viewers and players in non-traditional cricketing countries.³¹ Countries like Scotland, Germany and Papua New Guinea are investing heavily in the game in an attempt to take the emphasis away from the main players in international cricket. Many scrutinize the game for its impenetrable nature. Countries like India, England, and Australia are seen as having an oligopoly over the game.³² This committee will explore the topics of managing domestic T20 tournaments globally, as well as how to grow the game so that it might be included in tournaments like the World Cup and the Asian and Commonwealth Games. It will also focus on possible financial aid to troubled boards such as the West Indies Cricket Board and the growing role of associate nations.

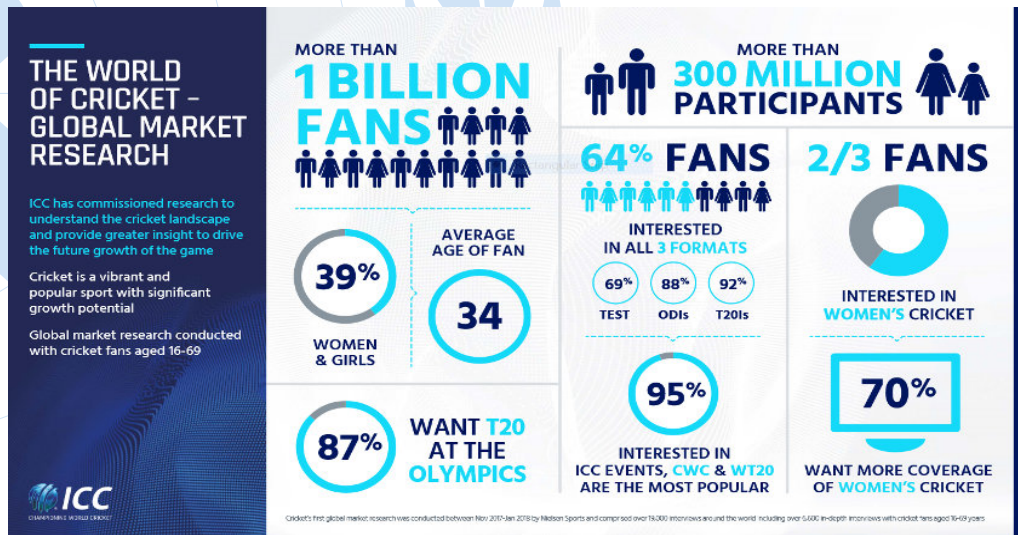


Figure 1 - ICC Global Cricket survey infographic - <https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/759733>

³¹ Lavalette, Tristan. "Why The U.S. Is Crucial For Cricket's Future." Forbes. August 29, 2018. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tristanlavalette/2018/07/10/why-the-us-is-crucial-for-cricket-future/#51eba8f7670b>.

³² Ibid

MANAGEMENT OF T20 TOURNAMENTS GLOBALLY

Cricket can often feel like a reclusive British sport that is only played by Commonwealth countries. To fight this perception, the ICC has decided to invest in growing the sport through the T20 format, originally developed by a marketing executive hoping to make the sport more exciting and accessible to younger British people.³³ The result has been overwhelming: despite a slow start since its inception in 2006, the format's popularity skyrocketed after India won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007. The Indian Premier League (IPL), launched a year later and is now one of the lucrative and most-watched sports tournaments globally.

The world is always changing and more of an effort is needed to promote the game internationally. Some argue the key to opening up the game is to tap into the largely untapped market in North America and Europe through this new and exciting format. The U.S and Canada alone are diverse countries that hold millions of potential players.³⁴ The aim of T20 tournaments is to reignite the game, in a shorter form that is expanding around the world allowing countries like Canada and The Netherlands to play at a higher level.

One problem is that starting up a T20 league is expensive. Canada just launched its first T20 tournament with 6 teams with an estimated 10.5 million dollars to get the tournament going.³⁵ Tournament organizers acknowledge that they will not recoup money during the tournament. However, many nations are now looking at this T20 model as a potential long term strategy for the growth of the game; should support for the tournament catch on, the financial returns can be extremely lucrative, as observed in successful leagues like the IPL or the Big Bash League (BBL). These two leagues, for instance, only turned profits after 6 or 7 years. Countries like Canada, South Africa and Sri Lanka, among others, are keen in establishing professional leagues. They are interested in starting up soon as they do not want to wait until the player pool is captured by another league.

The problem with expanding the reach of T20 cricket into associate and other countries is that few countries still have a stronghold on the game. These 'big three' countries are India, England and Australia. After much contention, the ICC said it would scale back the stranglehold that the 'big three' still hold on the game, however, they continue to dominate international cricket governance as all the major men's events are being held in one of these countries until 2023.³⁶

³³ "ICC to stick with reduction to 10 teams for 2019 Cricket World Cup", *Irish Times*, 27 March 2015, <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/icc-to-stick-with-reduction-to-10-teams-for-2019-cricket-world-cup-1.215489>

³⁴ Sarwat, Faraz. "Despite Low Attendance, Global T20 Canada Cricket Organizers Pleased with Inaugural Tournament." *The Globe and Mail*. July 14, 2018. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/sports/article-despite-low-attendance-global-t20-canada-cricket-organizers-pleased/>.

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Lavalette, Tristan. "Why The U.S. Is Crucial For Cricket's Future." *Forbes*. August 29, 2018. Accessed November 07, 2018.

Critics of domestic T20 tournaments argue that these leagues, which often pay generous sums of money to players, draw players away from international fixtures; prominent players like Lasith Malinga and Chris Gayle have been accused of picking money over country³⁷. When asked if they would play T20 cricket in lieu of representing their country if offered more money, half of international cricketers involved in the survey said they would consider that opportunity.³⁸ In addition, the rapid growth of T20 has caused certain players to specialize in that format and opt out of participating in Test and ODI cricket, further hurting international and non-T20 cricket. Experts, including former West Indian cricketer Michael Holding, believe that T20 cricket is a fundamental simplification of the game and that it diverges too far from the original game: “I don’t even call [T20] cricket. It’s circus entertainment. Test match cricket is a test of your ability and your strength over an extended period.”³⁹

While certain aspects of Holding’s criticism are valid, his assertions that T20 cricket is killing the Test format might be overstated. While the number of international fixtures have declined since the introduction of the IPL, Test cricket remains the pinnacle of the sport. Prominent T20 and ODI cricketers such as Aaron Finch continue to express their interest in playing Test cricket for their country despite experiencing great success -- and being awarded generous sums of money -- in the shorter formats.⁴⁰ Further, the success of domestic T20 leagues can result in a major revenue stream for Boards, which could be used to fund the development of cricket at a grassroots level within its jurisdiction.

These conversations, as illustrated below, are often multidimensional and involve multiple conflicting and differing arguments and points of view; each stakeholder has a different set of interests at heart. This committee is tasked with finding the balance between growing the game without alienating its fanbase. Potential solutions to explore include limiting the number of T20 leagues an international player may take part in every year, or subsidizing earnings for Test-only players using money made hosting domestic T20 leagues.

