

News

The Ombudsman orders the CEO of the Punjab Cricket Association to step down or be fired.



After Deepak Sharma resigns, the PCA Apex Council has been instructed to adopt temporary arrangements to ensure the CEO position runs well.

Deepak Sharma, the CEO of the cricket organization, has been given till February 18 to leave, according to Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Ethics Officer-cum-Ombudsman Justice Jaspal Singh.

After it was discovered that Sharma had also been working for the Punjab State Housing Federation (Housefed) at the time he joined PCA, the order was granted. In addition to not disclosing the job, it was discovered that he had been paid by Housefed for specific months.

"It is an undeniable fact and is also established by the documents that are on file and the fact that Respondent No. 1 did not deny that the salary was taken from both the HOUSEFED and PCA for the overlapping months of 2014-2015. This suggests that Respondent No. 1 did not disclose the true facts to the PCA office regarding his employment with HOUSEFED at the time, and he joined and served PCA in accordance with his appointment letter dated 01.04.2014." Justice Singh said in a judgment on February 13 that "it is clear that he misrepresented the facts and took advantage of the financial benefit by drawing salary from two different sources for the same period and committed misconduct just to obtain financial benefit."

Sharma informed the Ombudsman that he would be leaving his position when it was evident that he was working two jobs.

The proposal was approved by Justice Singh, who stated,

"This authority believes that voluntary resignation, if tendered promptly and unconditionally, may prevent further institutional disruption and prolonged litigation, even though the charges of misrepresenting real facts, obtaining financial gain, and ethical misconduct stand proven."

As a result, the Ombudsman requested that Sharma step down by February 18 at 5 PM. The PCA Apex Council has mandated that the same be accepted within ten days.

But the Ombudsman made it clear that Sharma would lose his position as CEO if he did not step down.

"Respondent No. 1 [PCA] shall have the right to receive the service benefits accrued to him for the period he has rendered the service from Respondent No. 6 in the event that his resignation is accepted," the judgment stated.

Following Sharma's resignation, the PCA Apex Council has been instructed to create a temporary plan to ensure the CEO PCA position runs smoothly.

In response to a complaint filed by former Ranji cricket player Rakesh Handa, who claimed that Sharma had engaged in a number of irregularities and manipulations when appointing people to different PCA positions, the order was issued. Additionally, it was claimed that during some cricket seasons, Sharma's kid was unfairly chosen.

The Ombudsman, however, dismissed these claims and ordered his dismissal due to his simultaneous employment.

PCA was represented by Yadwinder Singh, an advocate.

Rakesh Handa, the complainant, was represented by Pardeep Sharma.

Lawread