# Significant bans issued after brawl at Thunder Nation Cup prompt review of tournament format



A brawl during last year’s Thunder Nation Cup in Sydney’s west has led to significant bans for several players involved in the chaotic incident, prompting strong reactions from cricket officials and calls for a review of the tournament’s future format.

The Thunder Nation Cup, organised by the Sydney Thunder Big Bash franchise, has been a key multicultural cricket competition for 12 years, designed to foster community connections among players from diverse backgrounds, particularly those for whom English is not a first language or who have recently migrated to Australia.

The incident occurred during a semi-final match between teams representing India and Afghanistan, where physical altercations broke out on the field and reportedly off it as well. The violence led to the abandonment of the match and the disqualification of both teams from the competition.

Following an integrity investigation by Cricket NSW, several players received lengthy suspensions. Indian players Arun Chauhan and Goldy Kotia and Afghan player Hilal Tawakal were each handed bans lasting 42 months. Additionally, two other Indian players, Amanjyot Singh and Mohan Pannu, were sanctioned with suspensions of 12 and 18 months respectively. The total combined period of bans amounts to 13 years.

Trent Copeland, former Australian Test cricketer and current Sydney Thunder general manager, spoke to News Corp about the severity of the sanctions, stating, “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.”

Copeland emphasised the Cup’s foundational goals, highlighting its role in creating a “fostering environment” for community members seeking connection through cricket. He added, “I've never seen suspensions to this degree. But there's a streamlined (integrity) process and it's quite obvious this is where it needed to land.”

The incident has triggered plans for a review of the Thunder Nation Cup’s structure. Copeland confirmed this would be undertaken to assess how the competition should proceed following the disturbances.

Meanwhile, some players remain supportive of the tournament's ethos. Vinushan Joseph of the Sri Lanka team expressed a desire for the competition to continue, describing it as an opportunity that “brings competing nations together.”

Daily Mail Australia has sought comment from Arun Chauhan regarding his ban.

The Thunder Nation Cup remains a prominent fixture in Sydney’s sporting calendar, celebrated for its aim to unite multicultural communities through cricket, although last year’s events have cast uncertainty over its future format and operation.

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

## References

* <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This official Sydney Thunder announcement details the return of the Thunder Nation Cup, emphasizing its role in fostering community connections among players from diverse backgrounds, particularly those for whom English is not a first language or who have recently migrated to Australia.
* <https://www.cricexec.com/sydney-thunder-the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back/56226/> - This article highlights the Thunder Nation Cup's mission to unite multicultural communities through cricket, aligning with the tournament's foundational goals as mentioned in the article.
* <https://www.fox28spokane.com/warner-back-as-cricket-captain-after-leadership-ban-lifted/> - This report discusses David Warner's reinstatement as Sydney Thunder's captain after his leadership ban was lifted, reflecting the club's commitment to strong leadership following disciplinary actions.
* <https://www.kulr8.com/news/national/warner-back-as-cricket-captain-after-leadership-ban-lifted/article_dd1f4c01-e1d0-5480-87a6-f15843cb8a5e.html> - This article covers David Warner's return as Sydney Thunder's captain, emphasizing the club's dedication to upholding integrity and leadership standards.
* <https://www.foxsports.com.au/cricket/domestic-cricket/big-bash/bbl-mohammad-hasnain-suspended-following-test-on-bowling-action/news-story/76138df27888bff4e4ebc3afffccc289> - This news piece reports on Mohammad Hasnain's suspension due to an illegal bowling action, illustrating the league's commitment to maintaining standards of conduct and integrity.
* <https://www.sydneythunder.com.au/news/3777904/the-homeworld-thunder-nation-cup-is-back> - This official Sydney Thunder announcement details the return of the Thunder Nation Cup, emphasizing its role in fostering community connections among players from diverse backgrounds, particularly those for whom English is not a first language or who have recently migrated to Australia.
* <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