³⁷ “Malinga quits Test cricket,” *Times of India*, 23 April 2011, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/new-zealand-in-india-2016/top-stories/IPL-over-country-Malinga-quits-Tests/articleshow/8057662.cms>

³⁸ “Cricket Explained,” *Netflix*

³⁹ “Former West Indies great Michael Holding brands T20 cricket ‘rubbish’,” *Nine News*, last modified <https://wwos.nine.com.au/cricket/t20-rubbish-just-not-cricket-holding/>

⁴⁰ Coverdale, Brydon. “I still want to play Test cricket,” *ESPN Cricinfo*, last modified 14 February 2017. https://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/18684955/i-want-play-test-cricket-aaron-finch

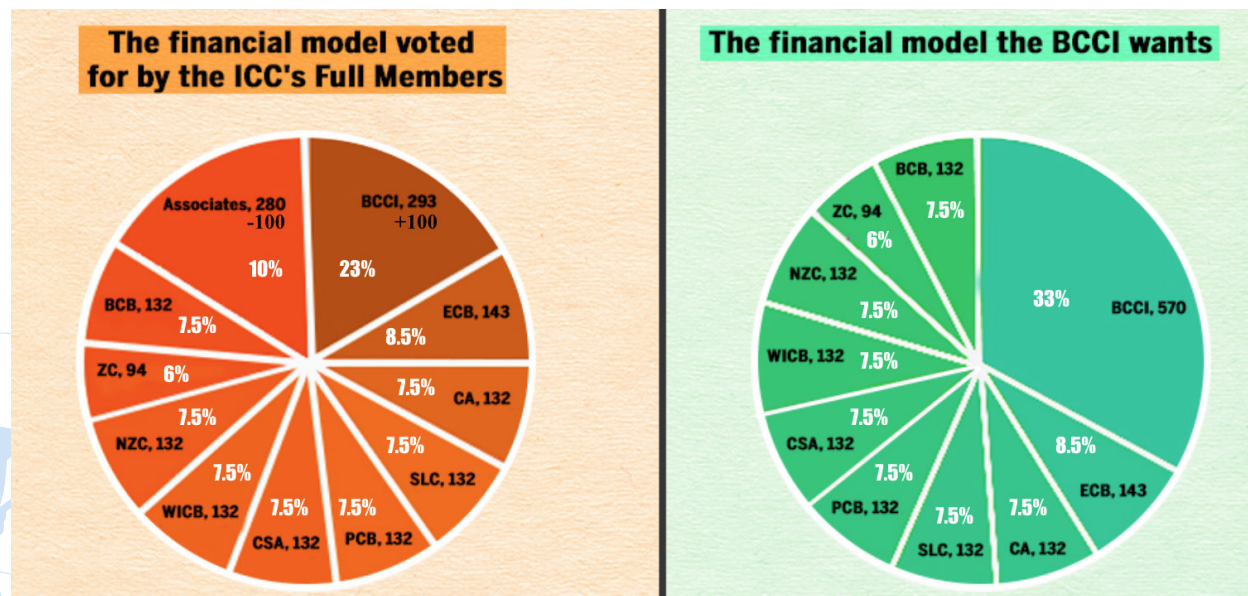


Figure 2 - ICC revenue distribution from 2015-2023⁴¹

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Many wonder why a sport as large as cricket is not already in the Olympics or Asian/Commonwealth Games. The Olympics provides a viewing platform for many smaller unwatched sports to get exposure. In doing so, people will educate themselves about the game and some will see the importance in the game. However, cricket has only appeared in multilateral competitions just 3 times in the past.⁴² Some suggest that it is the clunkiness of Test matches being 5 days, making the game not as watchable for international crowds that watch the Olympics. Others point to the elitist nature of the few nations that play cricket. It is true, however, that the cricketing schedule is very tight. Lengthy tournaments such as the Commonwealth Games or the Olympics take up a lot of time which cricket countries cannot accommodate due to other international fixtures. Part of this problem comes from cricket series schedules being decided years in advance, leaving little room to move things around.⁴³ Furthermore, the T20 World Cup schedule, which is played every even year, is at the same time as the summer Olympics. If the ICC was to remove the summer World Cup to make way for the Olympics, it would lose a considerable amount of revenue.

Some believe that cricket is not in the Olympics because not enough people play it. However, over 125 countries play cricket according to the ICC. Although the ICC is open to globalizing the sport, it is hesitant for Cricket to be at the Olympics or Commonwealth Games. A problem often pointed to is the fitness of star players. Players have a very tight schedule and

⁴¹ "Live Cricket Scores & News International Cricket Council." Live Cricket Scores & News International Cricket Council. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.icc-cricket.com/>.

⁴² Vaidya, Nishad Pai. "Cricket at Commonwealth Games and Olympics: Why Not?" Cricket Country. August 23, 2014. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/cricket-at-commonwealth-games-and-olympics-why-not-162063>.

⁴³ Ibid.

adding another lengthy tournament could lead to overplaying and subsequently injury. Many players and coaches are unwilling to take this risk and tend to stay away from entering new tournaments. One possible solution to this problem is to look at what teams in the sport of soccer do. Soccer teams will always send a team to the Olympics, making them an under-23 squad with only a few senior players allowed. This allows younger players to gain experience, as well as promoting the exposure of the team and sport without majorly disrupting the professional club leagues. However, the ICC chairman Mustafa Kamal said they did not want to dilute cricket by sending weaker teams to such events. There are many models like this that cricket can adopt to work different global tournaments into their schedules.



GROWING THE ROLE OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Young people grow up watching idols from their country play their favourite sport. Yet when it comes to cricket, players from many countries do not have any models competing on the biggest stage. Even when associate countries play, they often play in front of empty stadiums, compared to World Cup matches which attract huge crowds. World Cup matches should be played between ‘evenly matched teams’, according to the chief executive of the ICC, David Richardson. This is to prevent one-sided matches in the World Cup. However, by doing so, it limits the growth and exposure of smaller teams and some consider it too high a price to pay for quality World Cup matches. This committee will debate the issues of whether allowing more associate nations play in the World Cup promotes the game or lowers the quality of matches. Having said this, Associate nations have bridged the gap between themselves and Test sides and many Associate nations are ready to make the step up. Countries such as Germany and Papua New Guinea have shown that despite all the obstacles, they are countries ready to take on cricket globally. Germany for example, has risen as a

cricket nation; despite a lack of facilities and investment it is the fastest growing cricket country in the world.⁴⁴

Recognizing that international growth will be spearheaded by T20 cricket, the ICC recently granted international status to all ICC members playing T20 matches with one-another. This resulted in a phenomenal 104 countries earning T20I status, effective 1 January 2019, compared to the 12 countries with Test status. The change also meant that qualification for the World Cup would take place on a regional basis, similar to that of the FIFA World Cup, giving exposure to some of the weaker Associate countries to play against and learn from the players of stronger countries in the same pool⁴⁵. Although theoretically this is certainly a step in the right direction to give teams maximum exposure, the results have in some cases been less than ideal.

