



## 1ST RGNUL SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION

April 12-14, 2019

### COMPETITION PROBLEM - PRELIMINARY ROUND II \*

#### **Post-Retirement Raid**

Bhaskar Aggarwal is a professional Indian international Kabaddi player and current captain of the India national kabaddi team. He led the Indian team to victory in the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup and was one of the stand-out performers in the team along with being a motivational leader.

In the year 2018, Bhaskar decided to retire from the sport after 8 glorious years spent representing the country at the highest level of the sport. He was given a grand send-off by the International and National Kabaddi Federation and many of his peers and former colleagues in the sport spoke at length about his great character and phenomenal career.

Shortly after his retirement, Bhaskar was approached by Community Prime to discuss the possibility of creating a documentary on his life and career.

Community Prime is an online streaming platform that was founded in the year 2015. With the rise of online-content giants like Amazon and Netflix, Community Prime was one of the Indian based media houses that decided to take the plunge with the focused approach of telling culturally-Indian stories. Community Prime have taken a lot of flak from social media

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in the last six months for encouraging narratives that are socially regressive and non-compliant with evolving social realities.

Bhaskar and Community Prime entered into a basic contract with the objective being to produce a documentary on Bhaskar's rise from rags to royalty in kabaddi. A timeline of three months was agreed during which time, the production team would shadow Bhaskar while he went about his daily activities, and Bhaskar was given an advisory role on approval of content in the final cut of the production.

Upon completion of the production of the documentary and one week before the nation-wide release, the final cut was shown to Bhaskar who gathered with his family and close friends for a private screening. He was aghast to find that the narrative was not at all what he expected. Certain key elements of his life had been misconstrued and his portrayal could be harmful to his reputation and principles.

Bhaskar instantly scheduled a meeting with the top executives at Community Prime in order to get the show cancelled, as he believed he ought to have a say on release of the content that was contained and the story being told in the documentary.

Community Prime refused to do so and instead made it very clear that they would be going ahead with the scheduled release of the documentary as they had a strict deadline and commercial promises to keep.

Two days before the release of the documentary, Bhaskar Aggarwal approached the local district court seeking a stay order on the release of the documentary. Additionally, he filed a Defamation suit against Community Prime and demanded that the project be shut down, and compensation be paid.

Community Prime acted hastily and initiated termination of the contract between Community Prime and Bhaskar Aggarwal, seeking exemplary penalties and damages as per the terms of the contract.

The documentary is due to release tomorrow. The parties have been convinced to make one last attempt to solve the problem by meeting to attempt a mediation-based resolution. Tempers are high and time is running out.