

Abdur Rehman Receives Ban Of Twelve Weeks

Pakistan's left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman has been banned for a period of twelve weeks by the [England and Wales Cricket Board](#) after he tested positive for cannabis while at Somerset.

The 32-year-old spinner failed a drug test following day two of their County Championship game with Nottinghamshire on 8 August. The ban imposed on Rehman runs until 21 December, meaning he will not be able to play for Sialkot in the Champions League Twenty20. The spinner from Pakistan took 27 wickets in four Championship games for Somerset - including a career-best 9-65 against Worcestershire. Rehman was left out of the ICC World Twenty20 campaign of Pakistan but still remains a member of their Test and one-day squads.

Somerset's chief executive Guy Lavender said the county fully supports the action taken by the ECB and added that the club doesn't condone the use of illegal drugs and all Somerset players are made fully aware of this policy on a regular basis.

In 17 tests for his country, he has taken 81 wickets, including 19 in their 3-0 series victory over England last winter. Rehman denied the allegations of taking prohibited drugs before the ban was imposed on him but later rendered an apology to his family, the PCB [Pakistan Cricket Board], the ECB, Somerset, the teammates and his fans. Rehman said it was an error of judgment on his behalf that cost him dearly and he expects to be selected for India series should the PCB see it fit for him to be selected.

Abdur Rehman produced the best bowling performance of his career when he recently claimed nine Worcestershire wickets on the first day at Taunton during the County Championship Division One. The Punjab orthodox spinner was withdrawn by the Pakistan Cricket Board from the Champions League, where he was due to represent national Twenty20 champions Sialkot Stallions. He made his international debut for Pakistan in December 2006, with a One day International against West Indies, at Faisalabad. As a result of the ban, Rehman could miss Pakistan's tour of South Africa, early next year. His moment of rise to fame was in 1999 when he grabbed a five-for and a six-wicket haul in successive matches while representing Pakistan Under-19 against South Africa. Rehman ended up as the highest wicket-taker in the Pentangular Cup during the 2006-07 season, including an 11-wicket haul for champions Habib Bank Limited in the penultimate match of the season. The spinner reached the 50-wicket mark in only his 11th Test after being dropped for three years.

A PCB official said Rehman has now returned to Pakistan and the board would be taking his point of view soon after getting a detailed report from the ECB and added that the PCB, being a member of the ICC and signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency, will have to follow any penalties imposed by the ECB on Abdur Rehman.

Sri Lankan opener [Upul Tharanga](#) was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) last year for three months after failing a dope test in the 2011 World Cup.