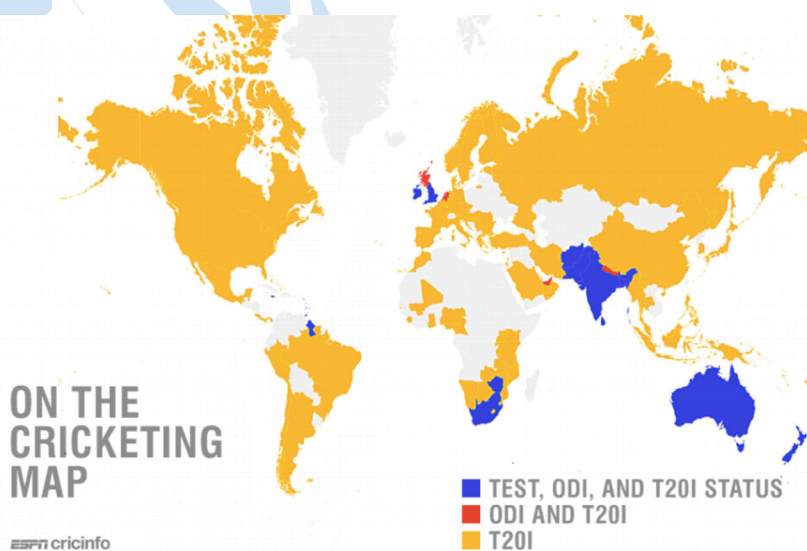


Figure 3 - Cricketing countries and their status as per the ICC, as of 1 January, 2019.⁴⁶

The Asian regional qualifiers, for instance, has seen dramatic mismatches between countries with Nepal comprehensively winning all of its matches and China failing to score over 48 runs as a team in any of their encounters. The game between China and Nepal saw the former team score a measly 26 runs, more than a third of which were extras, which the latter chased down in just 11 balls.⁴⁷ This absurd level of mismatch can not only harm the morale of

⁴⁴ Edwards @Richedwards0803, Richard. "Welcome to Germany: The Fastest Growing Nation in World Cricket." *The Independent*. September 12, 2017. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/welcome-to-germany-fastest-growing-nation-in-world-cricket-a7943516.html>.

⁴⁵ "T20s between all ICC members to have international status," *ESPN Cricinfo*, last modified 26 April 2018. http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/23324980/t20s-all-icc-members-international-status

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ "China vs Nepal," *ESPN Cricinfo*, <http://www.espnricinfo.com/series/18957/game/1160960/china-vs-nepal-16th-match-icc-world-twenty20-asia-region-qualifier-b-2018-19>

the entire cricketing community within that country, but also harm the credibility and appeal of the game if its matches are so one-sided.

On the flip side, the tri-series between relatively successful then-Associates Ireland, Scotland, and Netherlands saw nail-biting finishes, including a tied match and a last-ball finish.⁴⁸ As such, bilateral international series must be organized such that teams with similar skill sets play one other rather than weaker teams being overwhelmed, and often demoralized, by more established teams. This committee has to be cautious of this whilst working on ways grow the sport, especially if they choose to use T20 cricket to do so.

To address these concerns and to facilitate a more even distribution of teams per their competitiveness, the ICC has replaced its World Cricket League (WCL) system with a simple three-tiered system: CWC Super League, CWC League 2, and CWC Challenge League. The first tier consists of the 12 full members along with The Netherlands, with the next two tiers comprising of teams ranked according to their performance under the WCL structure. This allows for fairer competition between Associates, and a more clear structure in the progression from a T20I status to an ODI status, which is offered to members in the second tier, contingent on their performance.⁴⁹ Delegates might consider further expanding these divisions to the bottom ranks, providing a pathway from last place to the highest level for all teams who wish to regularly play Cricket.

Similarly, Test status is awarded to top performing teams in the ICC Intercontinental Cup (ICCIC); Ireland and Afghanistan were one of the top teams in that tournament. The ICC had initially proposed that the winner of this tournament plays the lowest ranking Test team in a five-day game. Should the Associate beat the Test team, they will be awarded Full Member status. The logistics of this tournament are currently placed under hold as the Council seeks feedback from Associate members, but the ICC plans to use this system as a pathway for Associates to earn their Test status.⁵⁰ Members of the 2019 committee should think about what it means to possess Test status, who should have it, and what steps should be taken before a nation is given it.

In terms of funding, the BCCI will receive US\$293m across the eight-year cycle, the ECB US\$143m, Zimbabwe Cricket US\$94m and the remaining seven Full Members US\$132m each. Associate Members will receive total funding of US\$280m.⁵¹ Associate countries are receiving more funding overall, but when divided, the sum offered to each Board is trivial relative to the funds provided to larger Boards. It is important to note that any funds from

⁴⁸ "Netherlands tri-nation T20I series," *ESPN Cricinfo*, last modified 20 June 2018, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/scores/series/18625/season/2018>

⁴⁹ "New qualification pathway for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup approved," *International Cricket Council*, <https://www.icc-cricket.com/champions-trophy/media-releases/881375>

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ "Cricket Teams, Scores, Stats, News, Fixtures, Results, Tables." *Cricinfo*. Accessed November 08, 2018. <http://www.espncricinfo.com/>.

bilateral or domestic tournaments are distributed to the Boards involved and not to the ICC. As such, it is not difficult to see why the BCCI is the wealthiest Board -- its revenue streams include the IPL, its packed international schedule, along with a plethora of domestic tournaments across India. Smaller Boards, on the contrary, struggle to raise funds through international fixtures since a skill mismatch does not make for good viewership. Consequently, they cannot invest as much money into developing local talent as other Boards can. As such, Associate Boards are often stuck in a vicious cycle that limits growth.

An important aspect of this topic is how to create a pathway to include more full members in the future, or maybe to change the membership criteria. Many countries are able and willing to fit the criteria but are not becoming Test nations. Cricket World Cup 2019 and 2023 will feature even less countries, going from 14 down to 10.⁵² Nations will debate the reasons for this, and call into question the validity and targets of the ICC going forward. Finally, the ICC has decided that regardless of membership status, all board member votes will be weighted equally and all members can attend the annual general meeting.⁵³

AID TO TROUBLED BOARDS

For long it was believed that the top performance and the highest pay should be reserved for Test matches. However, with the lure of T20 cricket and discrepancies in ICC allocation of funds, there is much in question about the objectives of the ICC. The ICC allocates funding to its members, but in recent years there have been complaints by different crickets board stating the different funding has been done out of status, and not out of the objective of growing and promoting the game. For example, Ireland, who only recently became a Test nation, won five matches against Test opposition in World Cups, yet receives one eighth of the funding that Zimbabwe gets from the ICC.⁵⁴ Zimbabwe won none of their World Cup games in the same time.

But pouring funds into Associates Boards may not be the solution. Most lower-performing Full Members and Associates are victims of poor governance and mismanagement of players and funds. The United States of America Cricket Association (USACA) for instance, has a notorious reputation. The board saw three suspensions in a decade from the ICC, owing to “significant concerns about the governance, finance, reputation and cricketing activities of USACA”.⁵⁵ The misuse of funds was so rampant that it prompted the ICC to freeze funding to

⁵² Shemilt, Stephan. "Cricket World Cup 2019 to Stay at Only 10 Teams - BBC Sport." BBC News. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/33296828>.

⁵³ "Cricket Teams, Scores, Stats, News, Fixtures, Results, Tables." Cricinfo. Accessed November 08, 2018. <http://www.espncricinfo.com/>.

