TO BE OR NOT TO BE…

The former Indian Captain and wicket keeper Mahendrasingh Dhoni was seen with an Army Logo on the green wicket keeping gloves in the India- South Africa cricket match in the 2019 World Cup. Dhoni is an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army. The logo included Hindi word *Balidan* (Sacrifice) embossed on it. This incidence turned into a controversy with ICC (International Cricket Council), BCCI (The Board of Control for Cricket in India), former cricketers, cricket fans and Government creeping in. "#DhoniKeepTheGlove" was a trending hash tag on Twitter.

As per the ICC Rule Book/ Regulations, players can have only manufacturer's logo on the clothing and equipments. The logo must not carry any political, religious or racial message with it. ICC rejected India's request for allowing the said Logo on gloves. The official statement by ICC conveyed that according to the Rule Book and the Do's and Don'ts regarding what is to be included on gloves, Dhoni is not permitted to keep the Logo on the gloves.

There have been attempts by regulators to keep away any touch to sports that may contaminate its glory. English Cricketer Moeen Ali was banned by match referee David Boon for wearing wristbands displaying "Save Gaza" and "Free Palestine" during a cricket match between England and India. One side of the coin communicates that sports should not be altered with any non-sporty entity, whatever realistic and lively it is.

The other side of the coin is that freedom is a pre requisite for expressions, provided, freedom breeds goodness. Further, such a freedom breeding goodness must not be suppressed rather

encouraged. There should not be any restriction on the constructive expressions as the sportspersons are the role models who may initiate, accelerate and deepen meaningful/ fruitful behaviors worthy to be followed, especially by the youngsters.

Dhoni's logo on gloves has resumed the eternal comparison between the code of conduct and freedom of expression.

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