सत्यमेव जयते

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE ACT, 2025 AND RULES

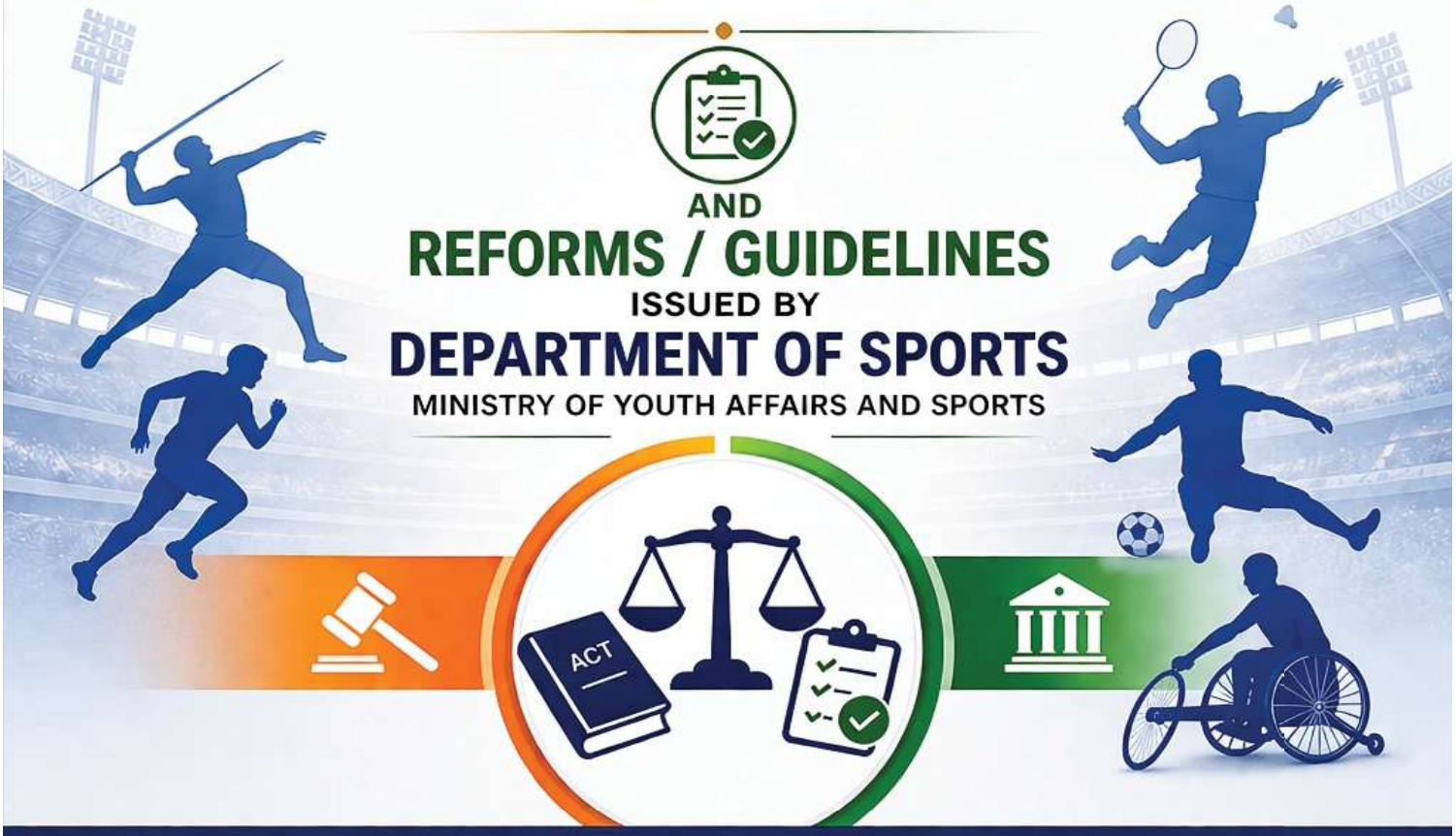
AND

REFORMS / GUIDELINES

ISSUED BY

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS



GOOD GOVERNANCE

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

INCLUSIVITY & EQUALITY

PERFORMANCE & EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY & ETHICS

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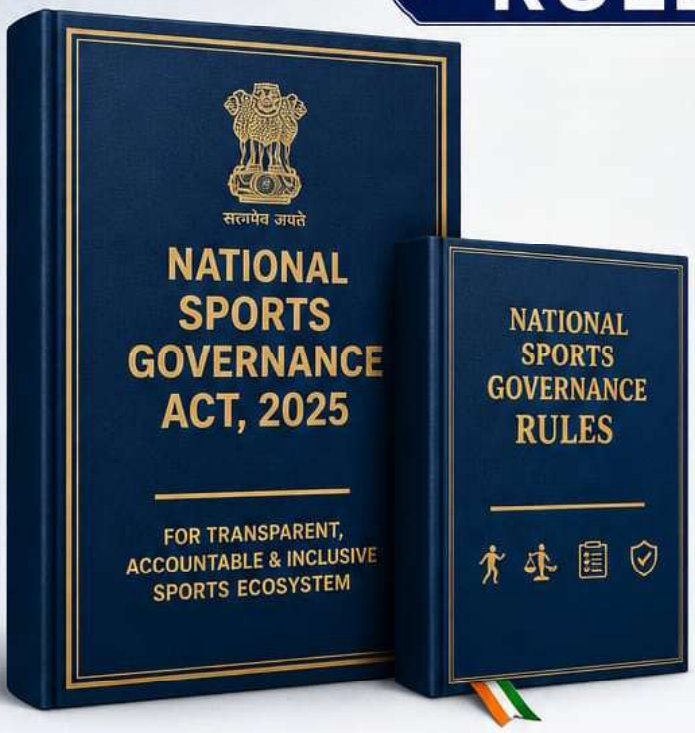
STRONG GOVERNANCE.
FAIR PLAY. GREAT INDIA.

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE ACT, 2025 AND RULES



KEY FEATURES

GOOD GOVERNANCE
Promoting transparency, accountability and ethical standards in sports bodies.

DEMOCRATIC & INCLUSIVE
Ensuring fair representation, gender equality and inclusion at all levels.

ATHLETE CENTRIC
Safeguarding athletes' rights, well-being and opportunities.

INDEPENDENCE & INTEGRITY
Ensuring autonomy of sports bodies with integrity and conflict-of-interest provisions.

DEVELOPMENT & EXCELLENCE
Strengthening grassroots, high performance and national sporting achievements.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
Effective, timely and fair mechanisms for sports dispute resolution.

A STRONG LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR A STRONGER SPORTING NATION

TRANSPARENCY
We are open and honest

ACCOUNTABILITY
We take responsibility and deliver

INCLUSIVITY
We respect diversity and equal opportunity

INTEGRITY
We uphold ethics and fair play

EXCELLENCE
We strive for excellence in all we do

BETTER GOVERNANCE. STRONGER INSTITUTIONS. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

TOGETHER, LET'S TAKE INDIAN SPORT TO NEW HEIGHTS!

रजिस्ट्री सं॰ डी॰ एल॰—(एन)04/0007/2003—25 REGISTERED NO. DL—(N)04/0007/2003—25

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-19082025-265482
CG-DL-E-19082025-265482

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II — खण्ड 1
PART II — Section 1
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं॰ 30] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, अगस्त 18, 2025/श्रावण 27, 1947 (शक)
No. 30] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025/SHRAVANA 27, 1947 (Saka)

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 18*th August,* 2025/*Shravana* 27, 1947 *(Saka)*

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 18th August, 2025 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE ACT, 2025
No. 25 of 2025

[18*th August*, 2025.]

An Act to provide for the development and promotion of sports, welfare measures for sportspersons, ethical practices based on basic universal principles of good governance, ethics and fair play of the Olympic and sports movement, the Olympic Charter, the Paralympic Charter, international best practices and established legal standards and to provide for the resolution of sports grievances and sports disputes in a unified, equitable and effective manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS the Olympic Charter and the Paralympic Charter emphasise impeccable ethical behaviour in sports governance, necessitating the national sports governing bodies to align with such global governance standards;

AND WHEREAS the national sports governing bodies discharge important public functions in the country and it is pertinent for these bodies to manage their internal and external affairs in an open, fair and transparent manner in the public interest;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India respects the principle of autonomy of the sports governing bodies in the country in line with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the Paralympic Charter;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India recognises the importance of providing accessible, fair and effective measures for the resolution of grievances and disputes relating to sports;

AND WHEREAS it is considered necessary to give effect to the aforesaid objectives.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement.

1. (*1*) This Act may be called the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act, and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(*a*) "*ad hoc* administrative body" means a body constituted for *ad hoc* administration under section 11;

(*b*) "affiliate unit" means the State, district or other units of,—

(*i*) the National Olympic Committee;

(*ii*) the National Paralympic Committee;

(*iii*) the National Sports Federation; and

(*iv*) the Regional Sports Federation;

(*c*) "Athletes Committee", "Disputes Resolution Committee", "Ethics Committee" and "Executive Committee", by whatever name called, means the "Athletes Committee", "Disputes Resolution Committee", "Ethics Committee" and "Executive Committee", respectively, of a National Sports Body;

(*d*) "Board" means the National Sports Board established under sub-section (*1*) of section 5;

(*e*) "Board recognition" means recognition of a sports organisation by the Board under this Act;

(*f*) "bye-laws" means the memorandum of association or articles of association, by whatever name called, of a sports organisation;

(*g*) "designated sport" means any sport discipline as may be specified by the Central Government, by notification, to be a designated sport for a specific region or State or for the whole of India;

(*h*) "International Charters and Statutes" means the Olympic Charter and other Charters and Statutes of the international sports governing bodies and include any bye-laws, rules, regulations or constitution, by whatever name called, as may be adopted, amended or issued by such bodies from time to time;

(*i*) "International Federation" means—

(*A*) a federation recognised as such by the International Olympic Committee in respect of an Olympic sport; or

(*B*) a federation recognised as such by the International Paralympic Committee in respect of a Paralympic sport; or



(*C*) a federation which regulates the sport at international level in respect of non-Olympic or non-Paralympic sports;

(*j*) "International Olympic Committee" means the governing body for the Olympic Games;

(*k*) "International Paralympic Committee" means the governing body for the Paralympic Games;

(*l*) "international recognition" means the recognition of a national sports governing body by the concerned international sports governing body;

(*m*) "International Sports Body" means an international sports governing body such as the International Olympic Committee or the International Paralympic Committee or International Federation or a continental governing body for sports;

(*n*) "National Olympic Committee" means the National Olympic Committee established under section 3 as a national sports governing body and recognised as the National Olympic Committee of India by the International Olympic Committee;