⁵⁴ Wigmore, Tim. "Can Cricket Be Saved from Itself? How the ICC Is Flirting with Essential Reform | Tim Wigmore." The Guardian. February 16, 2017. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/feb/16/can-cricket-be-saved-icc-reform-australia-england-india>

⁵⁵ Wigmore, Tim. "America as competitive cricketing nation: so close, yet so far," *Guardian*. 4 October 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2015/oct/04/america-as-competitive-cricketing-nation-so-close-yet-so-far>

the board. Yet, when asked to adopt a constitution that would embrace higher standards of governance and transparency, USACA voted against it, leading to an expulsion by the ICC⁵⁶.

Full Members are not exempt from tales of such gross mismanagement. In 2018, Zimbabwean office workers and players' salaries and other allowances were held or not paid, and the players went on strike as a protest.⁵⁷ West Indies Cricket is also facing similar issues regarding clashes between players and support staff, and the administrators. Darren Sammy, then-captain, publicly criticised the WICB during a post-match interview after winning the 2016 T20 World Cup: "We had a lot of issues, we felt disrespected by our board [...] [Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell] sent a very inspiring email for the team this morning ... and I'm yet to hear from our own cricket board. That is very disappointing [...] for today, I'm going to celebrate with these 15 men and coaching staff. I don't know when I'm going to be playing with these guys again because we don't get selected for one-day cricket."⁵⁸ This mismanagement of funding and lack of fundamental care and vision shown by numerous Boards starts to show on and off the field and players go on strike or leave to pursue more lucrative paths. In 2014, the West Indies pulled out of their Indian tour due to an internal pay dispute.⁵⁹

Though the ICC's "big three" distribution model proved to be a poor incentive for players in smaller cricket playing countries, the biggest of the triumvirate, the BCCI, has actively engaged in the promotion of cricket beyond its jurisdiction. The Board set up an agreement where all teams touring India will also play a single practice game against Afghanistan and continues to support Nepal post-earthquake that destroyed much of its cricketing facilities.⁶⁰ This will provide continual practice to a team that would not otherwise get this kind of exposure on its own. England has recently done this, albeit unofficially, with Scotland and Ireland, whom countries like Australia, India, and Pakistan played before facing the English team. Perhaps other larger boards could look to "adopt" an Associate, giving them better match practice against quality national sides.

The ICC may also consider a revenue distribution model whereby funds are linked to a combination of factors, including the financial transparency of the Board as assessed by

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "Zimbabwe players protest over overdue wages as Lalchand Rajput takes over," 19 May 2018. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/zimbabwe-players-protest-over-overdue-wages-as-lalchand-rajput-takes-over/story-E81huW8NrF1aqWPcrxTIEM.html>

⁵⁸ "Full text of West Indies skipper Darren Sammy's emotional speech after World T20 win," 3 August 2017. <https://www.mykhel.com/cricket/west-indies-skipper-darren-sammy-emotional-speech-world-t20-005753.html>

⁵⁹ Brettig, Daniel. "West Indies Losing an Unfair Game." Cricinfo. January 01, 2016. Accessed November 07, 2018. http://www.espn.cricinfo.com/australia-v-west-indies-2015-16/content/story/957013.html?fbclid=IwAR1frZFKL9rDSE7MhEos20CNj6d0P35amyAt-xCti1110xE_zlvxBiMS2ZU.

⁶⁰ "Teams touring India will play practice games against Afghanistan: BCCI," 31 May 2018. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/afghanistan-tour-of-india/teams-touring-india-will-play-practice-games-against-afghanistan-bcci/articleshow/64400659.cms>

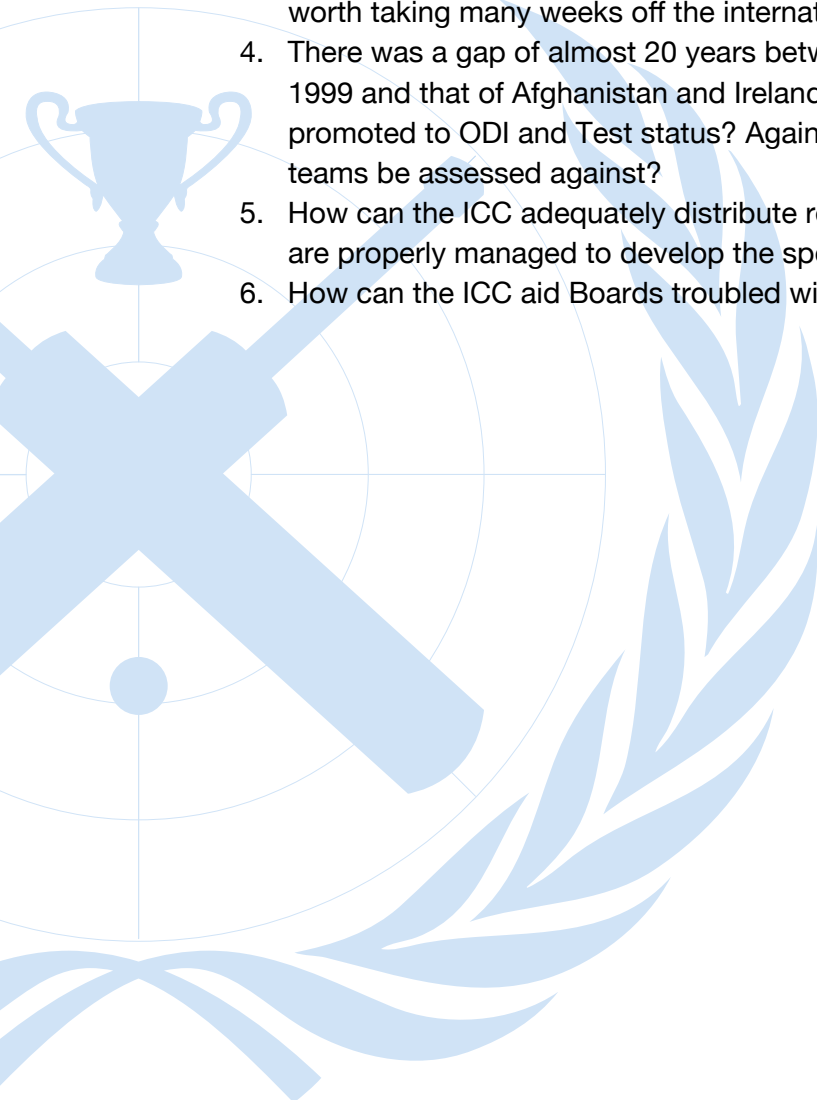
external auditors, performance of the team on an international level, number of new teams formed on a local level, guidance provided to local cricket Boards, and growth in number of players involved in all levels of cricket. Tying revenues to cricket development will ensure that the Board has the best interests of the game at heart to continue to earn more revenues. Potential unintended consequences, such as the stress placed on cricketers to perform due to the high stakes, must also be considered and discussed during committee debate.



Figure 4 - West Indies Cricket Team (<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/india-vs-west-indies>)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are the fundamental arguments for and against expanding cricket through domestic T20 tournaments? How economically viable are these tournaments?
2. With the granting of T20i status to over a hundred teams, how can the ICC ensure that these teams are given regular matches and are able to compete and improve over time?
3. Is participation in global tournaments like the Olympics justified for cricketers? Is it worth taking many weeks off the international calendar to partake in such tournaments?
4. There was a gap of almost 20 years between Bangladesh's ascension to Test status in 1999 and that of Afghanistan and Ireland in 2017. How frequently should Associates be promoted to ODI and Test status? Against what framework should the success of teams be assessed against?
5. How can the ICC adequately distribute revenues among members whilst ensuring funds are properly managed to develop the sport within the Board's jurisdiction?
6. How can the ICC aid Boards troubled with mismanagement and misuse of funds?



