

Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

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Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi
10 October, 2024

Pre Legislative Consultation

Draft National Sports Governance Bill, 2024

Draft National Sports Governance Bill, 2024 is placed in public domain for inviting comments/suggestions of general public and the stakeholders, as part of pre-legislative consultation process. Suggestions/comments may be sent through email by **25th October 2024** (Friday), to the Ministry preferably by email at email id draft.sportsbill@gov.in, or by post to the below mentioned address:

SP-III Section,
Department of Sports,
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
Hall No. 103, Stairs 1,
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

(DRAFT) NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE BILL, 2024

A

BILL

TO provide for the development and promotion of sports, welfare measures for sportspersons, ethical practices in sports, and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, through good governance practices;

AND in furtherance thereof, to establish institutional capacity and prudential standards for the governance of sports federations that are 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 establish measures for the resolution of sports grievances and sports disputes in a unified, equitable and effective manner.

WHEREAS the Olympic Charter and the Paralympic Charter emphasize impeccable ethical behaviour in sports governance, the embodying principles of which are to be duly incorporated into the constitutional documents and practices of the National Olympic Committee, the National Paralympic Committee and National Sports Federations to align them with global governance standards.

AND WHEREAS the Government of India recognizes the important public functions discharged by sports federations in the country and the need 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 sports federations in the country in line with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the Paralympic Charter;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India recognizes 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 the Parliament in the Seventy Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement

- (1) This Bill may be called the National Sports Governance Bill, 2024.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India.
- (3) 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 coming into force of different provisions of this Bill, and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Bill shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. Definitions. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “Appellate Sports Tribunal” means the tribunal established under Chapter X of this Bill;
- (b) “Athletes Commission” means a body of sportspersons for the NOC, NPC and a NSF, as constituted under Chapter VI of this Bill;
- (c) “CEO” means chief executive officer;
- (d) “constitution” means the memorandum of association or articles of association or bye-laws as the case may be of the NOC, the NPC, a NSF or their Voting Members.
- (e) “Designated Office Bearer” means any person who holds the office of President, Secretary General/Secretary or Treasurer and may include any other post notified by the Central Government in the relevant registered sports federation hereunder and further, there will be balance of powers and responsibilities among different functionaries; the President shall be the head of the body and shall preside over the meeting of General Assembly and Executive Committee, the Secretary shall be the executive officer and shall carry out all decisions of the Assembly and Council, the Treasurer shall be custodian of funds/accounts;
- (f) “EC Member” means a person duly elected or nominated as a member of the EC and shall include Designated Office Bearers;
- (g) “dispute resolution commission” means the grievance redressal and dispute resolution commission formed by the NOC, the NPC or a NSF for resolution of disputes and redressal of grievances relating to efficient functioning, election of EC Members, representative character of the General Body,

protection of interest of sportspersons, promotion of the sport, maintenance and audit of accounts, moving of no confidence resolutions and connected internal management matters; in absence of the dispute resolution commission of NSF, the same will be discharged by the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission;

- (h) “ethics commission” means a commission formed by the NOC, the NPC or a NSF to address any ethical issues including, without limitation, corruption and conflict of interest involving any of its EC Members, General Body Members, representatives of Voting Members, officials or delegates; ; in absence of the ethics commission of NSF, the same will be discharged by the NOC Ethics Commission;
- (i) “Executive Committee” or “EC” means the duly elected executive committee or equivalent governing body which collectively manages and controls the affairs of the NOC, NPC, a NSF or their Voting Members as the case may be;
- (j) “General Assembly” or “General Body” means the body of all voting members of the registered sports federation hereunder;
- (k) “Individual Member” means with respect to the NOC or the NPC, any individual person recognised as a member with voting rights on the General Body of the NOC or the NPC;
- (l) “International Olympic Committee” or “IOC” means the governing body for the Olympic Games;
- (m) “International Paralympic Committee” or “IPC” means the governing body for the Paralympic Games;
- (n) “International Federation” means:
 - (i) a federation recognized as such by the IOC in respect of an Olympic sport; or
 - (ii) a federation recognized as such by the IPC in respect of a Paralympic sport; or
 - (iii) a federation which regulates the sport at international level in respect of non-Olympic or non-Paralympic sports;
- (o) “National Games” means the multi-disciplinary inter-State sports competition organised by the NOC at the all-India level;
- (p) “National Olympic Committee” or “NOC” means the multi-sport

organisation in the country which is recognised as the ‘National Olympic Committee’ of India by the IOC and the Sports Regulatory Board of India pursuant to this Bill;