(*o*) "National Paralympic Committee" means the National Paralympic Committee established under section 3 as a national sports governing body and recognised as the National Paralympic Committee of India by the International Paralympic Committee;

(*p*) "National Sports Body" means a national sports governing body such as the National Olympic Committee or the National Paralympic Committee or the National Sports Federation or the Regional Sports Federation, established under section 3;

(*q*) "National Sports Election Panel" means the National Sports Election Panel notified under section 16 to oversee the conduct of free and fair elections to the Executive Committee and the Athletes Committee of the National Sports Bodies;

(*r*) "National Sports Federation" means a National Sports Federation established under section 3 as a national sports governing body for a designated sport;

(*s*) "National Sports Promotion Organisation" means a sports organisation or body contributing towards the development of sports, such as talent identification and their nurturing, policy advocacy relating to sports administration or welfare and recognised by the Board under sub-section (*7*) of section 8;

(*t*) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression "notify" or "notified", shall be construed accordingly;

(*u*) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by the Central Government under this Act;

(*v*) "recognised sports organisation" means a sports organisation recognised by the Board as a National Sports Body under sub-section (*1*) of section 8;

(*w*) "Regional Sports Federation" means a Regional Sports Federation established under section 3 as national sports governing body for a designated sport;

(*x*) "regulations" means regulations made by the Board under this Act;

(*y*) "Secretary General" means the Secretary General or the Secretary of a National Sports Body;



(*z*) "sportsperson of outstanding merit" means a sportsperson referred to in the proviso to clause (*a*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 4;

(*za*) "State" means a State specified in the First Schedule to the Constitution and includes a Union territory;

(*zb*) "Tribunal" means the National Sports Tribunal constituted under sub-section (*1*) of section 17.

CHAPTER II

NATIONAL SPORTS BODIES

Establishment of national sports governing bodies.

3. (*1*) The following bodies shall be established as the national sports governing bodies for their respective recognised sports organisations, namely:—

(*a*) the National Olympic Committee;

(*b*) the National Paralympic Committee;

(*c*) a National Sports Federation for each designated sport; and

(*d*) a Regional Sports Federation for each designated sport.

(*2*) There shall be only one National Olympic Committee and one National Paralympic Committee, each governing multi-sport disciplines.

(*3*) The National Olympic Committee shall have an international recognition and affiliation of the International Olympic Committee.

(*4*) The National Paralympic Committee shall have an international recognition and affiliation of the International Paralympic Committee.

(*5*) Every National Sports Federation shall have an international recognition and affiliation of the concerned international sports governing body:

Provided that this sub-section shall not apply to a designated sport which does not have an international sports governing body.

(*6*) Every Regional Sports Federation shall have the relevant affiliations as may be prescribed.

Compliance with certain requirements by National Sports Bodies.

4. (*1*) Every National Sports Body shall have,—

(*a*) a General Body, consisting of equal number of representatives from each of its affiliate units and such other *ex officio* members as per its bye-laws and the International Charters and Statutes, as applicable:

Provided that it shall have representation of such sportspersons of outstanding merit and such other categories of persons, as may be prescribed;

(*b*) an Executive Committee which shall consist of not more than fifteen members, of whom—

(*i*) at least two shall be sportspersons of outstanding merit;

(*ii*) two shall be from the Athletes Committee to be elected from amongst themselves; and

(*iii*) such number of *ex officio* and other members shall be nominated or elected, as the case may be, as per the International Charters and Statutes and the bye-laws:

Provided that at least four members shall be women:

Provided further that the voting rights of elected representatives of the Athletes Committee in the Executive Committee shall be as determined by the bye-laws;

(*c*) an Ethics Committee to be constituted as per its bye-laws and the International Charters and Statutes, as applicable:

Provided that the Ethics Committee of the National Olympic Committee shall function as the Ethics Committee of any National Sports Body which does not have such Committee;

(*d*) a Dispute Resolution Committee to be constituted as per its bye-laws and the International Charters and Statutes, as applicable:

Provided that the Dispute Resolution Committee of the National Olympic Committee shall function as the Dispute Resolution Committee of any National Sports Body which does not have such Committee;

(*e*) an Athletes Committee consisting of elected members as determined by the bye-laws;

(*f*) a President who shall be the head of the concerned National Sports Body and shall preside over the meetings of its Executive Committee and the General Body;

(*g*) a Secretary General who shall be the head of administration responsible for carrying out all decisions of the Executive Committee and the General Body:

Provided that where the International Charters and Statutes provide for a full-time head of administration, by whatever name called, there shall not be an elected post of the head of administration;

(*h*) a Treasurer who shall be the custodian of funds or the accounts of the concerned National Sports Body.

(*2*) A person shall not be qualified to contest for election or seek nomination to, the Executive Committee, unless—

(*a*) such person is a citizen of India who has attained at least twenty-five years of age;

(*b*) the nomination of such person is duly proposed and seconded by a voting member of the General Body;

(*c*) such person is not declared to be of unsound mind;

(*d*) such person complies with the International Charters and Statutes and bye-laws relating to age and term of the Executive Committee:

Provided that such person shall not be more than seventy years of age on the last date of nomination for election:

Provided further that any person, aged between seventy and seventy-five years, may contest elections or seek nominations, if permitted by the International Charters and Statutes and the bye-laws and in case such person is elected, he shall serve for a full term;

(*e*) such person, if he is a government servant, has necessary approvals from the Government, as applicable:

Provided that a person shall not be qualified to contest for election or seek nomination to, the posts of the President or the Secretary General or the Treasurer, unless such person is a sportsperson of outstanding merit or, has previously served as a member for at least one full term in the Executive Committee of the National Sports Body or as the President, or the Secretary General or the Treasurer in its affiliate unit:



Provided further that a person may continuously hold the position of either the President or the Secretary General or the Treasurer, as the case may be, for up to three consecutive terms separately, or in combination thereof and shall be eligible for election to such posts or to the Executive Committee after a mandatory cooling off period of one term.

(*3*) The term of the Executive Committee shall be as provided in the bye-laws subject to a maximum period of four years.

(*4*) The mode of election to different bodies, committees and offices including their term, eligibility criteria and disqualification of members thereof, and other matters of governance shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III

THE NATIONAL SPORTS BOARD

Establishment of National Sports Board.

5. (*1*) The Central Government may, by notification, establish a Board to be known as the National Sports Board, consisting of a Chairperson and such number of other Members as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The Chairperson and the Members referred to in sub-section (*1*) shall be appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing who possesses special knowledge or practical experience in the field of public administration, sports governance, sports law and other related fields, on the recommendation of a search-cum-selection committee comprising of such number of persons, having wide experience in public administration, sports administration and recipients of national sports awards, as may be prescribed.

(*3*) The salary and allowances and the term of office of the Chairperson and other Members of the Board and other terms and conditions of their service, including removal from service, shall be such as may be prescribed.

(*4*) The Board shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

(*5*) The head office of the Board shall be at Delhi and the Board shall establish its branch offices at such other places as may be prescribed.

Powers and functions of Board.

6. The Board shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions to carry out the provisions of this Act, namely:—

(*a*) the grant of Board recognition to sports organisations and registration of affiliate units and to suspend or cancel such recognition or registration;

(*b*) to maintain a register of the National Sports Bodies and each of their respective affiliate units in such manner as may be specified by regulations;

(*c*) to conduct inquiries on matters specified in section 9;

(*d*) to constitute an *ad hoc* administrative body or to direct the concerned National Sports Body or their affiliate units, as the case may be, to so constitute, as per section 11;

(*e*) to issue guidelines for formulation of the Code of Ethics by the National Sports Bodies;

(*f*) to frame Safe Sports Policy for the protection and safety of women, minor athletes and other classes of persons;

(*g*) maintain a roster of the National Sports Election Panel as per section 16;



(*h*) collaborate with the International Sports Bodies and National Sports Bodies for the development of sports and welfare of athletes in India and to issue guidelines to the National Sports Bodies for ensuring compliance with the international standards and best practices of the Olympic and sports movement;

(*i*) take such measures as may be prescribed, to ensure the protection of the rights and welfare of athletes and support personnel; and

(*j*) such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.

Staff of Board.

7. (*1*) The Central Government shall, in consultation with the Board, appoint such officers and other employees as may be necessary for discharging the functions of the Board.

(*2*) The officers and other employees of the Board shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence and control of the Chairperson or any other member of the Board to whom powers for exercising such superintendence and control are delegated by the Chairperson.

(*3*) The qualifications, appointment, salary and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Board shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER IV

THE GOVERNANCE OF RECOGNISED SPORTS ORGANISATIONS

Board recognition and registration.

8. (*1*) The Board shall have the power to grant Board recognition to any sports organisation as a National Sports Body.

(*2*) Any sports organisation desirous of obtaining Board recognition as a National Sports Body under this section shall apply to the Board in such form and manner and containing such particulars, as may be specified by regulations.

(*3*) No sports organisation shall be recognised under sub-section (*1*) unless such organisation,—

21 of 1860.

(*a*) is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or under the Societies Registration Act of a State; or

18 of 2013.

(*b*) is a not-for-profit company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013; or

2 of 1882.

(*c*) is a trust created under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or under the Trusts Act of a State; and

(*d*) complies with such other criteria and conditions as may be specified by regulations and having the sole object of the development of sports.

(*4*) The Board recognition granted under this section shall be renewed periodically at such intervals and in accordance with such procedure as may be specified by regulations.

(*5*) All sports organisations recognised as National Sports Bodies by the Central Government before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have Board recognition under this Act and the provisions of this Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to such organisation.

(*6*) All affiliate units of National Sports Bodies shall ensure that they are registered with the Board, subject to such conditions and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(*7*) The Board, subject to the prior approval of the Central Government, shall also have the power to recognise sports organisations participating in sports governance, athlete support and welfare, as National Sports Promotion Organisation.



(*8*) The eligibility criteria for Board recognition and the manner of governance and functioning of the National Sports Promotion Organisations shall be such as may be specified by regulations:

Provided that a National Sports Promotion Organisation recognised by the Central Government before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been recognised as such under this Act and the provisions of this Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to such organisation:

Provided further that the Board recognition granted under this sub-section shall be renewed periodically at such intervals and in accordance with such procedure as may be specified by regulations.

Power of Board to conduct inquiry.

9. The Board may, either on its own motion, or in response to complaint received from any person or body on matters affecting the welfare of sportspersons or the development of sports in the country or misuse of public funds, conduct an inquiry where it is satisfied that there is a reasonable cause so to do:

Provided that no such complaint shall be entertained unless the complainant has exhausted all available remedies with the National Sports Body or its affiliate units:

Provided further that the Board may entertain such complaint if it is satisfied that accessing those remedies would result in unnecessary delay or unreasonable prejudice.