TOPIC C: GROWING WOMEN’S CRICKET

INTRODUCTION

Women have been playing cricket for well over 250 years. The first account of a women's match was in 1745 which took place in Surrey, England. In 1973, the first World Cup One Day Series was held in England, two years prior to the first World Cup for men. Only 20 years ago members of England’s women’s team were unpaid, had to buy their own kit— compulsory skirts and long socks—and were banned from the members’ pavilion at Lord’s, the country’s most venerable cricket club.⁶¹ Women’s cricket has expanded and grown extremely far ever since the first game over 250 years ago, but as always there is always room for improvement. Women currently have virtually no voice in the governance or leadership of cricket, few women coaching or umpiring, and female players a species on the verge of extinction. Only 10% of those participating in cricket today are female, and 90% of them are under the age of 12. There’s been a 40% decline in secondary school girls cricket over the past ten years. Ninety percent of clubs don’t have female-only teams and more than half of clubs don’t offer cricket for girls at all. At lower levels fewer than 10% of coaches are female. And the research shows that ‘Mums with an affinity for sport’ consider cricket ‘long’ (45%) and ‘boring’ (36%).⁶² These are just a handful of facts and figures supporting the idea that despite women having come a long way in Cricket from 250 years ago their position in the cricketing world continues to stagnate or decline.

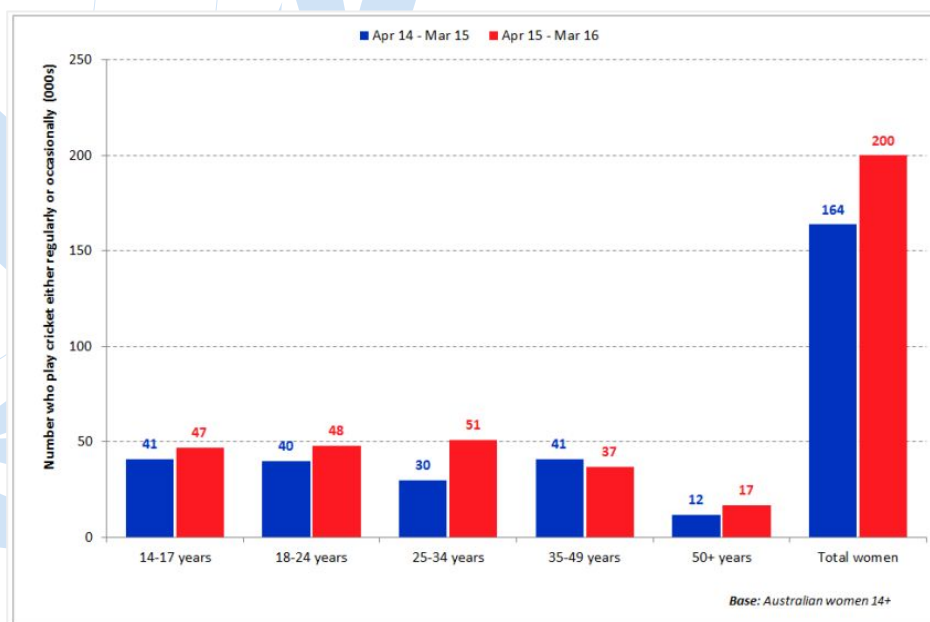


Figure 5 - A bar chart showing the age and distribution of women playing cricket in Australia (<http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/6842-australian-women-cricket-201606081419>)

⁶¹ Hugo Ray Park. "THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S CRICKET." The History of Women's Cricket. January 18th 2017. <http://www.westvancouvercricketclub.ca/the-history-of-women's-cricket/3/35/>.

⁶² New Zealand Cricket Publication. "Women and Cricket." November 2016. https://www.nzc.nz/media/7756/nzcr_i000080_women-and-cricket-document_digital_d1.pdf.

It is widely accepted that there are now more opportunities for females to be involved in playing sport than at any time in the recent past. The merger of the Women's Cricket Association (WCA) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) can be understood as part of a wider trend in which female sports organizations have moved closer to their male counterparts. Founded in 1928, the WCA remained separate from the governing body for male cricket until 1998 when it was absorbed by the newly formed ECB, partly due to fears that the WCA faced bankruptcy (and no 'responsible' governing body could be seen to allow this to happen), and partly because the establishment of the National Lottery in Britain meant that public funding increased for those sports governing bodies which complied with equity guidelines.⁶³ This merger was encouraged as part of governmental pressure to enhance sexual equality through forcing organizations to provide a greater range of opportunities for females to participate in sport. Despite research which indicates that females' involvement in sport has increased in general terms, there is some disagreement over data related to cricket. The ECB suggest that there were in excess of two million girls playing cricket in 2003, a growth they attributed to the merger with the WCA and the subsequent increased funding and restructuring of the women's game. A further indication of the limited scale of female participation in cricket can be seen in the recent UKSport publication, *Women and Sport: The State of Play*. Within this report it is claimed that cricket remains among the top ten sports in which men aged over 16 participate. Comparatively, female involvement in cricket is too low to merit a mention. The report also signals the extent to which cricket remains an overwhelmingly male sport with just 1% of the ECB's 533,000 affiliated members being female and all ten members of the ECB's board/executive committee being male.⁶⁴

On the other hand, if New Zealand can save the takahe bird, then surely cricket can revive its engagement with women. Because there is good news. A female umpire, Kathy Cross, stood at the ICC T20 World Cup. Thirty five percent of the 2015 Cricket World Cup volunteers were women. Thirty nine percent of MyBLACKCAPS fan club members are female. And 54% of the television audience for the New Zealand T20 competition Super Smash was female.⁶⁵ The ICC have stood by their stance that sportsmen and women across the world should encourage males involved in the sport to accept that women can know as much about the sport as they do and can contribute equally. That is, make it a more welcoming environment for women. A key recommendation, therefore, is that cricket should attract more women into governance at all levels of the game in order to bring a female perspective to decision-making. For example, in South Africa women involvement in cricket's governance

⁶³ Philippa Velija,, and Dominic Malcolm. "‘Look, It's a Girl’: Cricket and Gender Relations in the UK." *Sport & Society* 2018. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17430430802702905?src=recsys>.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ New Zealand Cricket Publication. "Women and Cricket." November 2016. https://www.nzc.nz/media/7756/nzcr_j000080_women-and-cricket-document_digital_d1.pdf.

structure decreased from 38% (1994) to 6.4% (2018). In Australia, 2 out of the 43 board positions at a regional level are held by females.⁶⁶

Women in the cricketing world have experienced a rollercoaster of highs and lows but recently the growth of the game in the eyes of women cricketer has been extensive. The question still remains: how can the ICC improve and grow the women's game? What measures can be implemented by the various cricket boards globally to involve more women in cricket? What successful measures have been taken by the boards and why have others not adopted these measures? The potential for female growth in the sport remains massive.

