

IPL also bans Shoaib Akhtar

The banned Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar's sagging career received another jolt Thursday when the Indian Premier League (IPL) announced that he won't be allowed to feature in its tournament till the end of his five-year ban or until his ban is lifted by the Pakistan board.

'Shoaib has been banned by the Pakistan Cricket Board, and even though they have cleared him to play for IPL, we felt that international discipline needs to be respected,' I.S. Bindra, member of the IPL governing council, was quoted as saying in Cricinfo.

'If he can't play for Pakistan, how can we play him? There will be no discipline left in the game, if we play him. It will set an unwanted precedent,' Bindra said.

'We (IPL) want to be a part of the international system. If somebody is banned on disciplinary grounds, it is a serious offence, and we felt it would be very odd if he was to play in IPL,' Bindra said.

However, if Shoaib appeals against the ban and wins, he could well turn out to play for his team in the IPL.

'If he is able to clear the ban and wins the appeal process, he will be allowed to play for IPL,' Lalit Modi, IPL chairman, clarified to a private television channel.

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