AGNIRA MUN 2026

IPL GOVERNING COUNCIL

A Crisis Committee

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Executive Board

Chairperson — _______________

Vice Chairperson — Abhinav

Rapporteur — Saakruth Kandagatla

17–19 July 2026

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the IPL Governing Council, a specialised crisis committee at AGNIRA MUN 2026.

Most Model UN committees ask you to represent a country. This one does not. Over the next three days, you will each step into the shoes of a stakeholder within the ecosystem of the Indian Premier League — a franchise owner, a BCCI administrator, a player representative, a broadcaster, or an investor — at a moment when the ownership, governance and commercial future of the League are all being contested at once.

We have deliberately built this committee to be accessible to first-time delegates as much as to seasoned circuit veterans. It will run as a moderated crisis body: most of your time will be spent in caucus, negotiating and drafting directives exactly as you would in any other Model UN committee, while a Crisis Backroom reacts to your moves and introduces new developments as the weekend progresses. On top of this, we have built in a trade window and an auction-style session later in the conference, so that delegates who enjoy the deal-making, high-stakes side of the IPL get a chance to exercise that instinct too.

This Background Guide is meant to get you comfortable with the world you are stepping into — the structure of the IPL, the seven issues at the heart of this committee's agenda, and the positions the different blocs in the room are likely to hold. It is a starting point, not a script. We expect you to build on it: read around your character, understand what they would actually want, and come prepared to defend it.

If you have any questions about the committee, the agenda, or your portfolio before the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us.

We look forward to three days of sharp debate, sharper deal-making, and a genuinely fun committee.

Warm regards,

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Chairperson

Abhinav
Vice Chairperson

Saakruth Kandagatla
Rapporteur

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1. Introduction to the Committee

The IPL Governing Council, as constituted for AGNIRA MUN 2026, is a specialised crisis committee. Delegates do not represent nation-states; they represent individuals and entities with a direct financial and reputational stake in the future of the Indian Premier League (IPL) — franchise owners, senior BCCI office-bearers, players, broadcasters, and a small number of external investors seeking entry into the League.

The committee convenes at a moment of unusual pressure on the IPL's governing structure. A foreign investment proposal has placed the question of who controls the League back at the centre of public debate; broadcasters are questioning whether the current calendar is commercially sustainable; players are pushing back on workload; and a figure central to the League's early, controversial history has resurfaced in the background of these discussions. None of these threads exist in isolation — each decision the committee takes on one will shape its options on the rest.

Unlike a General Assembly-style committee, where the end product is typically a single negotiated resolution, this committee will produce a mix of directives, communiqués, press releases, and — where relevant — private crisis arcs specific to individual portfolios. Debate will be structured, but outcomes are not pre-determined: the direction the IPL takes by the end of Day 3 is entirely in the room's hands.

2. Committee Structure and Procedure

2.1 General Procedure

The committee will follow standard crisis committee procedure, adapted to keep things approachable for delegates attending their first Model UN conference.

Sessions will move between moderated caucuses (structured speaking time on a specific sub-topic, set by the Chair) and unmoderated caucuses (free time for delegates to negotiate directly, form blocs, and draft directives in smaller groups). Delegates may raise points of order, points of information, and motions in the usual way; the Executive Board will walk first-timers through the specifics of committee procedure in the first session before substantive debate begins.

The primary output of committee is the directive — a written, voted-upon instruction that changes the state of the committee (for example, redistributing revenue shares, approving or blocking the Saudi proposal, or introducing a new governance body). Directives require a minimum number of signatories to be introduced and a simple majority to pass, details of which will be confirmed by the Rapporteur in the first session.

2.2 Crisis Mechanics

Each delegate holds an individual portfolio with its own private interests, resources and — in several cases — powers that are not visible to the rest of the room. Delegates may use crisis notes, submitted privately to the Crisis Backroom, to act on these powers: authorising a transaction, leaking information to a broadcaster, quietly lobbying a BCCI official, or making an approach to the Saudi-backed consortium outside of open committee.