EXPANDING WOMEN'S T20 GLOBALLY

Starting 9 November 2018, the Caribbean hosted the first standalone Women's World Twenty20. The previous five have all, in some form or another, taken place alongside the equivalent male event. Now, the women's game was given the chance to stand entirely on its own feet. Unfortunately, double-headers also fostered a culture whereby women's cricket was permanently viewed as a B-movie before the main showing. Umpires hurried along the female bowlers, worried lest the men's game be delayed.⁶⁷ Journalists were tasked with covering the women's game, yet turned up to watch only the last few overs because it did not really matter to them. It is correct that females have begun to decouple themselves from the men's game, showing the cricketing world that the women's game can prosper independently. Still, In March 2017 the BBC – fully aware of the decline in coverage of English domestic cricket – announced it would be offering coverage of “every county match this summer.” The key word missing from the news story was “men's.” Across the 2017 summer, the Women's County Championship went once again entirely unreported in the mainstream media.⁶⁸

According to an ICC market research consisting of over 300 million participants conducted last year, 39% of the 1 billion plus cricket fans worldwide are women and girls. This research also found out that 68% people were interested in women's cricket and 65% showing an inclination towards the women's world cup. 70% of participants showed interest in wanting more live coverage of women's cricket. The International Cricket Council, increased prize money for the World Cup from \$200,000 in 2013 to \$2m this year; it aims to match the men's tournament, which most recently awarded \$10m, within 15 years.⁶⁹ This research indicates that viewers across the world would like to see an increase in coverage of the women's game.

⁶⁶ "Focus on Developing Women's Cricket." Telegraph India. August 23, 2018.

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/sport/focus-on-developing-women-s-cricket/cid/1380549>.

⁶⁷ "From 4,000 Spectators to 100,000,000: The Rise of Women's Cricket." The Economist. July 27, 2017. <https://www.economist.com/britain/2017/07/27/from-4000-spectators-to-100000000-the-rise-of-womens-cricket>.

⁶⁸ Philippa Velija, and Dominic Malcolm. "‘Look, It's a Girl’: Cricket and Gender Relations in the UK." *Sport & Society* 2018. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17430430802702905?src=recsys>.

⁶⁹ ICC. "First Global Market Research Project Unveils More than One Billion Cricket Fans." International Cricket Council. June 27, 2018. <https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/759733>.

Both the women's Kia Super League in England and Australia's Women's Big Bash League are attracting big crowds and television audiences and have proved more popular than initially expected. The New Zealand Cricket Board (NZCB) believe the next step should be more consistent funding of programmes for the next level down; the emerging players. Eventually, of course, they need the same pathways for girls through the sport as there are for boys at every age group level.



Figure 6 - Captains of the Kia Super League and Women's Big Bash League, the two most popular women's competitions.

(<http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/story/1152969.html>)

When expanding the Women's T20 Big Bash League, Australia's first step was changing the social view that Cricket is a boy's game, allowing female involvement to become accepted as the norm. A system was later implemented where the women's fixtures were scheduled prior to the men's fixtures, hence spectators were given two games for the price on one; allowing more exposure for the women's game.⁷⁰ New Zealand Women's and Adelaide Strikers cricketer Suzie Bates believes that there is still work to be done, noting that females are outnumbered currently, and later adding in an interview that "[she] doesn't think they feel part of the game in the same way the males do; they are a bit isolated. [Suzie] remembers sticking with [her] team, rather than feeling [she] belonged to something bigger. As a consequence, women tend to drift away when they stop playing, whereas the men have a network of past players, and so they are more likely to become involved as coaches and so on."⁷¹

Countries across Asia, including India and Bangladesh, committed to a national female-only programme in the summer of 2017/18, for girls between the ages of eight and thirteen. There was an emphasis on the social aspect as well as the competitive, and they played a short, modified version of the game. This proved to be a great success with registration closing within a day and a half and 86 teams participating across all age groups.⁷² Recent reports

⁷⁰ Ramsey, Andrew. "Women Eye New Window under Five-year Strategy." Cricket.com.au. 2017 <https://www.cricket.com.au/news/big-bash-league-womens-cricket-ca-five-year-strategy-jas-play-cricket-week-sutherland/2017-09-08>.

⁷¹ New Zealand Cricket Publication. "Women and Cricket." November 2016. https://www.nzc.nz/media/7756/nzcr_j000080_women-and-cricket-document_digital_d1.pdf

⁷² "Focus on Developing Women's Cricket." Telegraph India. August 23, 2018. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/sport/focus-on-developing-women-s-cricket/cid/1380549>.

show that the BCCI began to address how to retain those girls as they move into their teenage years, which is a time when participation in sport typically declines.⁷³

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENT

Grassroot development programs are used by sports organizations to reference the most basic form of a game that people can play. This programme can help increase participants, support of professional athletes, leading to an increase in funding of the organization so there is more growth and development of the sport. Cricketing and non-cricketing countries around the world have recently started to develop and expand their grassroots programme in specific the development of women's grassroot programmes.

Recently the ECB doubled its investment in Chance to Shine, helping to introduce the sport to hundreds of thousands more primary school girls, and this summer it has started a new participation programme in which All Stars Cricket puts bat and ball in the hands of kids as young as five in a fun and welcoming environment.⁷⁴ Of course, that is only a start, but since its launch in 2005, the Chance to Shine initiative has achieved great things in making cricket for girls acceptable, accessible and tempting. An astonishing 46% of the 3.5 million children who have played cricket in schools under the Chance to Shine banner are girls.⁷⁵ The game has been normalised and now inspires young women, who have unprecedented opportunities to climb the ladder. Both club and county cricket are stronger than ever before; the pathway to the top is well managed; and the Kia Super League, alongside central contracts for England players, means that cricket is a viable career choice for the next generation of female players.⁷⁶

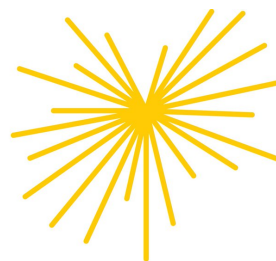
⁷³ Joshi, Harit N. "Committee of Administrators Meet Set to Expand Women's Domestic Schedule, Hike All Pay." <https://www.hindustantimes.com/>. August 05, 2017.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/committee-of-administrators-meet-set-to-expand-women-s-domestic-schedule-hike-all-pay/story-gXdbcFGWYxzv9YxRiE8ECK.html>.

⁷⁴ Philippa Velija,, and Dominic Malcolm. "'Look, It's a Girl': Cricket and Gender Relations in the UK." *Sport & Society* 2018. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17430430802702905?src=recsys>.

⁷⁵ Kate Petty, and Stacey Pope. "A New Age for Media Coverage of Women's Sport? An Analysis of English Media Coverage of the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup." *Sociology*, 2018, 003803851879750. doi:10.1177/0038038518797505.

⁷⁶ Jeffrey Muvundusi,. "'Grassroots Crucial for Cricket Growth'." DailyNews Live. <https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2017/06/01/grassroots-crucial-for-cricket-growth>.



CHANCE TO SHINE

Spreading the power of cricket

Figure 7 - These two initiatives are the flag bearers for improving grassroots women in the UK and are examples of models that the ICC might look to implement globally.

(<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2017/06/01/grassroots-crucial-for-cricket-growth>.)

