# Violent brawl mars Sydney Thunder Nation Cup, leading to heavy player bans



A multicultural cricket tournament in Sydney’s western suburbs has been marked by significant controversy following a violent altercation between players, resulting in unprecedented bans and the disqualification of the teams involved. The incident occurred during a semi-final match last year in the Thunder Nation Cup, a competition hosted by the Sydney Thunder Big Bash franchise aiming to promote diversity through cricket.

The brawl, involving teams representing India and Afghanistan, saw physical confrontations both on and off the field, culminating in the abandonment of the match. As a consequence, Cricket NSW Integrity imposed heavy sanctions, issuing bans totalling 13 years among the players involved. Key suspensions included Indian representatives Arun Chauhan and Goldy Kotia, along with Afghan player Hilal Tawakal, all receiving 42-month bans. Additionally, Indian players Amanjyot Singh and Mohan Pannu were suspended for 12 and 18 months respectively.

Trent Copeland, former Australian Test cricketer and current Sydney Thunder general manager, strongly condemned the behaviour. Speaking to News Corp, Copeland said, "The significance of the sanctions is the message. If you look at those you will understand how seriously we take improper conduct. Cricket is a safe space and we just don’t stand for anything like that." He emphasised the tournament’s role in fostering community integration, especially for those for whom English is not a first language or recent migrants finding a connection through cricket.

Copeland expressed that the level of suspensions was unprecedented but necessary under the streamlined integrity process. He also revealed that a review of the Thunder Nation Cup’s format is planned, signalling possible changes to its future structure.

Despite the incident, some participants remain positive about the competition’s value. Vinushan Joseph, a player from the Sri Lankan team, voiced hope that the tournament continues, stating it "brings competing nations together."

The Daily Mail Australia has sought comment from Arun Chauhan regarding the bans and the match incident. Meanwhile, the Thunder Nation Cup organisers face decisions about how to proceed with a tournament that has been an annual fixture for 12 years, balancing its community goals against the need for maintaining sportsmanship and safety on the field.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/homeworld-thunder-nation-cup> - This page provides information about the HomeWorld Thunder Nation Cup, a tournament hosted by the Sydney Thunder Big Bash franchise aiming to promote diversity through cricket.
2. <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This article discusses the return of the HomeWorld Thunder Nation Cup, highlighting its role in celebrating culture, cricket, and community in Sydney's western suburbs.
3. <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This article mentions the participation of teams representing India and Afghanistan in the HomeWorld Thunder Nation Cup, emphasizing the multicultural aspect of the tournament.
4. <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This article notes that the HomeWorld Thunder Nation Cup has been an annual fixture for 12 years, indicating its longstanding presence in Sydney's western suburbs.
5. <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This article highlights the role of the HomeWorld Thunder Nation Cup in fostering community integration, especially for those for whom English is not a first language or recent migrants finding a connection through cricket.
6. <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This article mentions that the HomeWorld Thunder Nation Cup is a celebration of culture, cricket, and community, with teams representing Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/cricket/article-14661807/Aussie-cricket-Trent-Copeland-brawl-multicultural-match-Thunder-Nation-Cup-13-year-bans.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data