

From: keshav (keshav.pt@rosyblue.com)
To: varshamanohar@yahoo.com;
Date: Fri, 16 April, 2010 9:58:58 AM
Cc: nsbccisecretary@yahoo.co.in; vivek.ven@gmail.com; chintan10@hotmail.com;
Subject: IPL Kochi team - way forward

Dear Mr. Manohar,

As you are aware, we have signed the Franchise agreement with BCCI-IPL for the Kochi Franchise a couple of days ago, facilitated in no small part by your judicious support which played a significant role in culminating the process.

However, there has been a lot of needless media coverage on issues pertaining to our franchise in the past few days, which has added to our concern.

The reasons for our concern stem from events that transpired before the signing, mainly pressure from Mr. Lalit Modi, IPL Commissioner, to relinquish our claim to the Kochi Franchise in order that other eligible bidders could then stake a claim to a franchise for an alternate venue.

In order to convince us to agree, Mr. Modi elaborated scenarios which would otherwise make it unviable for us to continue, including –

- o Removal of the player spending cap (set at 7 Million USD for Season 4) which would send our player costs spiraling
- o Intentionally delaying the construction of the Kochi stadium for the foreseeable future by bringing in PIL's and environmental litigation, thereby ensuring we are unable to build a base in Kerala
- o Assign us stadiums in remote, unfeasible locations (Guwahati, Bhiwani, etc.) to play our matches till the time Kochi stadium is ready
- o Introducing the player retention policy that would allow existing franchisees to retain up to 6 existing players, thus reducing our options of hiring the top players. He also indicated that, were we to agree to give up the Kochi franchise, he would not allow this policy to be adopted and we could benefit by his arranging, for us, a back-door entry to another franchise.

Needless to say, we did not submit to the above pressure and find ourselves as the franchise owners for Kochi.

However, after succeeding with our bid in a process which was fair and transparent, we now find ourselves in a position where we are unsure of the support we will have, from BCCI-IPL, in our attempt to set up a team which will have a sustainable future in Kerala.

We understand the relevance of building a strong working relationship with BCCI-IPL as we jointly endeavor to expand the league and the sport. We have exercised maximum restraint to ensure that the situation does not escalate. We were forced to retaliate to Mr. Modi's attacks only once he decided to public defame us through his social channels (twitter) and the media.

We have resolved to bury the past and push ahead, in spite of the prospective hurdles ahead, but request you to kindly advise us on the issues raised above, so that we are not subjected to unfair discrimination.

As always, we are confident that your support will be with us.

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely,

For Rendezvous Sports World (UJV)

Keshav P. T.

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