West Indies Cricket is making a long-term investment in High Performance women’s cricket. As has already been announced, West Indies have a new Memorandum of Understanding for the women’s environment, to help those players give greater focus to their cricket. As well, they are changing their entire approach to high performance Cricket.⁷⁷ They are effectively merging the men’s and women’s high performance programmes, which means the women will be able to leverage all of the resources already in place for the men: coaching, strength and conditioning, sports psychology and so on. The West Indies Cricket Board are also changing the way West Indian Cricket and the Major Associations interact, so that the way women’s high performance is managed is the same as for the men. Finally, they are working to create better pathways for females from community cricket to the highest level of performance.⁷⁸

This is a long-term approach to developing grassroots women’s cricket. Corrie van Zyl, former GM High Performance in South Africa has proposed pumping resources into the the Proteas (South Africa women's cricket team) in order to win the next World Cup.⁷⁹ Winning is a manifesto for women's cricket to grow in a specific country. When it comes to a global platform, developing the women's game would have to backed extensively by the financial sector, and investing now will offer a solid future financial return.

Countries such as Zimbabwe and Guyana have also implemented women’s grassroots programmes. Guyana for example targeted children from the age of 11-17 of both sexes .This was then used as a reservoir of talent, where players can move forward to playing in

⁷⁷ Elliott Hoffmann. "Grassroots the Key to Developing Women's Cricket." *The Women's Game*. August 13, 2018. <https://thewomensgame.com/news/grassroots-the-key-to-developing-womens-cricket-500075>.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ "Van Zyl Appointed High Performance Coach." *ESPN cricinfo*. April 08, 2009. http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/22820728/van-zyl-appointed-high-performance-coach.

association or country matches and then extend their career from there.⁸⁰ Again, this further stimulates the interest in cricket and allows children to participate in the sport. Zimbabwe had a similar program too but because of cash flow problems they had to shut it down. Part of their mission was to inspire and motivate girls to get involved in playing cricket and engage in outreach programmes to support them to train and coach.⁸¹

The Mexico Cricket Association has done stellar work in promoting the sport in a country where it didn't even exist till recently. A women's cricket programme was initiated in September 2017. It started with just one participant, but as of June 2018, there are as many as 23 women involved, including two international NFL players – Anjuli Ladron de Guevara and Semiramis Huerta, an international rugby player – Dolores Garza, and Ana Montenegro, the ex-international footballer. Montenegro, the vice-captain, is also sports coordinator at the Lomas Hill school in Mexico City, and she plans to add cricket to the curriculum. In fact, Montenegro was one of the first players involved with the women's cricket programme, and she recollected the efforts that went into the programme's growth. The increase in the sport's popularity in Mexico is reflected in the digital space too: Since June 2017, MCA's followers on Facebook have risen from 981 to 1159, and on Twitter from 1801 to 2753.⁸²



Figure 8 - The Mexican Women's team representing South American women at the global women's T20 league (<https://twitter.com/yourmaninmexico/status/1031244292910657537>)

The above case studies exemplify that associate and non-associate cricketing countries both are working hard to promote female participation from a young age. From a global and ICC perspective there are little to no joint international initiatives being pursued, and

⁸⁰ "WICB/GCB Grassroots Program." Guyana Cricket Board. April 30, 2014. <http://guyanacricicketboard.com/grassroots-program/>.

⁸¹ Jeffrey Muvundusi, "Grassroots Crucial for Cricket Growth!" DailyNews Live. <https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2017/06/01/grassroots-crucial-for-cricket-growth>.

⁸² "Women and Children Drive Growth of Cricket in Mexico." ICC Cricket. 2016. <https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/715266>.

the creation of a unified global development policy might be one of the options delegates of the committee choose to explore.

INVESTING IN MORE FEMALE UMPIRES AND MATCH OFFICIALS

In many professional sports, especially those that are male-dominated, there exists a lack of female officials and referees. The ICC relies on its member nations' domestic umpire programs to supply their panels with female umpires, however there are not many going around in the systems. Statistics show that in Australia, only 3% of umpires are female and the numbers are comparably low in other member nations as well.⁸³ The low numbers have been linked to the reluctance females have due to the added pressure and criticism they face when being compared to male colleagues. The fact that women's cricket is in its growing stage also contributes to low number of female umpires as many do not have first-hand experience playing the sport. Additionally, the lack of female cricket teams in schools, gives women less opportunities to develop an interest and understanding of the sport. Female umpires are also expected to have a lot more experience before standing in for Test matches, whether it be a men's or women's fixture, as umpires are expected to graduate the ICC international panel before officiating Tests; as of now, only one woman has been chosen.

It has been scientifically proven that women have slower reaction times than men⁸⁴ and that might contribute to the low number of female umpires; during the game, they might take evasive actions and are often in danger of being hit. However, the ICC has stated that this has no effect on the way promotions are made and anyone with the qualities required will be promoted regardless of gender. Playing experience is also not required by the ICC as long as umpire training courses have been completed.⁸⁵

Member nations are acting to encourage women to take part in the sport and to change the dynamic. Acceleration programmes such as the one in South Africa targets the unearthing of umpires from disadvantaged backgrounds in order to discover more female talent. Cricket South Africa has also appointed umpire coaches that focus on female recruitment. New Zealand Cricket also encourages women to take part by allowing them to officiate domestic women's matches and appointing all-female umpire panels.⁸⁶

There has been slow progress made by the ICC in recent years. Women officiated in the Women's World T20 qualifier in 2015, the main event in 2016 and 2018 as well as the Women's World Cup in 2017.⁸⁷ During the Women's World Cup in 2017, Sue Redfern became

⁸³ Firdose Moonda, "Where Are the Female Umpires?," Cricinfo, February 16, 2017, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/1082553.html>.

⁸⁴ Moonda, "Where Are the Female Umpires?"

⁸⁵ Ibid

⁸⁶ Cricket Network, "NZ Name All-Female Umpire Panel," October 24, 2014, <http://www.cricket.com.au/news/nzc-name-all-female-umpire-panel-for-u21-womens-tournament/2014-10-26>.

⁸⁷ Ibid

the first women to have played in a World Cup and then officiate a match at the tournament. Women are also able to be on the ICC’s Associate and Affiliate Panel, which gave women opportunities to officiate more matches in the now-defunct World Cricket League. Kathleen Cross became the first women added to the panel and is now able to officiate matches in divisions 3 to 6.⁸⁸ In 2018, Claire Polosak became the first woman to officiate in a men’s England match and three months prior, she was the first woman to umpire in the JLT cup, a men’s domestic cricket cup in Australia.⁸⁹

In 2018, Kim Cotton, a New Zealand-based reserve umpire was added to the ICC Development Panel of Umpires,⁹⁰ which gives umpires the chance to move up the ladder to obtain better positions. There is still room for improvement to get women involved as match officials. Cricket boards of member nations need to focus on giving women a chance to umpire, starting off in local county matches. Grassroot development programs can assist in placing emphasis on schools giving girls at school the opportunity to play cricket, which will give more women the chance to play for national teams as well as serve as a learning tool, both of which can help women obtain umpire positions. The ICC needs to encourage members and associate members to support women in their country, that want to follow this path. As women’s cricket gains momentum, the number of female umpires are likely to increase.