Power of Board to suspend or cancel Board recognition or registration.

10. (*1*) The Board may, either on its own motion, or on the receipt of a complaint by an aggrieved party, by order, suspend or cancel the Board recognition of a sports organisation as a National Sports Body or registration of an affiliate unit of a National Sports Body, in any of the following circumstances, namely:—

(*a*) the international recognition of the concerned National Sports Body has been suspended or cancelled by the concerned International Sports Body;

(*b*) the concerned affiliate unit has been suspended or disaffiliated by the concerned National Sports Body;

(*c*) the National Sports Body has violated any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, including eligibility criteria or terms and conditions of the Board recognition;

(*d*) the Registrar of Companies or the Registrar of Societies of the concerned sports organisation has reported gross irregularities in the internal functioning or removed the name of the National Sports Body or its affiliate units;

(*e*) the National Sports Body or the affiliate unit has—

(*i*) failed to hold elections for its Executive Committee or has committed gross irregularities in the election procedures thereof; or

(*ii*) failed to publish its annual audited accounts; or

(*iii*) has misused, misapplied or misappropriated any public funds:

Provided that the suspension or disaffiliation referred to in clause (*a*) and clause (*b*) shall be co-terminus with the suspension or disaffiliation by the concerned International Sports Body or the National Sports Body, as the case may be, which may be extended by the Board, for reasons to be recorded in writing, for such further period as the Board may consider necessary.

(*2*) Before issuing an order of suspension or cancellation of Board recognition or registration under sub-section (*1*), the Board shall consult the concerned—



(*a*) International Sports Body, where such suspension or cancellation of Board recognition concerns the National Sports Federation or the Regional Sports Federation;

(*b*) National Sports Federation or the Regional Sports Federation, where such suspension or cancellation of registration concerns any affiliate unit,

and upon such consultation, take any of the following measures, namely:—

(*i*) issue an order, directing the National Sports Body or its affiliate unit, to take such action as is appropriate to correct the deficiency and upon compliance, the Board may make a finding of compliance; or

(*ii*) conduct a hearing by giving reasonable opportunity to the parties to present their case before pronouncing its decision.

(*3*) An appeal against any order of the Board for suspension or cancellation of Board recognition or registration under this section shall lie with the Tribunal.

Ad hoc administrative body.

11. (*1*) In the event of loss of the international recognition of a National Sports Body, the normalisation process shall be implemented as per the International Charters and Statutes and the Board shall not interfere in such process.

(*2*) In the absence of the normalisation process referred to in sub-section (*1*) on the loss of international recognition of a National Sports Body, or in the event of cancellation or suspension of Board recognition of a National Sports Body under section 10, where the loss of recognition concern—

(*a*) a National Olympic Committee or a National Paralympic Committee, the Board may constitute an *ad hoc* administrative body in consultation with the International Olympic Committee or the International Paralympic Committee, as the case may be;

(*b*) a National Sports Federation, the Board may, in consultation with the concerned International Federation, wherever applicable, direct the National Olympic Committee to constitute an *ad hoc* administrative body;

(*c*) a Regional Sports Federation, the Board may in consultation with the concerned International Federation, if any, constitute an *ad hoc* administrative body.

(*3*) In the event of cancellation or suspension of Board recognition or registration of an affiliate unit of a National Sports Body under section 10,—

(*a*) where the cancellation or suspension of Board recognition or registration, concerns a State sports federation, the Board may direct the concerned National Sports Federation or the Regional Sports Federation; and

(*b*) where the cancellation or suspension of Board recognition or registration, concerns a district sports federation, the Board may direct the concerned State sports federation,

to constitute an *ad hoc* administrative body consisting of such members as may be determined by the Board in consultation with the National Sports Body or the concerned affiliate State unit, as the case may be.

(*4*) The *ad hoc* administrative body shall be responsible for administering the concerned sports body or its affiliate units to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act.

(*5*) The *ad hoc* administrative body referred to in sub-section (*2*) shall consist of a maximum of five eminent sports administrators, who have previously held the office of a President or a Secretary General or a Treasurer of a National Sports Body or who is or has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Olympic Committee, having no past association with the sports discipline or any conflict of interest:

Provided that no person shall be part of more than one *ad hoc* administrative body at the same time.



CHAPTER V

CODE OF ETHICS

Code of Ethics.

12. (*1*) Every National Sports Body shall formulate a Code of Ethics for the members of its Executive Committee and other committees, employees, staff, sponsors, coaches, athletes, officials, members, affiliates and such other relevant persons, in accordance with the guidelines specified by the Board.

(*2*) The Code of Ethics shall establish minimum standards for the ethical and appropriate conduct of the persons specified in sub-section (*1*).

(*3*) The Code of Ethics shall be framed in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the International Sports Bodies and in consonance with the applicable laws in India.

(*4*) The Code of Ethics shall provide measures for protection of vulnerable persons against abuse by person in a position of trust, responsibility or authority.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, "person in a position of trust" means any person who exercises authority, control or influence over another person, or a person on whom another person is dependent and who is connected or associated with the affairs of the National Sports Body.

CHAPTER VI

SAFE SPORTS POLICY AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Safe Sports Policy.

13. (*1*) The Board shall frame a comprehensive Safe Sports Policy applicable to all activities, events, operations and proceedings conducted by the National Sports Bodies.

(*2*) The Safe Sports Policy shall include provisions to ensure the protection and safety of women and minor athletes and such other persons as may be prescribed.

(*3*) Every National Sports Body shall establish an internal grievance redressal mechanism to address the grievances raised by athletes, coaches and other individuals associated with such body, in a fair, timely and transparent manner.

CHAPTER VII

PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF RECOGNISED SPORTS ORGANISATION

Privileges of recognised sports organisation.

14. (*1*) Only a recognised sports organisation shall be eligible to receive grants or any other financial assistance from the Central Government.

(*2*) A recognised sports organisation, receiving grants or any other financial assistance from the Central Government under sub-section (*1*) or from a State Government, shall be considered as a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005, with respect to utilisation of such grants or any other financial assistance. 22 of 2005.

Duties of recognised sports organisation.

15. A recognised sports organisation shall ensure that all its voting members and affiliate units, as applicable, complies with—

(*a*) the International Charters and Statutes, as applicable, and shall exercise the rights, perform the duties and discharge the functions as specified therein; and

(*b*) the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder.

CHAPTER VIII

NATIONAL SPORTS ELECTION PANEL

National Sports Election Panel and appointment of electoral officers.

16. (*1*) The Central Government shall, on the recommendations of the Board, notify a National Sports Election Panel consisting of such number of persons as it may deem necessary, who are retired Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner or Deputy Election Commissioner or retired State Election Commissioner or Chief Electoral Officers of the States, with adequate experience of conduct of elections under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. 43 of 1951.



(*2*) The persons notified under sub-section (*1*) shall act as electoral officers to oversee the conduct of free and fair elections to the Executive Committees and the Athletes Committee of the National Sports Bodies.

(*3*) The Board shall maintain a roster of the National Sports Election Panel in such manner as may be prescribed.

(*4*) The fees and other allowances to be paid to the persons notified under sub-section (*1*) shall be such as may be prescribed.

(*5*) The National Sports Bodies may appoint an electoral officer from the National Sports Election Panel to oversee its election process and ensure free and fair elections:

Provided that where the Charters or Statutes of the International Sports Body require appointment of any other person as an electoral officer, the concerned National Sports Body may appoint such other person after furnishing the details, including qualifications and experience, of the person, to the Board.

(*6*) Every National Sports Body, having affiliate units, shall prepare an Election Panel for the conduct of free and fair elections of the Executive Committees of their affiliate units, consisting of such number of retired persons as it may deem necessary, having adequate experience of conduct of elections under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. 43 of 1951.

(*7*) Every affiliate unit shall appoint an electoral officer from the roster to be maintained by the National Sports Body, to oversee its election process and ensure free and fair elections.

CHAPTER IX

National Sports Tribunal

Constitution of National Sports Tribunal.

17. (*1*) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute a National Sports Tribunal consisting of a chairperson and two other members, to provide for the independent, speedy, effective and cost-efficient disposal of sports related disputes.

(*2*) The chairperson shall be a person who is or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court.

(*3*) The members shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in sports, public administration and law.

(*4*) The chairperson and the other members of the Tribunal shall be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendations of a Search-cum-Selection Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

(*a*) the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge recommended by the Chief Justice of India—chairperson;

(*b*) the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Law and Justice—member;

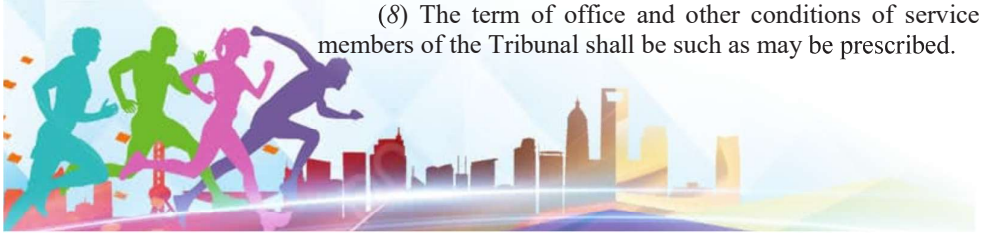
(*c*) the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Sports—member.

(*5*) The Search-cum-Selection Committee shall determine the procedure for making its recommendations.

(*6*) Notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, order or decree of any court, or in any law for the time being in force, the Search-cum-Selection Committee shall recommend a panel of two names for appointment to the post of chairperson or member, as the case may be, and the Central Government shall take a decision on the recommendations made by that Committee, preferably within three months from the date of such recommendation.

(*7*) No appointment shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or absence of a member in the Search-cum-Selection Committee.

(*8*) The term of office and other conditions of service of chairperson and members of the Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.



(*9*) The Tribunal shall formulate its own procedure for the conduct of its business including the timelines to be followed for the disposal of matters.

(*10*) All expenses incurred in connection with the Tribunal shall be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Removal of chairperson or members of Tribunal.

18. (*1*) The Central Government shall remove from office a chairperson or member of the Tribunal who—

(*a*) has been adjudged an insolvent;

(*b*) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude;

(*c*) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member;

(*d*) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member; or

(*e*) has so abused his position as to render his continuation in office prejudicial to public interest:

Provided that where the chairperson or member is proposed to be removed on any ground specified in clauses (*c*) to (*e*), he shall be informed of the charges against him and given an opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), a member of the Tribunal shall not be removed from his office on the grounds specified therein unless the Chief Justice of India or his nominee judge, on a reference being made to him in this behalf by the Central Government, has on inquiry held in accordance with such procedure as he may specify in this behalf, recommended the removal.

