QUASQUICENTENNIAL
ENTREPRENEURIAL SUMMIT
Fourth Edition • 2026

BOUNDARY BIDDERS

The IPL Auction Simulation

OFFICIAL BACKGROUND GUIDE

Rules • Structure • Evaluation • Strategy

QUEST— For Participants & Adjudicators Only

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This Background Guide serves as the definitive reference document for all participants, adjudicators, and organizers of the Boundary Bidders event. Participants are strongly advised to read this guide in its entirety prior to the commencement of the auction.

SECTION I

PREAMBLE & INTRODUCTION

The Organizing Committee of the Quasquicentennial Entrepreneurial Summit extends a cordial and enthusiastic welcome to all participants, adjudicators, and distinguished guests to the fourth edition of this premier event. It is our privilege to present Boundary Bidders, a meticulously crafted IPL Auction Simulation designed to cultivate strategic thinking, financial acumen, and decisive leadership among aspiring entrepreneurs and business enthusiasts.

The Tata Indian Premier League (Tata IPL) stands as the most prestigious and commercially successful Twenty20 cricket league in the world. Since its inception, the IPL has transcended the boundaries of sport to become a formidable platform for business, entertainment, and talent development. At the heart of this ecosystem lies The IPL Auction — a high-stakes, fast-paced event where franchise owners deploy calculated bidding strategies to assemble championship-calibre squads within the constraints of a fixed salary cap.

Boundary Bidders faithfully replicates this experience, challenging participants to navigate the complexities of player valuation, budget management, squad balance, and real-time decision-making. Every bid carries consequence; every acquisition shapes the trajectory of a franchise. This simulation is not merely a game — it is an exercise in entrepreneurial judgement, resource optimization, and competitive strategy.

Objectives of the Event

- To develop and assess participants' ability to make strategic decisions under pressure and within financial constraints.
- To simulate real-world business dynamics, including negotiation, risk assessment, and portfolio construction.
- To encourage analytical thinking through player evaluation, squad planning, and budgetary discipline.
- To foster teamwork, leadership, and communication skills within franchise teams.
- To provide an engaging, competitive, and intellectually stimulating experience that mirrors the entrepreneurial landscape.

This Background Guide serves as the authoritative reference for all aspects of the event, including rules of engagement, evaluation criteria, scoring methodology, and procedural protocols. All participants are expected to familiarize themselves thoroughly with its contents prior to the commencement of the auction.

SECTION II

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE IPL AUCTION

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) launched the Indian Premier League in 2008, introducing a franchise-based, city-centric model that fundamentally transformed the landscape of professional cricket. What began as an eight-team tournament has since expanded to a ten-franchise competition — with the addition of the Gujarat Titans and the Lucknow Super Giants in 2022 — reflecting the league's extraordinary growth trajectory and commercial viability.

The IPL Auction stands as the league's most captivating off-field spectacle. Over the years, the auction format has undergone significant evolution, incorporating innovative mechanisms such as:

- Player Retention Policies, allowing franchises to secure core talent before the auction commences.
- The Right to Match (RTM) Card, enabling teams to match the winning bid for a previously rostered player.
- Mega Auctions, conducted periodically to reset the player pool and reintroduce competitive parity across franchises.
- Accelerated Rounds, designed to expedite proceedings by presenting multiple players in rapid succession.

These innovations have not only elevated player compensation to unprecedented levels but have also intensified strategic competition among franchise owners and management groups. The auction process has become a masterclass in portfolio management, demanding the same rigour and foresight expected of leading entrepreneurs and investment professionals.

Beyond the sporting arena, the IPL has generated substantial economic impact — stimulating employment, upgrading sports infrastructure, boosting tourism revenues, and catalysing growth in media and broadcasting. Its unparalleled success has served as the blueprint for professional T20 leagues worldwide, cementing the IPL's position as the gold standard in franchise-based cricket.

