



DEXON GLOBAL CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES, POLICY AND RESEARCH

DEXON GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

31 JULY-2 AUGUST, 2026 | ONLINE MODE



PARTNERS



RELIEF WINGS



DIPLOMAT



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MOOT PROPOSITION

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1. The Republic of Callovia is a Sovereign Democratic Republic governed by the Constitution of Callovia. Its Intellectual Property framework is primarily governed by the Copyright Act of 1957, the Trademarks Act of 1999 and the Patents Act of 1970. For the citizens of Callovia, the game of cricket is a deeply emotional matter, a national sentiment that truly took root after the historic World Cup victory in 1983.

2. In the post – World Cup era Callovia emerged as a dominant force in International Cricket. Leading this golden age was Mr. Mehta, who assumed the captaincy of the national team in the year 2000. Bringing a fierce new energy to the squad, Mehta successfully guided Callovia to two additional World Cup victories before retiring from professional cricket in 2006. In 2008, with the inauguration of the Callovia Premier League (CPL), he was invited to return to the sport as a broadcaster. Mehta quickly became the beloved voice of the tournament. Audiences across the nation were captivated by his unique commentary style; rather than just calling the match, he spent researching the personal backstories of the players, weaving their life struggles and humble beginnings into his live commentary whenever they performed well on the pitch.

3. Mr. Mehta's relationship with the official tournament broadcaster, the Global Sports Broadcasting Network (GSBN), is governed by a standard "Independent Contractor Commentary Agreement."

4. In 2011, during the off – season and prior to the commencement of his official broadcast duties for the fourth season of the CPL, Mehta felt a strong desire to connect more deeply with millions of fans watching from home. Acting entirely in his personal capacity, he sat at his desk penned a four – line rhythmic intro:

*"The summer is here, the carnival is back,
Twenty overs of fire on a lightning track!
Hear the roar of Callovia, let the magic unfold,
Welcome to the CPL, the greatest story told!"*

Though the written text was straight forward, Mehta's unique rhythm, dramatic pauses and energetic vocal delivery turned these lines into his recognizable "sonic signature." He has delivered this exact intro, word – for – word, at the start of every CPL season and major playoff matches for 14 consecutive years.

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5. Cricket Vault India is one of the most popular cricket – focused YouTube channels in Callovia, covering every form of the sport from local domestic leagues to International World Cups. It is a highly profitable platform boasting 1.3 million subscribers and generating approximately Rs. 2 Lakhs in monthly revenue. Between 2022 and 2023, across 10 separate videos, the channel began using a slightly altered version of Mehta’s famous intro to mock the tournament’s declining quality. For example, ‘Twenty overs of fire on a lightning track’ was changed to ‘Twenty overs of blunders on a crumbling track.’ Rather than using the original broadcast videos, the channel hired an independent voice actor to recite these altered lines, flawlessly mimicking Mehta’s signature rhythm, dramatic pauses and vocal delivery. Over his 12 – year career, Mehta had built a distinctly recognizable public identity around this ‘sonic signature.’ The voice actor’s mimicry was so remarkably accurate that audiences on social media began expressing confusion, actively assuming Mehta himself had endorsed or recorded the audio for the satirical channel. This strategy yielded massive commercial dividends. Data revealed that the 10 specific videos utilizing Mehta’s mimicked intro experience a 300 % spike in viewership and directly resulted in a corresponding surge in channel monetization compared to Cricket Vault’s standard analytical videos.

6. On 18th December 2023, Mehta discovered these videos circulating on the internet. The timing was disastrous. At that exact moment, he was at the final signature stage of a massive Rs 60 lakh endorsement deal with a leading fantasy sports app, DreamStats 11 had concluded and Mehta was days away from signing the final, execution – ready agreement. The deal promised to make him the central face of a nationwide television campaign. However, before the final signatures could be affixed, the fantasy sports app abruptly withdrew their offer. In their formal written communication, the company explicitly named the Cricket Vault videos as the sole catalyst for the withdrawal. They informed Mr. Mehta that his iconic intro had been reduced to a cheap internet joke and that he could no longer meet the company’s strict, non – negotiable ‘brand integrity and exclusivity’ requirements for their ambassadors. Crucially, the app’s campaign had a fixed, hard deadline for the upcoming season, rendering Mehta entirely unable to mitigate his financial loss by seeking alternative sponsors in time.