Staff of Tribunal.

19. (*1*) The Central Government shall, in consultation with the Tribunal, appoint such officers and other employees as may be necessary for discharging the functions of the Tribunal.

(*2*) The officers and other employees of the Tribunal shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence and control of the chairperson or any other member of the Tribunal to whom powers for exercising such superintendence and control are delegated by the chairperson.

(*3*) The qualifications, appointment, salary and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of officers and other employees of the Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.

Exclusion of jurisdiction of Tribunal.

20. The Tribunal shall not have jurisdiction to adjudicate the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) any dispute, or conflict arising during the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, or any other similar events organised by any International Federations;

(*b*) any dispute falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of—

(*i*) the internal disputes resolution committee of a National Sports Body; or

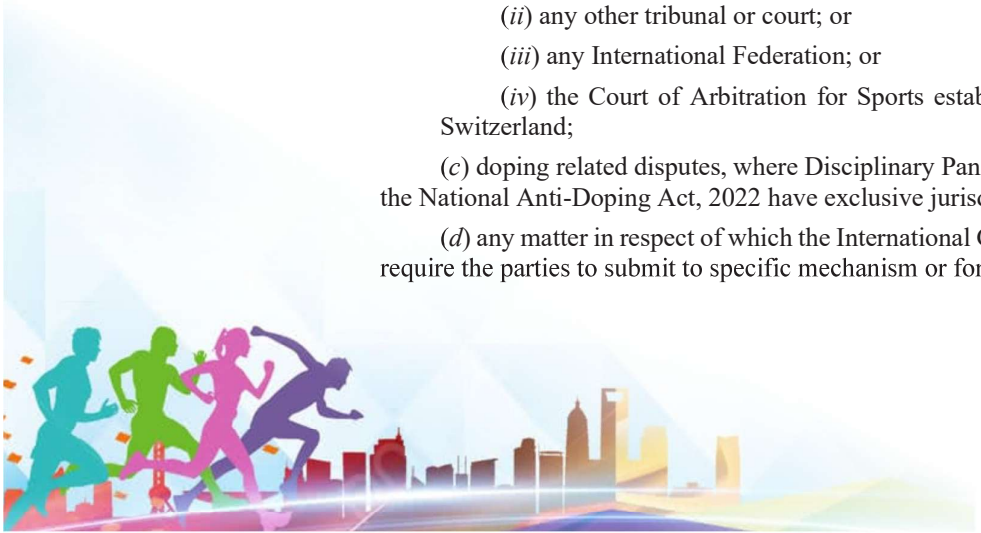
(*ii*) any other tribunal or court; or

(*iii*) any International Federation; or

(*iv*) the Court of Arbitration for Sports established in Lausanne, Switzerland;

(*c*) doping related disputes, where Disciplinary Panels constituted under the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 have exclusive jurisdiction; 15 of 2022.

(*d*) any matter in respect of which the International Charters and Statutes require the parties to submit to specific mechanism or forum for adjudication.



Members, etc., to be public servants.

21. The members and other officers and employees of the Board or the Tribunal shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of clause (*28*) of section 2 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. 45 of 2023.

Transfer of pending cases.

22. (*1*) All cases under civil jurisdiction falling within the scope of this Act, in which the National Sports Bodies are impleaded as parties and are pending before a District Court or High Court immediately before the constitution of the Tribunal, shall be transferred to the Tribunal on and from such date as may be specified by the Central Government.

(*2*) The cases transferred to the Tribunal under sub-section (*1*) may be heard and adjudicated from the stage at which such dispute was pending in the concerned Court, or may be heard afresh if the Tribunal deems appropriate after recording the reasons therefor in writing.

Bar on jurisdiction of a civil court.

23. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter on which the Tribunal is empowered under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred on the Tribunal by or under this Act.

Powers of Tribunal.

24. (*1*) The Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:— 5 of 1908.

(*a*) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(*b*) requiring the discovery and production of documents;

(*c*) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(*d*) calling for any public record or document or a copy of such record or document, from any office, subject to the provisions of sections 129 and 130 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023; 47 of 2023.

(*e*) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(*f*) reviewing its decisions;

(*g*) dismissing an application for default or deciding it, *ex parte*;

(*h*) setting aside any order of dismissal of any application for default or any order passed by it, *ex parte*; and

(*i*) any other matter which may be prescribed.

(*2*) Every proceeding before the Tribunal shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 228, 229, 233, 257 and 267 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. 45 of 2023.

(*3*) The Tribunal shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purpose of section 215 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. 46 of 2023.

Appeal to Supreme Court.

25. (*1*) Unless the International Charters and Statutes provide for appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport, an appeal shall lie against any order of the Tribunal, not being an interlocutory order, to the Supreme Court.

(*2*) No appeal shall lie against any decision made by the Tribunal with the consent of the parties.

(*3*) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of the decision appealed against:

Provided that the Supreme Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.



Orders passed by Tribunal to be executable as a decree.

26. (*1*) An order passed by the Tribunal under this Act shall be executable as a decree of a civil court, and for this purpose, the Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), the Tribunal may transmit any order made by it to a civil court having local jurisdiction and such civil court shall execute the order as if it were a decree made by that court.

CHAPTER X

USE OF NATIONAL NAMES AND INSIGNIA

Use of national names and insignia.

27. (*1*) Any sports organisation desirous of using the word "India" or "Indian" or "National" or any national insignia or symbols in any language in its registered name, operating name, logo or otherwise in its affairs, shall obtain a no-objection certificate from the Central Government for such use:

Provided that a sports organisation other than a recognised sports organisation shall, in addition to the requirements under this sub-section, obtain written consent of the Board.

(*2*) No sports organisation shall use the name "India" or the name of any State or district in India, or conduct any sports trials, tournaments, or events upon the suspension or cancellation of its recognition by the Board under this Act.

(*3*) No person or group of persons, either individually or collectively, shall represent or be allowed to represent India or any State or district in India, in any sports trials, tournaments or events of designated sports without an authorisation by a National Sports Body or its affiliate unit.

CHAPTER XI

MISCELLANEOUS

Fund.

28. (*1*) There shall be constituted a Fund to be called the National Sports Board Fund and there shall be credited thereto—

(*a*) all grants, fees and charges received by the Board under this Act; and

(*b*) all sums received by the Board from such other sources as may be decided upon by the Central Government.

(*2*) The Fund constituted under sub-section (*1*) shall be applied for meeting—

(*a*) the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and Members of the Board and the administrative expenses including the salaries and allowances payable to or in respect of officers and other employees of the Board; and

(*b*) all other expenses for meeting the objects and for the purposes authorised by this Act.

Accounts and audit.

29. (*1*) The Board shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(*2*) The accounts of the Board shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Board to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(*3*) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Board shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India generally has, in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Board.



(*4*) The accounts of the Board as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Measures for promotion and development of sports.

30. (*1*) The Central Government in consonance with the International Charters and Statutes, may take such measures as may be prescribed, as it considers necessary for the promotion and development of sports, including in the public interest.

(*2*) The measures referred to in sub-section (*1*), may include,—

(*a*) the guiding principles for the conduct of elections by the National Sports Bodies, including model election rules;

(*b*) the promotion of the welfare and interests of sportspersons;

(*c*) the protection of the data and privacy of sportspersons; and

(*d*) the appropriate use of technology and analytics in the context of sport.

Power to make rules.

31. (*1*) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act:

Provided that the Central Government, while making rules under this section, shall take into consideration the International Charters and Statutes, with the objective of ensuring transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management and administration of sports in India.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) the relevant affiliations of Regional Sports Federation under sub-section (*6*) of section 3;

(*b*) the sportspersons of outstanding merit and other categories of persons under the proviso to clause (*a*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 4;

(*c*) the mode of election to different bodies, committees and offices including their term, eligibility criteria and disqualification of members thereof, and other matters of governance under sub-section (*4*) of section 4;

(*d*) the composition and number of Members of the Board under sub-section (*1*) of section 5;

(*e*) the composition of the search-cum-selection committee under sub-section (*2*) of section 5;

(*f*) the salary and allowances, term of office of Chairperson and other Members of the Board and other terms and conditions of their service including removal from service, under sub-section (*3*) of section 5;

(*g*) other places in which the Board shall establish its branch offices under sub-section (*5*) of section 5;

(*h*) the measures to be taken by the Board for ensuring protection of the rights and welfare of athletes and support personnel under clause (*i*) of section 6;

(*i*) other powers and functions of the Board under clause (*j*) of section 6;

(*j*) the qualifications, appointment, salary and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the officers and the other employees of the Board under sub-section (*3*) of section 7;

(*k*) the conditions and the manner in which affiliate units of the National Sports Bodies shall ensure registration of their affiliate units with the Board under sub-section (*6*) of section 8;

(*l*) other persons to be covered by the Safe Sports Policy under sub-section (*2*) of section 13;



(*m*) manner of maintaining roster of the National Sports Election Panel by the Board under sub-section (*3*) of section 16;

(*n*) the fees and other allowances to be paid to the empanelled persons under sub-section (*4*) of section 16;

(*o*) the term of office and other conditions of service of chairperson and members of Tribunal under sub-section (*8*) of section 17;

(*p*) the qualifications, appointment, salary and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the officers and the other employees of the Tribunal under sub-section (*3*) of section 19;

(*q*) any other matter under clause (*i*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 24;

(*r*) the form in which the Board shall prepare annual statement of accounts under sub-section (*1*) of section 29;

(*s*) the measures to be taken by the Central Government for the promotion and development of sports under sub-section (*1*) of section 30; and

(*t*) any other matter which is to be, or may be prescribed.

Power to make regulations.

32. (*1*) The Board may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder, to carry out the provisions of this Act:

Provided that the Board, while making regulations under this section, shall comply with the International Charters and Statutes, with the objective of ensuring transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management and administration of sports in India.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may make provision for—

(*a*) the manner of maintaining register of the National Sports Bodies and their respective affiliate units by the Board under clause (*b*) of section 6;

(*b*) the form, manner and particulars of application under sub-section (*2*) of section 8;

(*c*) other criteria and conditions to be complied by the sports organisations under clause (*d*) of sub-section (*3*) of section 8;

(*d*) the intervals and procedure for renewal of Board recognition under sub-section (*4*) of section 8;

(*e*) the eligibility criteria for Board recognition of the sports organisation as a National Sports Promotion Organisation, the manner of their governance and functioning and the intervals and procedure for renewal of such recognition under sub-section (*8*) of section 8; and

(*f*) any other matter which is to be, or may be, specified by regulations under this Act.

Laying of rules, regulations and notifications.