SECTION III

EVENT FORMAT & FLOW

The Boundary Bidders auction shall be conducted in a structured and sequential manner to ensure fairness, efficiency, and an authentic simulation of the IPL Auction experience. The event flow is outlined below:

Phase 1: Pre-Auction Briefing

- Distribution of the Official Background Guide and Player Draft List to all franchise teams.
- Introduction of the Auction Committee, Moderator, and Auctioneer.
- Clarification of rules, procedures, and evaluation criteria.
- Allocation of franchise identities and initial budget purse (₹125 Crore per team).
- Strategic planning window for teams to review the player pool and formulate acquisition priorities.

Phase 2: The Live Auction

- Players are presented sequentially from the Official Player Draft List, organized by pool categories.
- The Auctioneer announces each player’s name, nationality, role, and base price.
- Bidding commences at the designated base price and proceeds in defined increments.
- A maximum of two teams may engage in active bidding at any given time to ensure focused competition.
- The Auctioneer declares “Sold” upon the conclusion of competitive bidding for each player.
- Accelerated rounds may be introduced at the Moderator’s discretion to expedite proceedings.

Phase 3: Post-Auction Submission

- Each franchise submits a finalized squad sheet, including the complete roster of acquired players.
- A designated Playing XI must be declared, with the nomination of Captain, Vice-Captain, and Wicketkeeper.
- Teams must also list their substitute players and may provide strategic rationale for key acquisitions.
- The Auction Committee reviews all submissions for compliance with squad composition rules.

Phase 4: Evaluation & Results

- The Adjudication Panel scores each team based on the Player Evaluation System and Bonus Categories.
- Final scores are tabulated, and the winning franchise is announced.
- Special awards may be presented for Best Acquisition, Best Strategy, and Most Balanced Squad.

SECTION IV

TEAM COMPOSITION & SQUAD REQUIREMENTS

Each participating franchise must adhere to the following mandatory squad composition requirements. Non-compliance with any of these provisions may result in penalty deductions at the discretion of the Auction Committee.

A. Squad Size

Requirement	Specification
Minimum Squad Strength	**16 Players**
Maximum Squad Strength	**20 Players**
Playing XI Declaration	**11 Players (mandatory)**

B. Overseas Player Restrictions

Requirement	Specification
Maximum Overseas Players in Squad	**7 Players**
Minimum Overseas Players in Squad	**4 Players**
Maximum Overseas in Playing XI	**4 Players**

C. Legends Category Requirements

Requirement	Specification
Minimum Legends in Squad	**1 Player**
Maximum Legends in Squad	**3 Players**
Legends in Playing XI	**Minimum 1 (mandatory)**

D. Playing XI Composition

- The Playing XI must comprise a minimum of 7 Indian players and a maximum of 4 overseas players.
- At least 1 uncapped player must be included in every Playing XI.
- At least 1 Legend must feature in every Playing XI.
- A Captain, Vice-Captain, and designated Wicketkeeper must be nominated within the Playing XI.
- The Playing XI should reflect tactical balance across batting, bowling, all-round, and wicketkeeping disciplines.

SECTION V

AUCTION MECHANICS & BIDDING PROTOCOL

A. Salary Cap & Financial Discipline

Each franchise operates under a mandatory salary cap of ₹125 Crore (INR). This cap constitutes the total purse available for player acquisitions throughout the auction. Strict adherence to this financial limit is imperative; any breach or attempted circumvention shall attract penalties, including but not limited to negative marking.

The salary cap serves as a vital instrument for maintaining financial equilibrium and competitive fairness within the league. It compels franchise teams to exercise judicious budgetary planning, prioritize acquisitions strategically, and avoid impulsive overspending — skills directly transferable to entrepreneurial and business management contexts.

B. Base Price & Bidding Initiation

Each player listed in the Official Player Draft is assigned a predetermined base price, categorized by pool. Bidding for every player commences at their designated base price. No bid below the base price shall be entertained.