- (q) “National Paralympic Committee” or “NPC” means the Paralympic multi-sport organisation in the country which is recognised as the ‘National Paralympic Committee’ of India by the IPC and the Sports Regulatory Board of India pursuant to this Bill;
- (r) “National Sports Federation” or “NSF” means an organisation which is established for the promotion and development of any sport and registered with and recognised as the national governing body for such sport by the Sports Regulatory Board of India hereunder this Bill;
- (s) “NOC Dispute Resolution Commission” means the dispute resolution commission of the NOC established in accordance with Chapter VIII of this Bill;
- (t) “NOC Ethics Commission” means the ethics commission of the NOC established in accordance with Chapter VII of this Bill;
- (u) “notification” means a notification published in the Official Gazette. The expression “notify” shall be construed accordingly;
- (v) “Olympic Games” means the multi-disciplinary sports competitions organised by the IOC and generally known as ‘Summer Olympic Games’ or ‘Winter Olympic Games’;
- (w) “Olympic Charter” means the Charter adopted by the IOC for the purpose of advancing the Olympic movement;
- (x) “Paralympic Charter” means the Charter adopted by the IPC for the purpose of advancing the Paralympic movement;
- (y) “Paralympic Games” means the multi-disciplinary sports competitions organised by the IPC;
- (z) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Bill;
- (aa) “public authority” means the authority as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (bb) “Regional Sports Federation” or “RSF” means an organisation which is established for the promotion and development of any sport and registered with and recognised as the regional governing body for such sport by the Sports Regulatory Board of India hereunder this Bill;

- (cc) “sportsperson” means a person who participates in a sport;
- (dd) “sportsperson of outstanding merit” or “SOM” shall mean and include a sportsperson of Indian nationality with a sound mind not less than eighteen (18) years age, who has retired from active sports (should have not participated 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 and who had achieved at least one (1) of any gold, silver or bronze medals in Olympics, Commonwealth Games or Asian Games, while representing India or in the absence of the above has been the senior national champion in that particular discipline. A medal if rescinded, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit;
- (ee) “sports competition” means any competitive sporting event organised or recognised by the IOC, or the IPC, or an International Federation, or the Commonwealth Games Federation or the Olympic Council of Asia, or the NOC, or the NPC or a NSF or such NSF’s Voting Members;
- (ff) “Sports Authority of India” means the society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for promotion of excellence in sports;
- (gg) “Sports Regulatory Board of India” means the authority designated as such under Chapter IV of this Bill; and
- (hh) “State(s)” means and include each state of the Republic of India and each of its Union Territories.
- (ii) “Voting Member” means with respect to the NOC, NPC, or a NSF, an entity that is affiliated and recognised as a member with voting rights on the General Body by the NOC, NPC or NSF;

CHAPTER II
ESTABLISHMENT AND RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE, NATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL
SPORTS FEDERATIONS

3. Establishment and Recognition of National Olympic Committee

- (1) There shall be a National Olympic Committee of India recognised by the Sports Regulatory Board of India subject to the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) The NOC shall, at all times, maintain affiliation with and recognition from the IOC as the NOC of India.

- (3) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall not grant recognition to more than one sports organization to act as the NOC.
- (4) A sports organisation seeking recognition from the Sports Regulatory Board of India as the NOC shall fulfil the following conditions:
- (a) The NOC shall be a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a not-for-profit company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 having the sole object of the development of sports.
 - (b) The NOC shall have a NOC Ethics Commission in accordance with Chapter VII of this Bill and such rules as may be prescribed.
 - (c) The NOC shall have a NOC Dispute Resolution Commission in accordance with Chapter VIII of this Bill and such rules as may be prescribed.
 - (d) The NOC shall comply with all requirements applicable to it under this Bill and such additional eligibility criteria for recognition as may be prescribed by the Central Government under this Bill and shall ensure that its constitution incorporates and complies with all the requirements specified in this Bill as applicable to it and any rules prescribed by the Central Government in relation thereto from time to time.
- (5) The NOC previously granted recognition as such by the Central Government, shall be granted provisional recognition upon notification of this Bill and shall, within one (1) year of notification of this Bill, duly re-incorporate or amend its constitution as necessary with the approval of its General Body to ensure that it is in full conformity with the requirements of this Bill and rules prescribed thereto.