The Backroom will respond to crisis notes with updates — some public, some directed only at the delegate who sent the note — which may shift the balance of the room. Delegates are encouraged to think of their portfolio powers as tools to be used strategically, not obligations to be exhausted; a well-timed note can matter more than a dozen poorly-aimed ones.

Joint crisis notes (sent by more than one delegate together) and joint directives are both permitted, and are often more effective than acting alone — this is, after all, a committee built around alliances, ownership stakes and leverage.

2.3 Special Sessions: The Trade Window and The Auction

In keeping with the spirit of the IPL itself, the committee will include two special sessions layered on top of standard debate.

Towards the end of Day 2, the committee will open a trade window, during which franchise-aligned delegates may propose player trades, sponsorship deals, and other transactions between portfolios, subject to Backroom approval.

On Day 3, the committee will run a short auction-style session, allowing delegates to bid — using in-committee resources tied to their portfolio — for a small pool of contested assets. This is intended to be the lighter, more energetic part of the weekend, and does not require prior auction experience to take part in.

3. Introduction to the IPL

The Indian Premier League was founded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2008, under its first chairman, Lalit Modi, as a franchise-based Twenty20 cricket tournament. It combined a city-franchise structure familiar from leagues like the English Premier League with an annual player auction unique to Indian cricket, and an entertainment-first presentation aimed at building a mass television audience rather than a purely cricketing one.

The League grew rapidly into one of the most valuable domestic sporting properties in the world by some measures, driven by enormous media rights deals, a fiercely loyal fan base, and the commercial pull of India’s cricket-mad market. Over its history it has expanded and contracted in size — from an original eight franchises to as many as ten in more recent seasons — and has weathered several governance controversies, including the suspension of its founding chairman in 2010 (discussed further in Section 5.7) and periodic disputes over franchise ownership structures, conflicts of interest, and revenue sharing.

Today, the IPL sits at the centre of the BCCI’s finances: its media rights alone were sold for one of the largest sums in the history of sport for the 2023–27 rights cycle, split between television and digital broadcasters. That commercial success is precisely what has made control over the League — the subject of this committee — so contested.

4. Governance of the IPL Today

The IPL is governed by the IPL Governing Council, a body constituted by the BCCI and made up of senior BCCI office-bearers, with franchise owners typically consulted but not holding formal votes on Council decisions. The Governing Council sets the tournament calendar, auction rules, the salary cap (the "purse") each franchise can spend on players, and the terms on which media rights are sold.

Franchises operate as licensees rather than fully independent clubs: they own their playing squads (within auction and retention rules) and their brand, but they do not own the League's central commercial rights — those sit with the BCCI, which distributes a share of central revenue (media rights, central sponsorship) to each franchise every season.

This structure has been a source of recurring tension. Franchise owners — who range from large listed conglomerates to individual promoters and celebrity-backed consortia — have periodically pushed for a greater say in how the League is run, closer to the model of ownership seen in leagues like the English Premier League, where clubs collectively govern the competition. The BCCI, for its part, has resisted ceding control, arguing that centralised governance is what has kept the League commercially disciplined and protected it from the kind of financial instability seen in some other T20 leagues around the world.

Reforms following the Supreme Court-mandated Lodha Committee report also reshaped BCCI governance more broadly — introducing conflict-of-interest rules, tenure and age caps for administrators, and a "one state, one vote" principle — and those reforms continue to shape what changes to IPL governance are seen as legitimate versus overreaching.

5. The Agenda: Ownership, Control and the Future of the IPL

The committee's agenda, as set by the Executive Board, comprises seven interlinked issues. Delegates are not expected to resolve all seven independently — in practice, decisions on one will constrain or unlock options on the others — but should arrive prepared to speak to each.

5.1 Ownership and Control

The IPL is currently controlled by the BCCI, which sets its rules, owns its central commercial rights, and appoints the Governing Council that runs it day-to-day. The core question before the committee is whether that arrangement should continue in its current form, or whether it should be restructured to give franchises, players, or outside investors a greater formal role in governance.