Pool Category	Base Price	Player Tier
Pool A — Marquee Superstars	**₹2.00 Crore**	Elite International
Pool B — Elite Performers	**₹1.50 Crore**	High-Value Overseas
Pool C — Proven Campaigners	**₹1.00 Crore**	Experienced Domestic
Pool D — Rising Stars	**₹0.75 Crore**	Promising Talent
Pool E — Value Picks	**₹0.50 Crore**	Utility Players
Pool F — Emerging Talent	**₹0.30 Crore**	Uncapped / Emerging
Legends — Hall of Fame	**₹2.00 Crore**	Retired IPL Icons

C. Bidding Increments

To ensure orderly and systematic bidding, the following increment structure shall be observed:

Current Bid Range	Minimum Increment
Up to ₹1 Crore	**₹5 Lakh**
₹1 Crore – ₹5 Crore	**₹20 Lakh**
₹5 Crore – ₹10 Crore	**₹25 Lakh**
Above ₹10 Crore	**₹50 Lakh**

D. Bidding Conduct

- A maximum of two teams may engage in active bidding for any single player at a given time.
- Once a team withdraws from a bidding contest, it may not re-enter the bidding for the same player.
- The Auctioneer's declaration of "Sold" is final and binding.
- Players who remain unsold after the initial presentation may be reintroduced during accelerated rounds at a reduced base price, at the Moderator's discretion.

SECTION VI

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Auctioneer (Moderator / Vice-Moderator)

- Presides over the auction proceedings, maintaining decorum, pace, and order throughout the event.
- Announces each player's name, nationality, role, base price, and relevant performance highlights.
- Manages the bidding process, recognizes valid bids, and declares the final acquisition ("Sold").
- Holds the authority to intervene, resolve disputes, and make binding decisions on all matters arising during the auction.
- May introduce accelerated rounds or modify procedural elements to ensure the event progresses efficiently.

B. The Auction Committee (Board Members)

- Comprises designated Board Members responsible for overseeing the integrity and smooth conduct of the auction.
- Monitors compliance with all rules, regulations, and squad composition requirements.
- Reviews post-auction squad submissions for adherence to the stipulated guidelines.
- Adjudicates disputes or ambiguities that may arise during or after the auction.
- All rulings made by the Auction Committee are absolute and shall not be subject to appeal or challenge.

C. Franchise Teams (Bidders)

- Each franchise team represents an IPL franchise and is responsible for constructing a competitive squad within the salary cap.
- Teams must designate a primary bidder (Team Owner/Representative) who will raise the paddle during the auction.
- Strategic deliberation among team members is encouraged, but all bids must be communicated through the designated bidder.
- Teams are expected to maintain professionalism, sportsmanship, and respect for the auction process at all times.

D. The Adjudication Panel (Judges)

- Responsible for evaluating each team's squad using the Player Evaluation & Scoring System detailed in Section VII.
- Awards scores independently and impartially based on the prescribed criteria.
- Assesses bonus categories and applies the Final Judgement protocol to determine the winning franchise.

SECTION VII

PLAYER EVALUATION & SCORING SYSTEM

The Player Evaluation System constitutes the cornerstone of the adjudication process. Each player acquired by a franchise is individually assessed by the Adjudication Panel on a scale of 10 points, distributed across three distinct criteria. This system is designed to be swift, transparent, and equitable, enabling the rapid evaluation of large player rosters while maintaining analytical rigour.

A. Master Scoring Framework

Evaluation Criterion	Maximum Marks	Weightage
Player Quality	**5**	50%
Price Paid (Value for Money)	**3**	30%
Team Requirement Fit	**2**	20%
TOTAL PER PLAYER	**10**	**100%**

B. Criterion 1: Player Quality (Maximum 5 Marks)

This criterion assesses the intrinsic calibre, match-impact potential, and competitive value of the acquired player. The adjudicator assigns a mark based on the player's established reputation, recent performance, and overall standing in professional cricket.