33. Every rule, regulation and every notification made or issued under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be, after it is made or issued, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session for a total period of thirty days, which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule, regulation or notification or both Houses agree that the rule, regulation or notification should not be made or issued, the rule, regulation or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule, regulation or notification.



Power to exempt in special cases.

34. (*1*) If the Central Government considers it necessary and expedient so to do in the public interest for the promotion of specific sport disciplines consistent with the spirit of good governance enshrined in the Olympic Charter, it may, in consultation with the Board and the concerned International Sports Body, by notification, direct that subject to such conditions and restrictions, if any, and for such period as may be specified in the notification, all or any of the provisions of this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder shall not apply to a National Sports Body or its affiliate unit specified therein.

(*2*) The Central Government may, by notification, and for reasons to be recorded in writing, relax the eligibility criteria for the members of the Executive Committee, if such person is serving in the executive committee or a similar body of a corresponding International Sports Body or is in the General Body of the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee.

Power to issue directions and impose restrictions in national interest.

35. (*1*) The Central Government may, from time to time, give such directions as it may think fit, to the Board or any other person or entity for the efficient administration of this Act.

(*2*) The Central Government may, by an order, impose reasonable restrictions on the participation of any national team of a concerned sport in international sports competitions or participation of any individual in the activities of the national sports, under extraordinary circumstances and in the interest of national security, public order and safety.

Protection of action taken in good faith.

36. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any Member of the Board or member of a National Sports Body or the Tribunal or any officer or other employee of such authorities or any other person or authority for anything which has been done or is intended to be done in good faith under this Act or the rules and regulations made thereunder.

Conflicts with International Charters and Statutes.

37. (*1*) The National Sports Bodies shall primarily be guided by the International Charters and Statutes in the governance of its affairs.

(*2*) In the event of any conflict between a provision of this Act and the International Charters and Statutes, the Central Government may, after consulting the Board and the concerned International Sports Body as may be deemed necessary, issue a clarificatory notification in this regard.

Power to remove difficulties.

38. (*1*) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any provision of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary, for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of five years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(*2*) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

DR. RAJIV MANI,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

UPLOADED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, MINTO ROAD, NEW DELHI–110002
AND PUBLISHED BY THE CONTROLLER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI–110054.

MGIPMRND—164GI(S4)—18-08-2025.

KSHITIZ MOHAN Digitally signed by KSHITIZ MOHAN Date: 2025.08.19 01:31:46 +05'30'

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-31122025-268971
CG-DL-E-31122025-268971

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 5942] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, दिसम्बर 31, 2025/पौष 10, 1947
No. 5942] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025/PAUSHA 10, 1947

युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय
(खेल विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 31 दिसम्बर, 2025

का.आ. 6152(अ).— केन्द्रीय सरकार, राष्ट्रीय खेल शासन अधिनियम, 2025 (2025 का 25) की धारा 1 की उपधारा (2) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, तारीख 1 जनवरी, 2026 को उस तारीख के रूप में नियत करती है जिसको उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 1 से धारा 3, धारा 4 की उपधारा (1), उपधारा (2) और उपधारा (4), धारा 5 की उपधारा (1) और उपधारा (2), धारा 8 की उपधारा (5), धारा 11 की उपधारा (1), धारा 14, धारा 15, धारा 17 की उपधारा (1) से उपधारा (7) और उपधारा (10), धारा 30, धारा 31, धारा 33 से धारा 38 के उपबंध प्रवृत्त होंगे।

[फा. सं. 12-12/2025 जीओवी-1]

कुणाल, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(Department of Sports)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 31st December, 2025

S.O. 6152(E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 (25 of 2025), the Central Government hereby appoints the 1st January, 2026, as the date on which the provisions of sections 1 to 3, sub-sections (1), (2) and (4) of section 4, sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 5, sub-section (5) of section 8, sub-section (1) of section 11, section 14, section 15, sub-sections (1) to (7) and (10) of section 17, section 30, section 31, sections 33 to 38 of the said Act, shall come into force.

[F. No. 12-12/2025 Gov-1]

KUNAL, Jt. Secy.

Uploaded by Dte. of Printing at Government of India Press, Ring Road, Mayapuri, New Delhi-110064
and Published by the Controller of Publications, Delhi-110054.

SARVESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA Digitally signed by SARVESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA Date: 2025.12.31 21:19:57 +05'30'



MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the , 2026

G.S.R. 18 (E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clauses (a), (b), (c), (k), (m), (n) and (t) of sub-section (2) of section 31 of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 (25 of 2025), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:–

CHAPTER 1

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

(2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. **Definitions. —** (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, **—**

(a) "Act" means the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 (25 of 2025);

(b) "Central Government" shall mean the Department of the Central Government which has been allocated the subject matter of sports under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961;

(c) "Elected Post" means all posts on the Executive Committee, other than, **—**

(i) the posts reserved for representatives of the Athletes Committee under sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act; and

(ii) the posts to be occupied by *ex officio* members under sub-clause (iii) of clause (b) under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act;

(d) "Election Rules" means the rules applicable to Elections to the Executive Committees as specified in Schedule II;

(e) "Electoral Officer" means the person notified under sub-section (1) of section 16 of the Act;

(f) "Executive Committee" means the committee constituted in every National Sports Body pursuant to clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act;

(g) "General Body" means the body constituted in every National Sports Body pursuant to clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act;

(h) "National Sports Board" means the Board established pursuant to section 5 of the Act;

(i) "Schedule" means the schedule annexed to these rules; and

(j) "Sportspersons of outstanding merit Eligibility Rules" means the eligibility rules for sportspersons of outstanding merit as specified in Schedule I.

(2) Words and expressions used in these rules and not defined herein but defined in the Act, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

CHAPTER 2

SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT

3. Representation of sportspersons of outstanding merit in the General Body. — (1) The General Body of each National Sports Body shall include, as voting members, at least four, or any other higher even number, of sportspersons of outstanding merit, of which fifty per cent. shall be male sportspersons of outstanding merit and fifty per cent. shall be female sportspersons of outstanding merit.

(2) The manner of election or nomination of sportspersons of outstanding merit under sub-rule (1) may be specified in the bye-laws of the relevant National Sports Body.

4. Representation of sportspersons of outstanding merit in the Executive Committee. — The sportspersons of outstanding merit to be included in the Executive Committee pursuant to sub-clause (i) of clause (b) to sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act, shall be elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with rule 9.

5. Eligibility criteria and application. — (1) The National Sports Body shall call for applications for persons to be considered as sportspersons of outstanding merit and such call for applications shall specify the General Eligibility Criteria and Tiered Eligibility Criteria as specified in Schedule I, pursuant to which the sportspersons of outstanding merit rosters shall be populated.

(2) Any person seeking to submit an application to be a sportsperson of outstanding merit shall satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria as specified in the Sportspersons of outstanding merit Eligibility Rules under Schedule I, and submit an application within a period of sixty days from the issuance of the call for applications, to the relevant National Sports Body, in such form and containing such information as may be specified by the relevant Executive Committee or in the bye-laws of such National Sports Body.

6. Roster of sportspersons of outstanding merit. — (1) On consideration of applications made under sub-rule (2) of rule 5, every National Sports Body shall prepare a roster of male sportspersons of outstanding merit and a roster of female sportspersons of outstanding merit, in respect of the designated sport concerning such body at least ninety days prior to the expiry of the term of such National Sports Body's incumbent Executive Committee.

(2) The roster of male sportspersons of outstanding merit and roster of female sportspersons of outstanding merit shall each include ten times the number of male sportspersons of outstanding merit or female sportspersons of outstanding merit, as the case may be, in the General Body of such National Sports Body.

(3) The National Sports Body shall adhere to the following procedure while populating the relevant sportspersons of outstanding merit roster, as applicable for male sportspersons of outstanding merit and female sportspersons of outstanding merit, namely :-

(a) in the first instance, all applicants who satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria and Tier 1 of the Tiered Eligibility Criteria set forth in Schedule I, shall be included in the relevant sportspersons of outstanding merit roster;

(b) in the event that the sportspersons of outstanding merit roster, pursuant to clause (a), cannot be populated to meet the threshold specified in sub-rule (2), the National Sports Body shall include such applicants who satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria and the Tiered Eligibility Criteria in the Tier level immediately following the level last considered, in a sequential manner, until the number of applicants included in the relevant sportspersons of outstanding merit roster satisfies such threshold;



(c) where the number of sportspersons of outstanding merit, pursuant to the use of a particular Tier, exceeds the threshold specified in sub-rule (2), then the eldest applicant by age shall receive preference and priority in selection from among the group of candidates qualifying under such Tier; and

(d) where the National Sports Body is unable to populate the relevant sportspersons of outstanding merit roster to meet the threshold specified under sub-rule (2) based on the steps under clauses (a) to (c), it may issue another call for applications in accordance with sub-rule (1) of rule 5 or frame and adopt additional tiered criteria for such sportspersons of outstanding merit roster, which shall be based on the principles used in Schedule I.

(4) The sportspersons of outstanding merit rosters, as finalised in accordance with this rule, shall be published on the official website of the relevant National Sports Body and submitted to the National Sports Board.

(5) Any person appearing on a sportspersons of outstanding merit roster shall be considered a sportsperson of outstanding merit in respect of such National Sports Body for the purposes of the Act and the rules thereunder.

CHAPTER 3

GENERAL BODY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7. Composition of the General Body. — (1) The General Body of every National Sports Body shall have the following categories of members, namely:-

(a) at least four sportspersons of outstanding merit;

(b) *ex officio* members as specified in the bye-laws of the National Olympic Committee in the case of the National Olympic Committee;

(c) in the case of the National Olympic Committee, representatives of each National Sports Federation registered as an affiliate unit with the National Sports Board;

(d) in case of a National Sports Body other than the National Olympic Committee, representatives of each State level affiliate unit registered with the National Sports Board; and

(e) any other category of persons as may be provided by the bye-laws of a National Sports Body, in accordance with the relevant International Charters and Statutes as issued by the International Olympic Committee, or as required by the relevant International Sports Body.

(2) The election or nomination of sportspersons of outstanding merit to the General Body, as specified under clause (a) of sub-rule (1), shall be undertaken at least seventy-five days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee of the relevant National Sports Body.

8. Term of office and composition of the Executive Committee. — (1) The term of office of an Executive Committee of each National Sports Body as determined by the bye-laws of the relevant body, shall not exceed four years.

(2) The bye-laws of a National Sports Body specifying its composition shall ensure that at least one of the sportspersons of outstanding merit on the Executive Committee and one of the representatives from the Athletes Committee on the Executive Committee, shall be a woman.

(3) Every National Sports Body may, through its bye-laws, reserve specific posts for women in the Executive Committee, to ensure compliance with the first proviso to clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act.