4. Establishment and Recognition of National Paralympic Committee

- (1) There shall be a National Paralympic Committee of India recognised by the Sports Regulatory Board of India subject to the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) The NPC shall, at all times, maintain affiliation with and recognition from the IPC as the NPC of India.
- (3) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall not grant recognition to more than one sports organization to act as the NPC.
- (4) A sports organisation seeking recognition from the Sports Regulatory Board of India as the NPC shall fulfil the following conditions:
- (a) The NPC shall be a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a not-for-profit company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 having the sole object of the development of sports.

- (b) The NPC may have an ethics commission in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.
- (c) The NPC may have a dispute resolution commission in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.
- (d) The NPC shall comply with all requirements applicable to it under this Bill and such additional eligibility criteria for recognition as may be prescribed by the Central Government under this Bill and shall ensure that its constitution incorporates and complies with all the requirements specified in this Bill as applicable to it and any rules prescribed by the Central Government in relation thereto from time to time.

(5) The NPC previously granted recognition as such by the Central Government shall be granted provisional recognition upon notification of this Bill and shall, within one (1) year of notification of this Bill, duly re-incorporate or amend its constitution as necessary with the approval of its General Body to ensure that it is in full conformity with the requirements of this Bill and rules prescribed.

5. Dual Recognition as National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee

In exceptional circumstances and in the interests of Indian sport and Indian sportspersons, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may, grant recognition to a single sports organisation as both the NPC and the NOC, subject to such organisation fulfilling all the conditions applicable to the NOC and NPC as specified under this Bill and any rules prescribed.

6. Establishment and Recognition of National Sports Federations and Regional Sports Federations

- (1) There shall be a NSF capable of recognition for each sport designated by the Sports Regulatory Board of India, subject to the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall not grant recognition to more than one NSF for each sport.
- (3) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall prescribe Regulations specifying the criteria and conditions to be satisfied by a sports organisation seeking recognition as a NSF/RSF for a particular sport discipline, which Regulations shall, inter alia, require for the following:
 - (a) A NSF shall be a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a not-for-profit company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 having the sole object of the development of its sport.

- (b) If a NSF concerns an Olympic sport, it shall, at all times, maintain affiliation with and recognition from the NOC and the International Federation of the sport.
 - (c) If a NSF concerns a Paralympic sport, it shall, at all times, maintain affiliation with and recognition from the NPC and the International Federation of the sport.
 - (d) If a NSF concerns any sport other than an Olympic sport or Paralympic sport, it shall at all times, maintain affiliation with the International Federation of the sport, provided that this clause shall not apply for any NSF concerning a sport that does not have an International Federation.
 - (e) A NSF/RSF may have an ethics commission in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed,
 - (f) A NSF/RSF may have a dispute resolution commission in accordance with rules as may be prescribed,
 - (g) ANSF/RSF shall comply with all requirements applicable to it under this Bill and such additional eligibility criteria for recognition as may be prescribed by the SRBI under this Bill and ensure that its constitution incorporates all the requirements specified in this Bill as applicable to it and any rules prescribed by the Central Government in relation thereto from time to time.
- (4) ANSF/RSF previously granted recognition as such for its sport by the Central Government shall be granted provisional recognition upon notification of this Bill and shall, within one (1) year of notification of this Bill, duly re-incorporate or amend its constitution as necessary with the approval of its General Body to ensure that it is in full conformity with the requirements of this Bill and rules prescribed.