Marks	Player Classification	Description
5	**Elite / Match Winner**	A world-class player capable of single-handedly influencing match outcomes; a proven match-winner at the highest level.
4	**Very Good IPL Player**	A high-calibre performer with a consistent track record in the IPL; adds significant value to any squad.
3	**Reliable Player**	A dependable contributor who performs steadily; fills a role effectively without being a game-changer.
2	**Average Player**	A player of moderate ability; may contribute in specific situations but lacks consistency or impact.
1	**Weak / Risky Pick**	An unproven, injury-prone, or underperforming player; represents a high-risk acquisition with uncertain returns.

Note: The evaluation basis differs by player category:

- IPL Players are evaluated primarily based on their most recent IPL season performance.
- Non-IPL Players are assessed using their T20 International statistics and overall T20 career performance.
- Legends are evaluated based on their cumulative IPL career performance, historical impact, and legacy.

C. Criterion 2: Price Paid — Value for Money (Maximum 3 Marks)

This criterion evaluates whether the franchise secured the player at a reasonable, competitive, or inflated price relative to the player's market value and calibre. It rewards shrewd financial management and penalizes excessive or impulsive spending.

Marks	Value Assessment	Description
3	**Excellent Bargain**	The player was acquired at a price significantly below their perceived market value; an outstanding deal.
2	**Fair Value**	The price paid is commensurate with the player's calibre and expected contribution; a reasonable acquisition.
1	**Slight Overpay**	The franchise paid moderately above the player's market value; acceptable but not optimal.
0	**Significant Overpay**	The price paid is substantially disproportionate to the player's value; a poor financial decision.

D. Criterion 3: Team Requirement Fit (Maximum 2 Marks)

This criterion assesses how well the acquired player addresses a genuine need within the franchise's squad. It rewards purposeful, role-specific acquisitions and discourages redundant or surplus purchases.

Marks	Fit Assessment	Description
2	**Exactly Needed Role**	The player fills a critical gap in the squad; the acquisition directly strengthens the team's composition and balance.
1	**Useful but Not Essential**	The player adds depth or versatility but does not address a pressing requirement; a supplementary addition.
0	**Unnecessary Pick**	The player does not serve a discernible purpose within the squad; the acquisition represents a redundant or wasteful use of the purse.

E. Illustrative Example

The following worked example demonstrates the application of the scoring system:

Player: Jasprit Bumrah	Criterion	Score Awarded
Elite fast bowler; match-winner at the highest level	**Player Quality**	5 / 5
Acquired at fair market value; neither a bargain nor overpay	**Price Paid**	2 / 3
Team lacked a frontline death-overs specialist	**Team Fit**	2 / 2
TOTAL		**9 / 10**

This system enables adjudicators to evaluate 100+ player acquisitions rapidly while maintaining consistency, transparency, and analytical depth.

SECTION VIII

BONUS POINTS & SPECIAL CATEGORIES

In addition to the core Player Evaluation Score, franchises may earn supplementary bonus points through the following special categories. These bonuses are designed to reward strategic foresight, squad continuity, and balanced team construction.

Bonus Category	Points	Description & Conditions
Captain Acquisition Bonus	**+2 Points**	Awarded if a franchise successfully acquires a player who served as captain of their respective IPL franchise during the IPL 2025 season. This bonus recognizes the strategic value of securing proven leadership.
Right to Match (RTM)	**+1 Point per RTM**	Each franchise is entitled to a maximum of three (3) RTM cards. An RTM card permits a franchise to match the highest bid for a player who was previously associated with their team, thereby retaining that player at the winning bid price. Each successful RTM deployment earns +1 bonus point.
Legends Playing XI Bonus	**+1 Point per Legend**	Awarded for each player from the Legends category (Hall of Fame — Retired IPL Icons) who is included in the franchise's declared Playing XI. This bonus incentivizes the integration of legendary talent into the team's core eleven.

Important Notes on Bonus Points

- Bonus points are additive and calculated separately from the per-player evaluation score.
- The RTM card must be declared at the time of bidding; retroactive claims are not permitted.
- The Captain Acquisition Bonus applies only to players who held the captaincy during IPL 2025, not prior seasons.
- Legends Playing XI Bonus is verified during the post-auction Playing XI submission review.
- The Auction Committee reserves the right to verify and adjudicate all bonus point claims.