Delegates should consider: what does "control" actually mean in practice — voting rights on the Governing Council, a share of central commercial rights, or simply greater consultation? And who stands to gain or lose from each version of reform?

5.2 The Saudi Investment Proposal

A Saudi-backed consortium has approached the BCCI and several franchise owners with a proposal to invest directly in the IPL's commercial ecosystem, in exchange for a meaningful stake in its governance and future direction. The scale of the proposed investment is large enough to be transformative for the

League's finances — and large enough to alarm those who see it as a bid for outside control over one of India's most important sporting and cultural institutions.

This is not without real-world precedent: sovereign-wealth-backed vehicles, most notably Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, have taken high-profile ownership or investment positions across global sport in recent years, from golf to football to esports, often in pursuit of both commercial returns and broader reputational goals. Delegates aligned with the consortium should think about what it is actually seeking beyond financial return; delegates opposed should think about what leverage they have to resist or reshape the offer, rather than simply refuse it outright.

5.3 Broadcaster Concerns

Broadcasters holding the IPL's media rights have raised concerns that the sheer number of matches per season — spread across an increasingly congested cricket calendar — is diluting average viewership per match, even as overall league revenue continues to climb. Their contracts were negotiated on assumptions about audience engagement that a longer, more crowded season puts under strain.

The committee must weigh whether the current format is commercially sustainable, and if not, what should change: fewer matches, a shorter season, a different scheduling window, or new digital-first formats designed to hold audience attention in a way traditional broadcast windows no longer guarantee.

5.4 Expansion and League Structure

Calls for further expansion — new city franchises, and by extension new revenue from expansion fees — continue to grow, even as some stakeholders warn that the League's playing and broadcast calendars are already stretched thin. The committee must determine what the ideal size and structure of the League should be: how many franchises it can sustainably support, how new entrants would be priced and selected, and how growth should be balanced against player workload and broadcaster fatigue.

5.5 Player Welfare

Players have raised concerns regarding workload, injury rates, and the lack of long-term security in a league where contracts are typically renewed season-to-season through auction or retention rather than through multi-year deals. Unlike some other major sports leagues, Indian cricket does not have a strong, formally recognised players' union, which limits players' collective bargaining power within the existing structure.

Delegates representing player interests should think about what protections are realistically achievable — injury replacement rules, mandatory rest periods, minimum retention guarantees — and what leverage players actually have to extract them, given the absence of a formal union.

5.6 Governance Reform

Beyond the specific question of BCCI control, many stakeholders believe the IPL's broader governance rules are outdated relative to a league of its commercial size: conflict-of-interest safeguards for administrators with franchise ties, transparency in how Governing Council decisions are made, and the process by which media rights and other commercial contracts are awarded have all been raised as areas needing reform.

The committee is tasked with exploring what a modernised governance framework would look like, and — critically — who would have the authority to actually implement it.

5.7 Lalit Modi's Role

Lalit Modi, the IPL's founding chairman, was suspended by the BCCI in April 2010 amid allegations of financial irregularities in the League's early years, including claims of undisclosed conflicts of interest and irregularities in the bidding process for franchises and media rights. He was later handed a lifetime ban from BCCI administration and has lived outside India since, remaining a controversial and polarising figure in Indian cricket.

Reports now suggest that Modi has been informally involved in facilitating discussions around the Saudi investment proposal — despite holding no official position in Indian cricket administration. His re-emergence, even informally, has sparked controversy across the cricketing ecosystem, and raises pointed questions for the committee: does his historical role give him any legitimate standing in these discussions, and how should the committee treat an outside proposal that arrives with his fingerprints on it?

6. Key Stakeholders and Blocs

While every delegate's portfolio is distinct, most fall into one of the following broad blocs. Understanding where your character sits — and where the natural fault lines between blocs are — is a good starting point for coalition-building.