CHAPTER III
CONSTITUTIONS OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, NATIONAL
PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL SPORTS
FEDERATIONS TO CONTAIN CERTAIN PROVISIONS

7. Certain provisions to be mandatorily incorporated in the constitution of the National Olympic Committee

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the NOC shall in its constitution make the following provisions if not provided for, with respect to its governance and the conduct of its affairs, namely:
 - (a) The NOC shall provide voting rights in the General Body to only such Voting

Members who are designated as an NSF by the SRB or Individual Members as prescribed in its constitution, which constitution shall at all times remain compliant with the Olympic Charter and any other rules and regulations of the IOC.

(b) At least 10% of the General Body and Voting Members of the NOC shall be constituted by SOMs to be elected by the Athletes Commission of the NOC as representatives (half of whom shall be female representatives and half of whom shall be male representatives).

(c) The EC of the NOC shall have a maximum of fifteen (15) EC Members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (i) President: One (1)
- (ii) Vice Presidents: As specified in the constitution of the NOC
- (iii) Treasurer: One (1)
- (iv) Joint Secretaries: As specified in the constitution of the NOC
- (v) Executive Members: As specified in the constitution of the NOC
- (vi) Two (2) SOM representatives elected by Athletes Commission of the NOC (one male and one female)
- (vii) Two (2) representatives elected by Athletes Commission of the NOC (one male and one female)

Provided that all EC Members specified for the posts mentioned in sub-clauses (i) to (v) above shall be duly elected by the General Body.

Provided further that female candidates will occupy at least one (1) Vice President post and one (1) Executive Member post and a total of at least 30% of the EC members shall always be female.

Provided further that the representatives of the Athletes Commission of the NOC shall be elected or nominated to the EC, as the case may be, in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the IOC.

(d) The elections for the EC shall be conducted by secret ballot, in a fair and transparent manner, at least once in every four (4) years in accordance with the Model Election Rules as may be prescribed by the Central Government under this Bill and the elections shall be overseen by a member of the Sports Election Panel.

(e) The candidate with the highest number of votes for a particular EC Member post will be determined as the winner for such post.

(f) The eligibility criteria for every candidate contesting for election or seeking nomination as the case may be to the EC shall be the following:

- (i) any citizen of India at least 25 years of age subject only to the requirement that his/her name is duly proposed and seconded by a voting member of the NSF shall be entitled and eligible to stand for elections;
 - (ii) he/she should not have been declared of unsound mind;
 - (iii) he/she shall not exceed the age of seventy (70) years at the time of contesting the election or seeking nomination;
 - (iv) he/she shall not have been convicted or have had a negative opinion rendered by the NOC Ethics Commission as provided for in clause (i) below; and
 - (v) he/she shall not have had any pending/undisposed charges framed by any Court in India in respect of an offence for which a sentence of a period of more than 2 (two) years can be imposed; and
 - (vi) he/she shall obtain previous sanction from the Government if he is a Government servant.
- (g) An individual who has served as a Designated Office Bearer of the NOC, for more than two consecutive terms, each term not exceeding four (4) years, shall not be eligible to contest for a Designated Office Bearer post for a period of four years after last serving as a Designated Office Bearer.
- (h) In case of any vacancy in an EC Member post, such post shall be temporarily filled by co-option from amongst the remaining Designated Office Bearers or an Individual Member or representative of a Voting Member until the next General Assembly whereby the NOC shall conduct a fresh election for the post or seek ratification by the General Body for the co-opted individual who filled such vacant post and the individual so elected or ratified shall occupy the post for remainder of the term for which the original EC Member was elected provided that this clause shall not apply for representatives of the Athletes Commission on the EC.
- (i) An individual shall be disqualified from being an Individual Member or a representative of a Voting Member upon conviction of an offence and being sentenced for a period of more than 2 (two) years. In the event an individual is convicted and sentenced for a period of less than 2 (two) years, the matter shall be referred to the NOC Ethics Commission for opinion, after the completion of the sentence. A decision on his/her membership or eligibility to be a representative of a Voting Member shall be taken by the General Body based on the opinion of the NOC Ethics Commission.
- (j) Where charges have been framed by any Court in India, in respect of an offence for which a sentence of a period of more than 2 (two) years can be imposed, an individual's eligibility to be an Individual Member or to be a representative of a Voting Member shall be deemed to be suspended until completion of the trial.
- (k) The NOC shall appoint a CEO who shall be a salaried management professional with related experience.
- (l) The NOC shall always retain its legal, commercial and operational autonomy and

democratic nature shall not cede any governance control to any third party or contract with a third party to permit it to direct, control or veto its decision making process or its administration or affairs.