SECTION IX

FINAL JUDGEMENT & WINNING CRITERIA

A. Post-Auction Submission Requirements

Upon the conclusion of the auction, each franchise must submit a comprehensive team portfolio to the Auction Committee. The submission must include:

1. Complete Squad Roster: A full list of all players acquired, including their purchase price and category.
2. Playing XI Declaration: The chosen eleven players, with clearly designated Captain, Vice-Captain, and Wicketkeeper.
3. Substitute Players List: All remaining squad members not included in the Playing XI.
4. Strategic Rationale (Recommended): A brief written explanation of key acquisitions, team strategy, and squad-building philosophy. The Auction Committee views such submissions favourably, as they demonstrate depth of thought and planning.

B. Score Computation

The Final Team Score is computed as follows:

Component	Calculation
Total Player Evaluation Score	Sum of individual player scores (max 10 per player)
Bonus Points	Captain Bonus + RTM Bonus + Legends XI Bonus
FINAL TEAM SCORE	**Player Scores + Bonus Points**

C. Winning Criteria

The franchise with the highest cumulative Final Team Score shall be declared the winner, recognizing superior squad composition, strategic balance, and astute financial management.

D. Tie-Breaking Protocol

In the event of a tie between two or more franchises, the following tie-breaking criteria shall be applied in sequential order:

1. Superior Playing XI assessment — the quality, balance, and tactical viability of the declared Playing XI.
2. Leadership quality — the calibre and experience of the designated Captain and Vice-Captain.
3. Strategic rationale — the depth and persuasiveness of the team's submitted strategic explanation.
4. Remaining budget — a higher remaining purse may be considered as a decisive factor, at the Moderator's discretion.

The Moderator's decision in all tie-breaking scenarios is final and binding.

SECTION X

INVESTMENT & STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT

The IPL Auction simulation mirrors the complexities and challenges inherent in entrepreneurial decision-making. Franchise teams must navigate a dynamic environment where limited resources, incomplete information, and competitive pressure converge — much as they do in the world of business and investment.

A. Pre-Auction Strategy

- Conduct thorough analysis of the Player Draft List, identifying priority targets across all pool categories.
- Evaluate player performance data, injury history, recent form, and role compatibility with your franchise's vision.
- Prepare a tiered budget plan: allocate premium funds for marquee acquisitions, reserve mid-range funds for proven performers, and maintain a pool for value picks and emerging talent.
- Identify contingency targets in the event that primary targets are lost in competitive bidding wars.
- Assess overseas slot allocation carefully — with a maximum of 4 overseas players in the Playing XI, every international slot carries significant strategic weight.

B. In-Auction Execution

- Maintain composure and discipline; avoid emotional bidding or panic purchases driven by fear of missing out.
- Monitor competitor spending in real time — awareness of rival purse positions informs bidding strategy.
- Be prepared to pivot: the unpredictable nature of auctions demands adaptability and quick recalibration.
- Balance squad construction across batting, bowling, all-round, and wicketkeeping departments.
- Secure a blend of experience and youth, domestic reliability and overseas flair.

C. Post-Auction Planning

- Construct a Playing XI that maximizes the strengths of acquired players while minimizing vulnerabilities.
- Define clear roles: identify your openers, middle-order anchors, finishers, powerplay bowlers, and death-overs specialists.
- Articulate a coherent team strategy in the submission — this demonstrates managerial depth and earns favour with the Adjudication Panel.

SECTION XI

RULES, REGULATIONS & CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Financial Regulations

1. The salary cap of ₹125 Crore is absolute. No franchise may exceed this limit under any circumstances.
2. All bids must be made in Indian Rupees (Crore denomination). Fractional amounts are expressed in decimals (e.g., ₹0.75 Crore).
3. Once a bid is placed and acknowledged by the Auctioneer, it is irrevocable.
4. Teams must maintain sufficient remaining purse to fulfil the minimum squad requirement of 16 players at all times.
5. Non-compliance with salary cap regulations shall result in negative marking or disqualification at the Auction Committee’s discretion.