BCCI and Governing Council Officials

Broadly want to preserve central control and protect the BCCI's share of League revenue. Wary of outside investment diluting their authority, though not entirely united — some may be more sympathetic to reform than others, particularly those with backgrounds shaped by the Lodha Committee process.

Franchise Owners

A varied bloc: large corporate-backed franchises and smaller, individually-owned or celebrity-backed ones do not always share the same interests. Broadly want greater autonomy and a bigger share of central revenue; some may be receptive to Saudi capital if it improves their financial position, even at the cost of BCCI control.

Players and Player-Aligned Delegates

Want stronger protections, reduced workload, and greater contract security. Operate with limited formal leverage given the absence of a recognised players' union, and may find natural allies among reform-minded administrators.

Broadcasters and Commercial Partners

Want a sustainable calendar and a protected return on their media rights investment. Likely to resist further expansion unless it is matched by changes to format or scheduling.

The Saudi-Backed Consortium and Other External Investors

Want governance influence commensurate with the capital they are prepared to commit. More interested in long-term positioning and reputational return than short-term cricketing outcomes.

Reform-Minded Voices

Former administrators, legal and compliance voices, or independent Council members pushing for a modernised, more transparent governance framework, drawing on the legacy of the Lodha reforms.

Lalit Modi and Associated Figures

Hold no official standing, but real informal influence. A wildcard bloc whose involvement the rest of the committee must decide how to treat — engage with, isolate, or investigate.

7. Questions a Resolution Must Answer

Delegates should keep the following questions in mind while preparing, and while drafting directives in committee. A strong directive does not need to answer all of these at once, but should be clear about which of them it is actually resolving.

1. Should the BCCI retain sole control over the IPL's central commercial rights, or should that control be shared with franchises, players, or outside investors?

2. On what terms, if any, should the Saudi-backed consortium's investment proposal be accepted, rejected, or renegotiated?

3. What role, if any, should Lalit Modi be permitted to play in the League's future, given his history and lack of formal standing?

4. How should the League balance broadcaster demands for a less congested calendar against the revenue potential of further expansion?

5. What is the ideal number of franchises for the IPL, and how should new entrants be selected and priced?

6. What concrete protections — injury replacement, rest periods, contract security — should be extended to players, and how should they be enforced without a formal players' union?

7. What conflict-of-interest and transparency reforms, if any, should apply to Governing Council decision-making?

8. How should revenue from media rights and new investment be distributed between the BCCI, franchises, and players going forward?

9. What mechanism should the committee create — a new body, a reformed Governing Council, or something else entirely — to implement whatever reforms are agreed?

8. Expectations of Delegates

This committee has been designed to be a strong first Model UN experience as much as a satisfying one for experienced delegates. A few things will help you get the most out of it:

- Know your character's actual interests, not just their public position. Portfolio powers exist to be used — think about what your character would realistically want to protect or gain.
- Come with a position, not a script. This guide gives you the shape of the agenda; your job is to work out where your character stands on each of the seven issues and why.
- Engage with the crisis arc as it unfolds. Directives and crisis notes will shift the situation over the weekend — the committee at the start of Day 1 will not look like the committee by the end of Day 3.
- Position papers and any pre-conference submissions will be communicated separately by the Rapporteur. First-time delegates should not be discouraged by this requirement — the Executive Board is happy to guide you through it.
- Above all, this is meant to be enjoyable. The trade window and the auction session exist specifically so that the parts of the IPL people actually love — the deal-making, the drama, the spectacle — show up in committee too.

9. Further Reading

Delegates looking to go beyond this guide may find it useful to read up on:

- The BCCI's constitution and the Lodha Committee reforms
- Recent IPL media rights auction coverage (2023–27 rights cycle)
- General reporting on sovereign wealth fund investment in global sport
- The history of Lalit Modi's tenure as IPL Chairman and his suspension in 2010

The Executive Board is also happy to point delegates toward specific resources on request.