9. Procedure governing election to Executive Committee. — (1) The election to all Elected Posts in the Executive Committee shall be conducted at least once every four years, in a fair and transparent manner and in accordance with the Election Rules in Schedule II.



(2) Unless otherwise specified in the International Charters and Statutes, the Executive Committee shall, by resolution, appoint an Electoral Officer from the National Sports Election Panel, at least sixty days prior to the expiry of such Executive Committee's term, for the preparation of the electoral roll and conduct of elections to the Executive Committee and to the Athletes Committee.

(3) The Executive Committee shall, in consultation with the Electoral Officer appointed under sub-rule (2), notify the date for elections, at least fifty days prior to the expiry of such Executive Committee's term.

(4) The Electoral Officer shall be responsible for ensuring smooth conduct of the elections to the Executive Committee of the National Sports Body in compliance with the Election Rules under Schedule II.

(5) The National Sports Body shall provide the requisite number of administrative staff as specified by the Electoral Officer to assist such officer to conduct the elections to the Executive Committee.

(6) The National Sports Body shall adhere to the timelines specified in these rules and as summarised below in order to conduct an election for its Executive Committee:

Rule/Clause	Event	Timeline
Rule 5(2)	Submission of application to be a sportsperson of outstanding merit	Within sixty days of the call for applications under sub-rule (1) of rule 5.
Rule 6(1)	Preparation of a roster of male sportspersons of outstanding merit and a roster of female sportspersons of outstanding merit	At least ninety days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Rule 7(2)	Election or nomination of sportspersons of outstanding merit to the General Body	At least seventy-five days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Rule 9(2)	Appointment of an Electoral Officer	At least sixty days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Rule 9(3)	Notification of election date	At least fifty days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Rule 10(5)	Preparation and release of draft electoral roll	At least forty-five days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Clause 5(i) of Schedule II	Call for elections, release of final electoral roll and invitation for nominations	At least thirty days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.

10. Election to the Executive Committee. — (1) Unless otherwise specified in the International Charters and Statutes, any person who meets the eligibility criteria under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Act and is not subject to disqualification under rule 11 may contest for election to the Executive Committee of a National Sports Body.

(2) Members of the General Body of the National Olympic Committee as specified under sub-rule (1) of rule 7, shall be eligible to vote for the election to its Executive Committee as specified below, namely:-

(a) every individual sportsperson of outstanding merit shall have one vote;
(b) every individual *ex officio* member shall have one vote;
(c) every National Sports Federation that is registered with the National Sports Board as an affiliate unit of the National Olympic Committee, shall have a maximum of two votes, to be exercised by separate individual representatives of such affiliate unit; and
(d) for any category of persons specified under clause (e) of sub-rule (1) of rule 7, one vote for each such person.

(3) Members of the General Body of a National Sports Body other than the National Olympic Committee, as specified under sub-rule (1) of rule 7, shall be eligible to vote for the election to its Executive Committee as specified below, namely:-

(a) every individual sportsperson of outstanding merit shall have one vote;
(b) every State level affiliate unit of the National Sports Body that is registered with the National Sports Board, shall have a maximum of two votes, to be exercised by separate individual representatives of such affiliate unit; and
(c) for any category of persons specified under clause (e) of sub-rule (1) of rule 7, one vote for each such person.

(4) The electoral roll for an election to the Executive Committee shall consist of only such members or their representatives in the General Body of the relevant National Sports Body that have voting rights as per sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3), as the case may be, and are not otherwise disqualified under the provisions of the Act or these rules.

(5) The draft electoral roll for the election shall be prepared and released by the Electoral Officer in consultation with the then current Executive Committee of the National Sports Body, at least forty-five days prior to the expiry of the term of such Executive Committee:

Provided that the Electoral Officer's decision shall be final and binding in respect of the inclusion or non-inclusion, as the case may be, of any person on the electoral roll.

(6) The Electoral Officer shall provide for at least seven days from the release of the draft electoral roll, to receive and respond to any objections regarding the composition of the final electoral roll.

11. Disqualifications. — (1) A person shall be disqualified from being a member of the General Body, or of any committee of a National Sports Body, and shall not be eligible for contesting for election to the Executive Committee or the Athletes Committee, if such person is-

(a) declared insolvent under applicable law; or
(b) subject to a conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction in India for an offence, followed by a sentence of imprisonment; or
(c) subject to a ban from holding any such position by an order of the Ethics Committee of such National Sports Body:

Provided that the disqualification in respect of -

(i) clause (a) shall be for the period of insolvency as applicable;
(ii) clause (b) shall be for a period of one full term of the Executive Committee after the completion of such sentence; and
(iii) clause (c) shall be for the duration of such ban.

(2) The bye-laws of a National Sports Body may provide that, in addition to the criteria specified under sub-rule (1), a person shall be disqualified from -

(a) being a member of the General Body or of any committee of such National Sports Body, or shall not be eligible for contesting elections to the Executive Committee or the Athletes Committee, if such person is a member of any other National Sports Body other than the National Olympic Committee; and
(b) being a member of the General Body or of any committee of such National Sports Body, where such person has not completed the cooling off period of one term after having held the position of President, Secretary General or Treasurer in any other National Sports Body.



CHAPTER 4

NATIONAL SPORTS ELECTION PANEL

12. Roster of the National Sports Election Panel. — (1)The National Sports Board shall maintain a roster of the National Sports Election Panel as notified under sub-section (1) of section 16 of the Act.

(2) The roster of the National Sports Election Panel shall at all times contain at least twenty members who satisfy the qualifications specified under sub-section (1) of Section 16 of the Act.

(3) The roster of the National Sports Election Panel shall be a public document within the meaning of section 74 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023).

13. Fees payable to Electoral Officers. — In respect of each election, the National Sports Body shall, on the basis of mutual agreement with the Electoral Officer, pay a maximum amount of rupees five lakhs as fees, along with fees of a mutually agreed amount for an assistant to such officer, if any.

CHAPTER 5
ATHLETES COMMITTEES, ETHICS COMMITTEES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEES

14. Provisions concerning Committees in bye-laws of National Olympic Committee. —The bye-laws of the National Olympic Committee shall include provisions concerning the constitution, operation and procedures of an Athletes Committee, an Ethics Committee and a Dispute Resolution Committee, which shall -

(a) be in compliance with such guidelines as may be specified in the International Charters and Statutes; and
(b) in the absence of guidelines under clause (a), be guided by the model guidelines or regulations that may be specified by the National Sports Board from time to time.

15. Provisions concerning Committees in bye-laws of National Sports Bodies. — The bye-laws of each National Sports Body, other than the National Olympic Committee, shall include provisions concerning the constitution, operation and procedures of an Athletes Committee, Ethics Committee, and Dispute Resolution Committee, which shall -

(a) be in compliance with such guidelines as may be specified in the International Charters and Statutes;
(b) in the case of National Sports Bodies other than the National Olympic Committee, such guidelines as may be specified by the National Olympic Committee; and
(c) in the absence of guidelines under clauses (a) and (b), be guided by the model guidelines or regulations that may be specified by the National Sports Board from time to time.

CHAPTER 6

REGIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

16. Affiliation to be maintained by Regional Sports Federations. — (1) Every Regional Sports Federation shall have an international recognition and affiliation of the concerned International Sports Body, unless a designated sport does not have an International Sports Body.

(2) Where there is more than one International Sports Body for the same sport, or where more than one Regional Sports Federation applies for recognition, the National Sports Board may take a decision on the matter of affiliation and recognition, based on reasons to be recorded in writing.

CHAPTER 7
AFFILIATE UNITS

17. Registration of affiliate units. — (1) Every National Sports Body shall facilitate the registration of each of its affiliate units with the National Sports Board subject to submission of the information and documents as set forth below, and in such form and manner as be specified by the National Sports Board from time to time:-

(a) copy of the certificate of affiliation issued by the National Sports Body in respect of such affiliate unit;
(b) copy of certificate of registration as a society, not-for-profit company or trust, as the case may be, under applicable laws;
(c) names and designations of all members of the governing body of the affiliate unit, by whatever name called; and
(d) any other information, as may be specified by the National Sports Board for the purposes of discharging its functions under the Act.

(2) Every affiliate unit of a National Sports Body shall ensure compliance with sub-rule (1) and further ensure registration of each of its affiliate units, with the National Sports Board, and the provisions of sub-rule (1) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to each such unit.

(3) Every affiliate unit registered with the National Sports Board shall communicate any change in the information provided to such Board within a period of thirty days of such change.

CHAPTER 8

MISCELLANEOUS

18. Miscellaneous

(1) Every National Sports Body shall, within a period of six months, amend its bye-laws in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

(2) The Central Government may, on receipt of the application from a National Sports Body, relax the provisions of these rules for a period of twelve months from the commencement of these rules and reasons for such relaxation to be recorded in writing.

SCHEDULE I

(See rules 5 and 6)

SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. General Eligibility Criteria. — Any person seeking to be designated as a sportsperson of outstanding merit shall be -

(a) an Indian citizen;
(b) of sound mind;
(c) not less than twenty-five years of age; and
(d) retired from active sports and should have not participated in any competitive sport event which leads to selection to represent a district, State or India for at least one year prior to date of application under sub-rule (2) of rule 5.

2. Tier Eligibility Criteria. — (1) In case of applicants seeking inclusion to the sportspersons of outstanding merit roster of the National Olympic Committee, such applicant shall have achieved the milestone in the relevant Tier in an Olympic discipline only, while representing India.

(2) In case of applicants seeking inclusion to the sportspersons of outstanding merit roster of the National Paralympic Committee, such applicant shall have achieved the milestone in the relevant Tier in a Para-Olympic discipline only, while representing India.

(3) In case of applicants seeking inclusion to the sportspersons of outstanding merit rosters of any National Sports Body other than the National Olympic Committee or the National Paralympic Committee, such applicant shall have achieved the milestone in the relevant Tier in the designated sport concerning the National Sports Body only, while representing India, except in the case of Tier 10, where such applicant shall have represented a particular State.

(4) For the purposes of this Schedule, —

(a) References to "Summer Olympic Games", "Winter Olympic Games", "Commonwealth Games", "Asian Games" and "Asian Winter Games" in any of the Tiers below shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to "Summer Paralympic Games", "Winter Paralympic Games", "Para events that form a part of the Commonwealth Games", "Para-Asian Games" and "Winter edition of the Para-Asian Games (if any)";

(b) References to "sanctioned" refers to any competitive international event or match organised under the auspices, approval and sanctioning power of a relevant International Sports Body.

Tier 1

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal in the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games, provided that any medal if rescinded, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit, under this Tier.

Tier 2

Applicants who have participated in two or more editions of the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.