B. Squad Composition Regulations

1. Each franchise must acquire a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 20 players.
2. Overseas players: minimum 4, maximum 7 in the full squad; maximum 4 in the Playing XI.
3. Legends: minimum 1, maximum 3 in the full squad; minimum 1 in the Playing XI.
4. At least 1 uncapped player must feature in every declared Playing XI.
5. The Playing XI must include a minimum of 7 Indian players.
6. A Captain, Vice-Captain, and Wicketkeeper must be designated within the Playing XI.

C. Bidding Regulations

1. Bidding is restricted to a maximum of two teams simultaneously for any single player.
2. Once a team exits a bidding contest for a player, re-entry for the same player is not permitted.
3. RTM cards (maximum 3 per franchise) must be declared at the time of bidding, not retrospectively.
4. The Auctioneer’s call of “Sold” is final and irrevocable.
5. Bids must follow the prescribed increment structure (see Section V-C).

D. Code of Conduct

1. All participants shall conduct themselves with professionalism, integrity, and sportsmanship.
2. Disruptive behaviour, unsportsmanlike conduct, or deliberate attempts to undermine the auction process shall attract negative marking.
3. Communication between franchise teams during the auction is strictly prohibited; collusion of any form shall result in immediate disqualification.
4. The Moderator and Auction Committee’s decisions are final and shall not be contested.
5. Mobile phones and electronic devices may be restricted during the live auction at the Moderator’s discretion.
6. All participants are expected to uphold the values of fairness, honesty, and competitive spirit that define this Summit.

SECTION XII

TEAM DIRECTORY & BUDGET ALLOCATION

The following ten franchises shall participate in the Boundary Bidders auction. Each franchise has been allocated an identical purse of ₹125 Crore, ensuring a level playing field and equal opportunity for all participating teams.

S.No	Franchise	Budget (Cr)	RTM Cards
1	**Mumbai Indians (MI)**	**₹125**	3
2	**Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**	**₹125**	3
3	**Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)**	**₹125**	3
4	**Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)**	**₹125**	3
5	**Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)**	**₹125**	3
6	**Gujarat Titans (GT)**	**₹125**	3
7	**Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)**	**₹125**	3
8	**Delhi Capitals (DC)**	**₹125**	3
9	**Rajasthan Royals (RR)**	**₹125**	3
10	**Punjab Kings (PBKS)**	**₹125**	3

Note: The franchise names and identities used in this simulation are adopted solely for the purpose of an authentic IPL Auction experience. This event is an educational simulation and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or connected to the BCCI, IPL, or any of the aforementioned franchises.

SECTION XIII

ANNEXURES & QUICK REFERENCE

Annexure A: Judge's Scoring Sheet (Template)

Each adjudicator shall be provided with a printed scoring sheet in the following format for rapid, standardized evaluation:

#	Player Name	Quality (5)	Price (3)	Fit (2)	Total (10)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Annexure B: Quick Reference — Scoring Summary

Player Quality (5)	Price Paid (3)	Team Fit (2)
5 = Elite / Match Winner	3 = Excellent Bargain	2 = Exactly Needed
4 = Very Good IPL Player	2 = Fair Value	1 = Useful, Not Essential
3 = Reliable Player	1 = Slight Overpay	0 = Unnecessary Pick
2 = Average Player	0 = Significant Overpay	
1 = Weak / Risky Pick		

Annexure C: Bonus Points Summary

Category	Points	Condition
Captain Acquisition	**+2**	Player was IPL 2025 captain
RTM Card Usage	**+1 each (max 3)**	Successfully retained via RTM
Legend in Playing XI	**+1 per Legend**	Legend included in declared XI

END OF BACKGROUND GUIDE

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