7. Feeling deeply insulted and financially harmed, Mehta issues a formal cease – and – desist notice to the owners of Cricket Vault, demanding that they stop using his intellectual property immediately. However, the YouTube channel completely ignored his warnings and continued to profit from his signature intro. Realising that his reputation and hard – earned legacy were at stake, Mehta decided to take legal action. He filed a Commercial Suit for copyright infringement

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before the District Commercial Court in Aldenmere, New Velantra. In his suit, he sought a permanent injunction to stop the channel from ever using his intro again, as well as Rs 60 lakhs in damages to compensate him for the lost endorsement deal and the unauthorized commercial exploitation of his work.

8. On 14th March, 2024, the District Judge delivered a crushing blow to Mehta's case by dismissing the suit in its entirety. In a detailed order, the Judge ruled that Mehta had failed to cross the very first legal hurdle – proving he actually owned the copyright. The Court held that because Mehta had signed Clause 7.2., he had effectively signed away his creative soul to the broadcaster. The Judge stated:

"The plaintiff's claim of exclusive ownership falters at the very threshold. Under the clear and broad terms of Clause 7.2., any intellectual property 'uttered or produced during the broadcast' belongs solely to GSBN. Therefore, Mehta cannot claim to be the first owner of this work under Section 17 of the Copyright Act. Even if we were to assume Mehta owned the lines, the court finds no merit in the claim of infringement. The defendant's use of the intro is highly transformative; they have taken a 10 – second snippet and used it as a satirical preamble to a 20 – minute, data – heavy statistical review. This is a classic case of de minimis use – meaning the taking is too small for the law to bother with. Such use clearly falls within the protected category of 'Fair Dealing' for the purpose of criticism and review under Section 52(1)(a) of the Act. Consequently, the suit is dismissed with no relief granted to the plaintiff."

9. Aggrieved by this interpretation, which he believes ignored the fact that he wrote the intro outside of his broadcast duties and undermines his moral rights as an author, Rajan Mehta has filed a Civil Appeal before the High Court of Velantra, Intellectual Property Division (IPD).

10. The High Court of Velantra has framed the following issues for consideration:

I. Whether the Appellant possess the locus standi to institute the present suit as the author of the work or whether the copyright in the 4 – line vests exclusively with the Broadcaster (GSBN) as a 'work made during the course of employment' under Section 17 of the Copyright Act, 1957, in light of Clause 7.2. of the 2011 Agreement?

II. Whether a 4 – line rhythmic intro, composed independently but delivered during a broadcast, possess a 'minimum degree of creativity' and originality to be protected as an Independent 'Literary Work' under Section 2(o) of the Copyright Act, 1957?

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III. Whether the Respondent's act of hiring a voice actor to mimic the Appellant's 'sonic signature' constitute an infringement of copyright and personality rights or whether such use is protected under the doctrines of de minimis and 'Fair Dealing' for criticism/ review under Section 52(1)(a)?

IV. Whether the Appellant is entitled to a permanent injunction and the claimed damages of Rs 60 lakhs, considering the documented "brand dilution" and the Respondent's commercial enrichment through the unauthorised use of the Appellant's professional identity?

PLEASE FIND THE ANNEXURES IN THE NEXT PAGE



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ANNEXURE A: EXCERPTS FROM THE COMMENTARY AGREEMENT (2011)

PARTIES: Global Sports Broadcasting Network (GSBN) & Mr. Rajan Mehta ("The Commentator")

Section 1: Definitions

- 1.1. "Broadcast" shall mean the live transmission of Callovia Premier League matches via satellite, cable, or digital streaming.
- 1.2. "Engagement Period" shall mean the duration of the tournament, including pre-match and post-match shows conducted within the stadium premises.
- 1.3. "Work" shall mean any original literary, dramatic, or musical work created specifically for the purpose of the CPL broadcast using GSBN resources.

Section 7: Intellectual Property Rights

- 7.2. All rights, title, and interest, including Intellectual Property Rights, in any content, catchphrases, commentary, and works generated, uttered, or produced by the Commentator during the course of the CPL broadcasts shall vest exclusively and perpetually with GSBN.
- 7.5. The Commentator represents that any material prepared independently of this Agreement and used during the engagement does not infringe the rights of any third party.