Tier 3

Applicants who have participated in at least one edition of the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.

Tier 4

Applicants who have been awarded a Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or an Arjuna Award by the Central Government, provided that any award if rescinded or returned, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit, under this Tier.

Tier 5

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing, in a World Championship or equivalent competition, provided that any medal if rescinded, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit, under this Tier.

Tier 6

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing, in the Commonwealth Games or Asian Games or Asian Winter Games, provided that any medal if rescinded, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit, under this Tier.

Tier 7

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing, in an Asian Championship or equivalent competition, provided that any medal if rescinded, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit, under this Tier.

Tier 8

Applicants who have participated in at least five sanctioned international events (if individual sport) or five sanctioned international matches (if team sport).

Tier 9

Applicants who have participated in at least one sanctioned international event (if individual sport) or one sanctioned international match (if team sport).

Tier 10

Applicants who have who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing in the National Games or a National Championship or equivalent competition.



SCHEDULE II

(See rule 9)

ELECTION RULES

1. Definitions and Interpretation

(i) In these Election Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "candidate" shall mean any candidate contesting for Election to an Elected Post;
(b) "election" shall mean an election conducted in accordance with these Election Rules for an Elected Post;
(c) "general meeting" shall mean a meeting of all members of the General Body of a National Sports Body, that is called and conducted in accordance with such National Sports Body's bye-laws; and
(d) "nomination" shall mean the process through which a candidate formally submits such candidate's interest to contest for an Election to an Elected Post in accordance with these Election Rules.

(ii) Any terms used in these Election Rules but not defined herein, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Act and the Rules.

2. Scope and Applicability

(i) These Election Rules apply to all Elections in the National Sports Body.
(ii) Any candidate, voting member or other participant in the election shall also be subject to the Act, and the National Sports Body's Code of Ethics if he is not otherwise already bound and covered by the same.

3. Conduct of Elections

(i) Elections shall generally take place at the Annual General Meeting of the National Sports Body and, where so required may also take place at a specially convened general meeting.
(ii) Elections shall always be by secret ballot.

4. Electoral Officer

(i) The Electoral Officer shall be responsible for supervising the administrative process relating to the elections, including,-
(a) ensuring the correct application of the Act, and these rules;
(b) setting reasonable deadlines for each stage of the elections in accordance with the model calendar provided under clause 5 of this Schedule, and enforcing such deadlines strictly;
(c) determining and distributing the appropriate documentation and forms, including nomination forms and ballot papers, for each stage of the elections and enforcing and verifying their proper use;
(d) distributing information to voting members, other members, the media and public;
(e) managing relations with government bodies or the National Sports Board and any observers as deputed by the National Sports Board;
(f) causing the publication of all notifications and forms concerning the elections on the official websites of the National Sports Body, the National Sports Board and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and
(g) all other tasks necessary to ensure the smooth running of the electoral process.



(ii) The Electoral Officer may, only for reasons of practical necessity, modify the forms appended to this Schedule, while ensuring that the principles of this Schedule are adhered to.

5. Calling elections and the electoral roll

(i) Elections shall be called by the National Sports Body's Executive Committee in consultation with the Electoral Officer, at least thirty days prior to the expiry of such Executive Committee's term, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the National Sports Body's constitutional documents and shall be included in the agenda of the applicable general meeting.

(ii) The call for elections shall contain, at a minimum, the following:
  (a) the name of the Electoral Officer;
  (b) the final electoral roll prepared and released by the Electoral Officer pursuant to sub-rule (6) of rule 10 and in accordance with **Form 1** appended to these Election Rules.
  (c) the Elected Posts that are the subject of such Elections and any pre-requisites or qualifications for Candidates to contest such Elected Posts;
  (d) an invitation to file for nominations for Elected Posts by interested Candidates;
  (e) the nomination form to be submitted by interested Candidates which shall be in accordance with **Form 2** appended to these Election Rules; and
  (f) the electoral calendar which shall be in accordance with the model calendar specified in sub-clause (iii) below:

(iii) The Electoral Officer shall conduct the Elections in accordance with the following model calendar:

Event	Day
Call for Elections, invitation for nominations and release of final electoral roll	Day 1
Filing of nominations	Day 8 to Day10
Announcement of draft list of nominations received	Day 10
Objections to draft list of nominated candidates	Day 11 to Day 14
Scrutiny and disposal of objections to Draft list of nominated candidates	Day 15 to Day 16
Final list of nominated candidates	Day 17
Withdrawal of nominations	Day 18
Final list of contesting candidates	Day 19
Polling and announcement of results	Day 21

(iv) The Electoral Officer may, only for reasons of practical necessity, modify the model calendar specified in sub-clause (iii), while ensuring that the elections are completed within a maximum period of twenty-one days.

6. Nominations

(i) The nomination of a candidate for election shall be proposed and seconded by persons on the electoral roll.

(ii) Every nomination form shall be delivered to the Electoral Officer in person by the candidate himself within the deadline specified.

(iii) No member shall nominate more than one candidate for the same Elected Post, either as proposer or seconder and, if he so does, only the first valid nomination shall be accepted, and all other nominations of such member, shall be deemed to be void and inoperative.

(iv) No person shall be permitted to withdraw his name as proposer or seconder, once the nomination form endorsed by him has been delivered to the Electoral Officer.

(v) The Electoral Officer shall prepare a list of all nominations received by him, Elected Post-wise in accordance with **Form 3** appended to these Election Rules.

7. Scrutiny and Finalisation of Nominations

(i) The Electoral Officer shall scrutinise each nomination form received by him and determine its validity or otherwise as per the Act, rules made thereunder, the National Sports Body's bye-laws.

(ii) During the scrutiny of nominations under sub-clause (i), each Candidate or one of his authorised representatives shall have the right to be present and raise any objection in relation to nomination of another Candidate for the Elected Post for which he has filed his nomination.

(iii) Pursuant to the scrutiny of nomination forms, the Electoral Officer shall prepare a list of validly nominated candidates in accordance with **Form 4** appended to these Election Rules.

(iv) Every candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny shall be entitled to withdraw his candidature prior to the commencement of the Election by providing notice to the Electoral Officer in accordance with **Form 5** appended to these Election Rules, and the Electoral Officer shall accept the notice of withdrawal if he is satisfied as to the genuineness of such notice.

(v) Any notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled.

(vi) The Electoral Officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates in accordance with **Form 6** of these Election Rules.

(vii) The National Sports Body shall produce the ballot papers in accordance with **Form 7** appended to these Election Rules under the supervision and charge of the Electoral Officer.

(viii) The ballot papers shall be printed clearly and legibly, and the names of the contesting candidates shall be arranged, for each Elected Post, in alphabetical order according to the english alphabet.

8. Campaign Practices

(i) Electoral campaigns shall be carried out by the candidates in a fair manner and, in a spirit of respect for fundamental ethical principles.

(ii) Candidates shall conduct all campaigns with dignity and moderation and with respect for any other candidates, the National Sports Body and its members.

(iii) A Candidate shall not produce any spoken word, written text or representation of any nature likely to harm the image of another candidate or cause him prejudice, and criticism of other candidates, if made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work.

(iv) No Candidate shall engage in criticism based on unverified allegations or distortion against any other Candidate, and there shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.

(v) Every Candidate may present to the members in the electoral roll, his plans and views for the Elected Post, in the form of a written document, which shall be published by the Electoral Officer in accordance with clause 4 (i) (g) of these Election Rules.

(vi) Candidates shall avoid excessive expenditure in campaigning, recognising that it could become a factor of inequality amongst the candidates.

(vii) The promotion of a candidate shall exclude any form of publicity, including the use of new media or social networks, and no public meeting or gathering of any kind may be organised in the process of promoting a candidature, and no use, free of charge or in return for payment, of the services of a journalist or the media may be made in order to place a candidate at an advantage or a disadvantage.

(viii) All candidates shall scrupulously avoid all activities that are "corrupt practices", including bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters.

(ix) Candidates may, in no case and under no pretext, give presents, offer donations, gifts or grant advantages of whatever nature, directly or indirectly, to voting members.

(x) The incumbent Executive Committee member, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that they have used their official position for the purposes of their election campaign and in particular shall not -

(a) use official transport including, vehicles, machinery and personnel for furtherance of their campaign;

(b) issue any advertisement at the cost of the National Sports Body or its members in the newspapers and other media or misuse the National Sports Body's official media channels during the elections;

(c) sanction grants or payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced; and



(d) enter into any promise or undertaking to be performed, whatever the timing of such performance, for the direct or indirect benefit of any of the National Sports Body's members or its partners.

9. Neutrality and Independence

(i) As the voting is secret, voting members are prohibited individually or collectively, from announcing publicly, in any form whatsoever, their intention to vote or not vote for a candidate.

(ii) Incumbent Executive Committee members shall refrain from making any public declaration and may in no way support a candidate.

(iii) Candidates shall not -

(a) accept instructions from any person;

(b) accept direct or indirect assistance, be it financial, material or in kind, by any third party, or

(c) enter into any form of undertaking with any person likely to affect the freedom of decision or action of the Elected Post.

(iv) The National Sports Body's executive team and administration shall maintain a strict duty of neutrality at all times, and no support or service in relation to a candidature may be requested from any member of the National Sports Body's administration or staff.

10. Polling

(i) Where the number of contesting candidates for any Elected Post or category of Elected Post is equal to the number of Elected Posts to be filled, all such contesting candidates shall be deemed to be duly elected unopposed to those Elected Posts, and it shall not be necessary to take a poll for election to such Elected Post.

(ii) Where the number of contesting candidates for any Elected Post or category of Elected Post is more than the number of Elected Posts to be filled, a poll shall be taken by secret ballot for those Elected Posts remaining unfilled.

(iii) At the poll, members who are in the electoral roll, shall be entitled to,-

(a) cast one vote for each of the Elected Posts remaining unfilled, where only one such seat is to be filled; and

(b) cast as many votes as are the number of seats to be filled for an Elected Post, where more than one seat is to be filled.

(iv) The ballot papers shall contain the name(s) of the Candidate(s), and the voters must mark one candidate only.

(v) Every voter shall be required, before he is supplied with a ballot paper, to give his signature on the authenticated copy of the electoral roll for taking the poll.

(vi) Except for the circumstance under sub-clause (i), a secret ballot shall always be conducted, regardless of how many candidates there are, and the secrecy of the ballot shall be guaranteed by the provision of a procedure ensuring privacy for the voter, and the Electoral Officer shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers and be responsible for ensuring that the process is properly documented.

