

Date of Hearing: July 2, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Mike Gipson, Chair

ACR 211 (Kalra) – As Amended June 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Cricket

SUMMARY: This measure would urge the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to take steps towards officially recognizing the game of cricket in California, and recognize the historical significance of cricket and the pioneer state cricket players.

Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Cricket, the second most popular global sport, is a sportsmanship game played around the world in the open air by tens of millions of people, especially young people.
- 2) Games similar to cricket were played by early English settlers in America; these games were driven into obscurity by the new American sport of baseball, but many words from cricket are used by baseball players and fans to this day, such as bat, fielder, and inning.
- 3) Cricket's popularity never declined in the countries that make up the United Kingdom; many of the Commonwealth and other countries that play top-level cricket to this day, including Australia, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, are nations that share a political heritage that includes the game of cricket
- 4) In the nations that play cricket, the game is celebrated as a way to demonstrate skill in both athleticism and mental poise, and where calmness and patience are as essential to the game of cricket as the ability to swing a straight bat.
- 5) The rules of cricket enable the game to be played and enjoyed by both men and women, and women's cricket is played all over the world.
- 6) The game of cricket is overwhelmingly associated with fair play and good sportsmanship.
- 7) Many California state residents, especially youth, were born or have family origins in the countries, nations, and cultures where cricket is played as a principal sport, and they would like to play this sport in the state and receive official recognition.
- 8) Cricket, typically played at the club level, is a growing sport in American colleges and universities.
- 9) Indiana was the first state to add cricket as a physical education option to their in-class school curriculum in 2014, and in the years since, other states such as Illinois and Michigan have passed supportive resolutions for the sport of cricket.
- 10) The CIF is a member-driven organization with an established process for sanctioning new sports.

- 11) In this process, a CIF member school presents a proposal to the league they are associated with and the league commissioner may then present the proposal to their local CIF Section Office for adoption.
- 12) Upon adoption by the local CIF Section Office, and review by the CIF State Office and Executive Committee, the proposal is submitted to the CIF Federated Council for vetting, first readings, and a final vote.
- 13) Cricket will be included in the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the first time the sport has featured in the Olympics since the 1900 Paris Olympic Games.
- 14) The time has come when California should add cricket to the list of sports that high school-age pupils can officially play and enjoy; therefore, CIF is urged to take steps towards officially recognizing the game of cricket in the state, should the game of cricket be brought forward from a CIF member school and ultimately elevated to, and approved by, the CIF Federated Council.
- 15) This recognition process should move towards the organization of state interschool cricket play for those secondary schools that wish to field a team.
- 16) The organization of state interschool cricket play should maximize the ability of state-origin cricketers to continue playing at the college-university level.
- 17) The Legislature recognizes the historical significance of cricket and the pioneer state cricket players who have begun to play this game on their own before the official games that will be played by future generations.

FISCAL EFFECT: None. This measure has been keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Author statement. According to the author, “Though it’s one of the most popular sports in the world, cricket still has not been recognized as an official high school sport in the state of California. This is despite the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of cricket players in the United States, with more likely joining their ranks when cricket is reintroduced as an Olympic sport during the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. ACR 211 urges the California Interscholastic Foundation to rectify this issue by taking steps to officially recognize the game if it is brought before them by one of their member schools.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

There is no support on file.

Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

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