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ANNEXURE B: CRICKETVAULT CONTENT & ANALYTICS LOG (SAMPLE)

Video ID	Title of Upload	Upload Date	Total Duration	Intro Duration	Video Category	Total Views
CV-799	<i>"Why the Mumbai Meteors Won (Standard Analysis)"</i>	02 May 2022	20:10	None	Statistical Analysis	45,000
CV-802	<i>"Why the Delhi Dynamos Lost: A Statistical Post-Mortem"</i>	14 May 2022	22:45	10 Sec	Statistical Analysis	1,80,000
CV-915	<i>"The Physics of the Reverse Sweep: Player Study"</i>	02 June 2023	18:12	10 Sec	Educational	6,50,000
CV-942	<i>"CPL Auction 2024: The ₹20 Crore Blunder"</i>	10 Dec 2024	25:30	10 Sec	Satire / Critique	12,00,000

Internal Analytics Note (Produced during Discovery) : Data confirms that videos utilizing the 'Summer Carnival' voice-mimic intro experienced an average 300% increase in initial click-through rates and overall viewership compared to standard channel uploads (e.g., CV-799)

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ANNEXURE C: TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO COMPARISON (SONIC SIGNATURE)

Appellant's Original Broadcast (2011)	Respondent's Video Version (2023)
Mehta: [Deep breath] <i>"The summer is here..."</i>	Voice Actor: [Deep breath] <i>"The summer is here..."</i>
[Pause - 1.5 seconds]	[Pause - 1.5 seconds]
<i>"the carnival is back!"</i> [High pitch crescendo]	<i>"the circus is back!"</i> [High pitch crescendo]
<i>"Twenty overs of fire on a lightning track!"</i>	<i>"Twenty overs of blunders on a crumbling track!"</i>
[Staccato delivery on 'Fire' and 'Lightning']	[Identical Staccato delivery]
<i>"Hear the roar of Callovia..."</i> [Bass-heavy tone]	<i>"Hear the groans of Callovia..."</i> [Electronic Bass filter]
<i>"Welcome to the CPL, the greatest story told!"</i>	<i>"Welcome to Cricket Vault, where the truth gets told!"</i>

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ANNEXURE D: CORRESPONDENCE FROM DREAMSTATS 11 (MARKETING DIV.)

To: Mr. Rajan Mehta

Date: 22nd December 2023

Subject: Formal Withdrawal of Brand Endorsement Offer

Dear Mr. Mehta,

We regret to inform you that DreamStats 11 will not be executing the finalized ₹60 Lakh Brand Endorsement Agreement for the upcoming season.

While our initial nationwide campaign was built entirely around the exclusivity of your "Summer Carnival" intro, our social media monitoring team has flagged a massive saturation of this exact vocal delivery across satirical YouTube channels, specifically the CricketVault India platform.

The widespread, viral use of your signature delivery in a mocking context has led our board to conclude that the "sonic signature" has suffered irreparable brand dilution. Pursuant to the strict 'Brand Integrity and Exclusivity' requirements outlined in Clause 4.3 of our finalized draft agreement, we are unable to proceed with you as our brand ambassador.

Furthermore, our campaign launch is strictly scheduled for 15th January 2024. We are unable to extend this timeline or wait for the resolution of your legal disputes. We must pivot to an alternative ambassador immediately.

We thank you for your time and wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Aditya Varma

Head of Marketing,

DreamStats 11.

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DISCLAIMER

The laws of the Republic of Callovia, including but not limited to the Copyright Act, the Trademarks Act, and the Patents Act, are to be treated as pari materia with the corresponding legislations of the Republic of India, namely the Copyright Act, 1957, the Trademarks Act, 1999, and the Patents Act, 1970, respectively. All statutory provisions, sections, and legal interpretations applicable under Indian law shall be deemed equally applicable within the fictional jurisdiction of Callovia for the purposes of this Moot Court problem.

All characters, persons, entities, company names, brand names, platforms, and organizations appearing in this Moot Court problem are entirely fictional and have been created solely for academic and competitive purposes. Any resemblance or similarity to any real person, living or deceased, or to any existing company, brand, organization, or platform, whether in name, identity, or otherwise, is purely coincidental, unintentional, and deeply regretted. Participants are advised not to draw any real-world inferences from any such similarities.

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