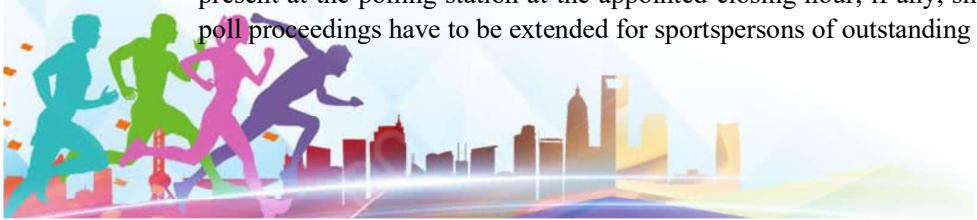
(vii) Voting members must vote in person where required.

(viii) The voter shall record his vote on the ballot paper in secrecy in a voting compartment specially provided for the purpose at the polling station.

(ix) The voter shall record his vote on the ballot paper by placing a tick mark against the name of the candidate of his choice, and the tick mark to indicate the vote shall be placed by the voter only by means of an article (such as a stamp) specifically provided for the purpose by the Electoral Officer.

(x) The ballot paper marked by a voter shall be deposited by him in a ballot box specially prepared and sealed by the Electoral Officer and placed at such a conspicuous place in the polling station that it shall be constantly visible to all present in the polling station.

(xi) The Electoral Officer shall close the poll at the designated time of closure, and such voters who are present at the polling station at the appointed closing hour, if any, shall be entitled to vote even if the poll proceedings have to be extended for sportspersons of outstanding merit more time.



(xii) The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the Electoral Officer before the commencement of the voting, and if the number of ballot papers returned in the poll is equal to or less than the number of ballot papers distributed, the Election shall be declared valid, but if the number returned in the poll exceeds that of the ballot papers distributed, the vote shall be declared null and void and another poll shall be taken immediately.

11. Counting of Votes

(i) The Electoral Officer shall take up the counting of votes, post-wise and category-wise, as soon as may be, after the polling process is complete.

(ii) Every contesting candidate can nominate one authorised representative who shall be entitled to be present at the place of counting of votes, and other than such authorised representative, only the Electoral Officer and members of the National Sports Body's executive or administrative team, as specifically approved by the Electoral Officer, may take part in the count.

(iii) Every ballot paper on which a vote has been recorded shall be treated as one vote for the candidate for whom it has been validly marked.

(iv) The following ballot papers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected by the Electoral Officer, namely:-

(a) those that do not bear the official distinctive marks defined by the Electoral Officer;
(b) those that bear any words other than the names of the candidates;
(c) those that are illegible or have been defaced;
(d) those that bear identifying marks; and
(e) those that include votes for more candidates than permitted in a particular poll.

(v) The Electoral Officer shall write on the back of any invalid ballot paper, in red, the reasons for its invalidity and confirm with a signature.

(vi) The votes validly cast for each of the contesting candidates shall be counted post-wise, and category-wise where applicable, and recorded in the descending order of the votes so cast for each candidate in accordance with **Form 8** appended to these Election Rules.

(vii) The Electoral Officer shall thereafter ascertain the result of counting and the candidates who have secured the maximum number of votes in the said descending order, post-wise and category wise, where applicable, equal to the number of seats to be filled for each Elected Post or category of Elected Posts, where applicable, shall be deemed to have been duly elected to those Elected Posts.

(viii) After completing and verifying the count, the Electoral Officer shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately, and the National Sports Body shall keep these envelopes and shall retain them atleast until the declaration of results of the immediately subsequent Election of the Executive Committee, or till the pendency of any legal proceedings relating to such Elections, whichever is later.

12. Declaration of Results

(i) Once the count has been completed and verified, the names of contesting candidates who shall be deemed to have been elected at the Elections shall be declared by the Electoral Officer at the general meeting.

(ii) The results of the election shall be declared in accordance with **Form 9** appended to these Election Rules, and published on the National Sports Body's official website within twenty-four hours of completion thereof.

(iii) If, after the counting of the votes, an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates, and the addition of one vote will entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected, the Electoral Officer shall forthwith decide between those candidates by lot, and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.

13. Sanctions and Complaints



(i) All administrative matters relating to any election not covered by the Act, these rules or the National Sports Body's bye-laws shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Officer.

(ii) In the event of a breach of these Election Rules, the Electoral Officer may refer the same to the National Sports Body's Ethics Committee, who may make to the candidate in question:
   (a) observations, which may be made public; or
   (b) issue a warning, which will be automatically made public on the National Sports Body's official website.

(iii) If a candidate or a voting member has any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections he may bring the same to the notice of the Electoral Officer.

(iv) Any decision by the Electoral Officer under these rules shall be final and binding, and any petition to the National Sports Tribunal relating to conduct or outcome of election shall be limited to only any violation of the provisions relating to the process of conduct of election under this Schedule:

Provided that no such petition may be filed after a period of thirty days from the declaration of results of any election.

Form 1 – Electoral Roll

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

Affiliate Units			
Sl. No	Affiliate Unit Name	Election Representative Name	
Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit			
	Name		
	Name		
	Name		

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:



Form 2 – Nomination Form

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

NOMINATION FORM FOR

ELECTION AS _____(NAME OF THE ELECTED POST)

To

The Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]
[*Insert Address*]

We nominate Shri/Smt./Ms._____ _____ (name and address) for the above-mentioned Elected Post.

Our particulars are given below:-

	Name	Name of Affiliate Unit Represented (if applicable)	Sl. No in the Electoral Roll List	Signature
Proposer				
Seconder				

I, the candidate below named, do hereby give my assent to my nomination for the above Elected Post. Further, I certify and confirm that-

(a) I am eligible to contest for the above-mentioned Elected Post as per the bye-laws of [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]; and

(b) I am not currently undergoing, and am not required to undergo any cooling off period in relation to the above mentioned Elected Post or barred from contesting for such Elected Post, as per the bye-laws of [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*], the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 or the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2025 or under applicable law.

(c) The information provided in the declaration appended to this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Name of the Candidate _____

Name of Affiliate Unit Represented (if applicable) _____ Sl.

No. in the Electoral Roll list (if applicable)_____

Signature _____

Date:

Place:

Form 3 – List of Nominations Received

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

Sl. No.	Name, and Address of Candidate	Elected Post	Name and Sl. No. in Electoral Roll List of Proposer	Name and Sl. No. in Electoral Roll List of Seconder

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:



Form 4 – List of Validly Nominated Candidates

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

Sl. No.	Name, and Address of Candidate	Elected Post	Name and Sl. No. in Electoral Roll List of Proposer	Name and Sl. No. in Electoral Roll List of Seconder

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:

Form 5 – Notice of Withdrawal

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE FOR ELECTION AS (NAME OF THE ELECTED POST)

To

The Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]
[Insert Address]

I, the validly nominated candidate, do hereby give my notice of withdrawal of candidature for the above Elected Post.

Name of the Candidate _____

Name of Affiliate Unit Represented (if applicable) _____ Sl.

No. in the Electoral Roll list (if applicable) _____

Signature _____



Place:

Date:

Form 6 – List of Contesting Candidates

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

Sl. No.	Elected Post	Name of Candidate	Name of Affiliate Unit Represented (if applicable)	Sl. No. in Electoral Roll List (if applicable)

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:

Form 7 – Ballot Paper

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

Elected Post	Name(s) of Candidate	Mark vote here by placing tick mark (□)

(1) Place a tick mark (□) against the name of only one (1) contesting Candidate for the respective Elected Post.



(2) DO NOT place any other mark like (x) or work against the name of any Candidate as that shall render your ballot paper liable for rejection.

(3) Place a tick mark on the ballot paper with the article specially provided by the Electoral Officer for the purpose. Any ballot paper marker with any other pen, ball point pen, etc shall render your ballot paper liable for rejection.

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:

Form 8 – Result of Counting of Votes

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

Name of Post	Total Votes Polled	Total Votes Rejected	Name of Candidate	Valid Votes Polled
President (1)			1.	
			2.	
			3.	
Honorary Secretary (1)			1.	
			2.	
			3.	
Honorary Treasurer (1)			1.	
			2.	
			3.	
Male Sportsperson(s) of Outstanding Merit (Insert Number)			1.	
			2.	
			3.	
Female Sportsperson (s) of Outstanding Merit (Insert Number)			1.	
			2.	
			3.	

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:

Name:

Observer (if present)

Form 9 – Declaration of Results

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

[*Insert Name of National Sports Body*] Elections on [*Insert Date*]

I, the Electoral Officer for the above elections, hereby declare the following candidates as duly elected to the Elected Post(s) mentioned against their name.

Elected Post	Name of Candidate
President (1)	
Honorary Secretary (1)	
Honorary Treasurer (1)	
Male Sportsperson(s) of Outstanding Merit (Insert Number)	
Female Sportsperson (s) of Outstanding Merit (Insert Number)	

Name:

Electoral Officer, [*Insert Name of National Sports Body*]

Date:

Place:

Name:
Observer (if present)

[F. No. 12-12/2025-Governance-1]

KUNAL, Jt Secy.

Uploaded by Dte. of Printing at Government of India Press, Ring Road, Mayapuri, New Delhi-110064
and Published by the Controller of Publications, Delhi-110054.

GORAKHA NATH YADAVA
Digitally signed by GORAKHA NATH YADAVA
Date: 2026.01.12 16:25:05 +05'30'

No. 12-12/2025- Gov.-1 (Part)
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

Hall No. 103, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003 Dated-
28th January, 2026

To

The President / Secretary General
All recognised National Sports Federations.

Subject: National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and Rules made thereunder- reg.

Sir/Madam,

It is informed that the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, enacted by Parliament and having received the assent of the President on 18.08.2025, has entered the phase of implementation and operationalisation.

2. In this regard, the Central Government has notified the following in exercise of powers conferred under the Act:

(i) Notification dated 31.12.2025 bringing select provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 into force with effect from 01.01.2026.
(ii) National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026, notified on 08.01.2026.
(iii) National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, notified on 12.01.2026.

Copies of the Act, the Notification and the Rules are available on the website of the Ministry and are also enclosed for reference.

3. The Act and the Rules made thereunder lay down a statutory framework relating to governance standards, recognition, compliance requirements, ethical conduct, and institutional accountability within the sports ecosystem.

4. All recognised National Sports Federations are required to adhere to the notified provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, as well as the associated Rules. NSFs must take all necessary steps to align their constitutions or bye-laws, institutional processes, and operations with this statutory framework within the stipulated timelines. Uniform and consistent compliance is essential to ensure an orderly and efficient transition to the governance structure established by the Act.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

(Tarun Pareek)
Under Secretary to the Government of India

Encls: As above

Copy to:

1. President, Indian Olympic Association
2. Director General, Sports Authority of India
3. Director (Gov-1) / Director (Gov-2)

