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## PCB mandates fitness and domestic cricket for National players

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LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has introduced new measures to enhance the performance of the national cricket team. In a three-hour meeting at the National Cricket Academy, PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi mandated fitness tests and domestic cricket participation for international players. Central contracts will now be reviewed annually.

The PCB's news release stated these steps aim to "strengthen the cricket structure in the country and enhance the national team's performance." The selection committee will set the criteria for domestic participation. There will be zero tolerance for fitness lapses and indiscipline, with strict actions against violations.

Players who meet fitness and performance standards will progress. Team unity is emphasized, with stringent measures against infighting. The PCB has also agreed to an annual review of central

contracts, without reducing remuneration.

Former cricketers Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq, alongside PCB officials, will review the central contracts. Players are limited to two T20 leagues outside the Pakistan Super League to manage workload. A technical method for issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for league participation will be established.

Coaches Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie will present reports on high-performance centres in Islamabad and Peshawar. Separate coaches will be assigned for the Shaheens and Under-19 teams. The Director of High-Performance Centres will focus on improving the women's team and reviewing their central contracts.