

New Delhi, January 3, 2014

## **Ministry issues Guidelines for Arjuna Awards criteria**

To avoid any controversy on the criteria for giving away Arjuna Awards, the Sports Ministry on Friday decided to grant 90 per cent weightage to medal winners of various International Championships and sports events of disciplines covered in Olympics (Summer, Winter and Paralympics), Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. The guideline, which is released by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Friday, will be applicable from 2014 onwards.

According to the release, the winners of medals in Olympics and Paralympics will automatically be considered for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna or Arjuna Awards, depending on the type of medal won, if the sportspersons have already not been conferred with either of the two honours.

After Olympics, maximum weightage will be given to World Championship / World Cup (once in four years), followed by Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, it added.

While 90 marks will be given to the sportspersons getting maximum points in the World Championship / World Cup, the rest of the sportspersons will be given marks proportionately to that athlete.

Meanwhile, 10 per cent weightage will be given to the marks awarded by the selection committee for assessment of the eligible sportspersons keeping in view factors like profile and standard of the sports events in which he or she has won medals and qualities like leadership, sportsmanship, team spirit, fair play, sense of discipline, a statement said.

The release also clarified that adequate representation would be insured for physically challenged and women.

While not more than one award will be given in each discipline in a particular year, the principle of one award per discipline will not be applicable in case of team sports and across gender, which means that the selection committee may recommend, in deserving cases with proper justification, more than one sportsperson in respect of team sports and sportspersons of both the genders, the statement further said.

Normally not more than 15 awards could be given in any calendar year. However, keeping in view the performance of athletes in the Commonwealth, Asian Games and Olympics during a particular year, the selection committee could recommend more sportspersons for Arjuna award.

In a particular discipline, names of not more than four sportspersons (two men and two women) with the highest marks will be considered by the selection committee.

If the selection committee feel that as per the given criteria, a very deserving sportsperson may not get Arjuna Award, in such a scenario it might recommend such name giving full justification in writing and then place that along with other recommendations before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision.

-----