Figure 9 - Female umpires at the Women’s World Cup Qualifiers in 2017 in Sri Lanka⁹¹
 Source: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/345259>

⁸⁸ ESPNcricinfo Staff, “Kathy Cross First Woman Umpire on ICC Panel,” Cricinfo, January 30, 2014, <http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci-icc/content/story/714059.html>.

⁸⁹ Rory Dollard, “Claire Polosak Makes History as First Female to Officiate in Men’s England Match,” The Independent, January 11, 2018, <http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/england-australia-odi-series-claire-polosak-first-female-umpire-a8154426.html>.

⁹⁰ ESPNcricinfo Staff, “Kim Cotton Added to ICC Development Panel of Umpires,” September 4, 2018 <https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/844382>.

⁹¹ England and Wales Cricket Board, “Pioneer Redfern Begins New Chapter,” March 8, 2017, <http://www.ecb.co.uk/news/345259>.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

Despite organizational changes which would appear to have been conducive to expansion, the growth of female participation in cricket in recent years can at best be described as stilted. Evidence provided suggests that experiences of mixed-sex cricket, a common route by which young females come to the game, are often negative. Acceptance within otherwise all-male teams is in part policed by existing (male) members' perceptions of playing ability and even then may be problematized by the rules of individual leagues. Male resistance to female involvement may come in the form of verbal abuse, physical intimidation or gossip and innuendo. These experiences, and the broader questioning of the appropriateness of cricket as an activity for females which occurs in everyday life, underscore the marginal status of women in the game and thus limit the development of a stronger sense of 'we' group identity. Consequently, when broader social circumstances push males and females into the "same teams," female cricketers express high degrees of resignation towards their unequal status, fostered as a result of years of internalized "group disgrace." Thus increased participation may not necessarily follow from organizational changes, such as mergers between male and female governing bodies but, rather, is more likely to stem from changes to attitudes and ideologies which may be deeply embedded in the minds of the individuals playing and watching the sport every day.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Does the responsibility of the growth of the women's game lay in the hands of the players (current and former), the cricket boards, the ICC, or the fans and spectators?
2. What measures could the main cricket boards and ICC do to collectively to develop a stronger competition and grow the women's T20 game?
3. How can the ICC acquire funding to help grassroots programmes in non-cricketing countries?
4. Despite figures supporting women growth, to what extent has the ICC helped develop the game? What measures could they take to contribute greater?
5. How can cricket boards of member nations create an inclusive atmosphere, especially in countries where women aren't seen as equals, to encourage female match officials?
6. To what extent do grassroot programs nurture female umpires and how can this be improved?



ADVICE FOR RESEARCH AND PREPARATION

As previously mentioned, this background guide should be used as a starting point to establish a basic understanding of the issues being debated and the direction in which this committee's discussions will proceed. Delegates are highly encouraged to conduct more immersive research into their respective Boards and take into account the differing stakeholders' points of views.

This can be overwhelming, particularly for those new to the sport. As such, we recommend starting off the research process by watching the Netflix Explained episode on cricket. The documentary addresses the issues raised in Topic B, with regards to the rise of T20 cricket impacting international fixtures and international cricketers. The cricket subreddit on Reddit.com-- [r/cricket](https://www.reddit.com/r/cricket) -- is another source of formal and informal information. The site has a plethora of fascinating articles, analyses, and ask me anything (AMA) threads from previous players and officials that can be referenced to understand various points of view on particular issues.

From there, key resources per each topic, available below, should be consulted. Credible sources such as ESPNcricinfo and the ICC website are ideal. Prominent cricket journalists including, but not limited to, Jarrod Kimber, Harsha Bhogle, Boria Majumdar, Firdose Moonda, and George Dobell, often do deep analytical dives into ICC's vision and the future of the game. Indian, British, and Australian news media are other possible sources where frequent and relevant information on cricket can be found. Delegates are also strongly encouraged to consult the websites, particularly press release sections, of their Boards, along with reputable local or national newspapers within their country.

Remember that you represent the Cricket Board of your particular country, not that country's Cricket team or its cricket fans. Delegates should keep in mind that most Board decisions are driven with financial feasibility and profitability at the fore rather than development and growth of the sport. Your discussions and objectives must be based around satisfying the objectives of your Board, which may not necessarily align with those of your cricket team or lead to the expansion of the game internationally. You must consider the difficulties of balancing your board's responsibility to the global game, but also its commitments to the growth and development of the sport within your own borders. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to satisfy everyone.

Delegates, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to contact the Director, Mrudul Tummala, at mrudul.tummala@mail.utoronto.ca. We as the staff are here to make your experience at UTMUN as pleasant as possible. Moreover, we love the sport and would be more than happy to guide you at any stage of your research, or even simply just to chat about all things Cricket. We hope to see you soon!

TOPIC A KEY RESOURCES

“ICC to stick with reduction to 10 teams for 2019 Cricket World Cup”, *Irish Times*, 27 March 2015, <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/icc-to-stick-with-reduction-to-10-teams-for-2019-cricket-world-cup-1.215489>

The Irish Times offers a then-Associate Member’s perspective on the reduction of the CWC from 14 teams to 10. This, contrasted with the ICC’s vision, offers a more complete image of the conflicts of interest at hand.

“Cricket World Cup 2015: India & Pakistan fans usurp the limelight,” *BBC Sport*, last modified 15 February 2015, <https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/31479487>

An analysis of the viewership of cricket during CWC 2015 and how some games attract more viewers than others. This will aid in delegates’ understanding of the various bids at hand and which would be more successful than others.

TOPIC B KEY RESOURCES

“Cricket, Explained,” *Netflix*, published 2018, <https://www.netflix.com/explained>

Through this short documentary into the sport and its lucrative T20 growth, delegates are better able to understand the sport, the T20 tournaments it offers, and how that has the ability to either “kill” the game or grow it.

Vaidya, Nishad Pai. "Cricket at Commonwealth Games and Olympics: Why Not?" *Cricket Country*. August 23, 2014. Accessed November 07, 2018. <https://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/cricket-at-commonwealth-games-and-olympics-why-not-162063>. *This source looks at the conflicting interests of cricket at bigger stages of global multilateral tournaments like the Commonwealth Games or Olympics.*

TOPIC C KEY RESOURCES

New Zealand Cricket Publication. "Women and Cricket." November 2016.

https://www.nzc.nz/media/7756/nzcr_i000080_women-and-cricket-document_digital_d1.pdf.

This source describes the current state and intended development of women and cricket in New Zealand . Delegates can get an understanding of what cricket boards globally are doing to change the scale and how players are assisting in changing viewpoints.

YouTube. November 10, 2017. Women in the Gentlemen's Game: The Documentary. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3PsnDZdO_4.

This short documentary looks into women's cricket in India, the past, present, and future. This will be resourceful to gain an understanding of how cricket from a woman’s perspective has changed through various initiatives in Indian Cricket.

Moonda, Firdose. “Where Are the Female Umpires?” *Cricinfo*, February 16, 2017. <https://www.espnricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/1082553.html>.

This article talks about the difficulties women have when aspiring to become match officials and contains useful information on what member nations are doing to encourage participation.

“Feature on Female Umpires at ICC Women’s World World Cup Qualifier.” ICC website, February 17, 2017.

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/video/334463>.

This video interviews the four female umpires making history at the Women’s World Cup in 2017 and shows an insight to how they got involved and the issues they faced.

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