8. Certain provisions to be mandatorily incorporated in the constitution of National Paralympic Committee

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the NPC shall in its constitution make the following provisions if not provided for, with respect to its governance and the conduct of its affairs, namely:

(a) The NPC shall provide voting rights in the General Body to only such Voting Members who are designated as an NSF by the SRB or Individual Members as prescribed in its constitution, which constitution shall at all times remain compliant with the Paralympic Charter and any other rules and regulations of the IPC.

(b) At least 10% of the General Body and Voting Members of the NPC shall be constituted by SOMs to be elected by the Athletes Commission of the NPC as representatives (half of whom shall be female representatives and half of whom shall be male representatives).

(c) The EC of the NPC shall have a maximum of fifteen (15) EC Members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (i) President: One (1)
- (ii) Vice Presidents: As specified in the constitution of the NPC
- (iii) Secretary General: One (1)
- (iv) Treasurer: One (1)
- (v) Joint Secretaries: As specified in the constitution of the NPC
- (vi) Executive Members: As specified in the constitution of the NPC
- (vii) Two (2) SOM representatives elected by Athletes Commission of the NPC (one male and one female)
- (viii) Two (2) representatives elected by Athletes Commission of the NPC (one male and one female)

Provided that all EC Members specified for the posts mentioned in sub-clauses (i) to (vi) above shall be duly elected by the General Body.

Provided further that female candidates will occupy at least one (1) Vice President post and one (1) Executive Member post and a total of at least 30% of the EC members shall always be female.

Provided further that the representatives of the Athletes Commission of the NPC shall be elected or nominated to the EC, as the case may be, in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the IPC.

(d) The elections for the EC shall be conducted by secret ballot, in a fair and transparent manner, at least once in every four (4) years in accordance with the Model Election Rules as may be prescribed by the Central Government under this Bill and the elections shall be overseen by a member of the Sports Election Panel.

(e) The candidate with the highest number of votes for a particular EC Member post will be determined as the winner for such post.

(f) The eligibility criteria for every candidate contesting for election or seeking nomination as the case may be to the EC shall be the following:

- (i) any citizen of India at least 25 years of age subject only to the requirement that his/her name is duly proposed by a voting member of the NSF shall be entitled and eligible to stand for elections;
- (ii) he/she should not have been declared of unsound mind;
- (iii) he/she shall not exceed the age of seventy (70) years at the time of contesting the election or seeking nomination as the case may;
- (iv) he/she shall not have been convicted or have had a negative opinion rendered by the ethics commission as provided for in clause (i) below; and
- (v) he/she shall not have had any pending/undisposed charges framed by any Court in India in respect of an offence for which a sentence of a period of more than 2 (two) years can be imposed; and
- (vi) he/she shall obtain previous sanction from the Government if he is a Government servant

(g) An individual who has served as a Designated Office Bearer of the NPC, for more than two consecutive terms, each term not exceeding four (4) years, shall not be eligible to contest for a Designated Office Bearer post for a period of four years after last serving as a Designated Office Bearer.

(h) In case of any vacancy in an EC Member post, such post shall be temporarily filled by co-option from amongst the remaining Designated Office Bearers or an Individual Member or representative of a Voting Member until the next General Assembly whereby the NPC shall conduct a fresh election for the post or seek ratification by the General Assembly for the co-opted individual who filled such vacant post and the individual so elected or ratified shall occupy the post for remainder of the term for which the original EC Member was elected provided that this clause shall not apply for representatives of the Athletes Commission on the EC.

(i) An individual shall be disqualified from being an Individual Member or a representative of a Voting Member upon conviction of an offence and being sentenced for a period of more than 2 (two) years. In the event an individual is convicted and sentenced for a period of less than 2 (two) years, the matter shall be referred to the ethics commission of the NPC for opinion, after the completion of the sentence. A decision on his/her membership or eligibility to be a representative of a Voting Member shall be taken by the General Assembly based on the opinion of the ethics commission of the

NPC.

(j) Where charges have been framed by any Court in India, in respect of an offence for which a sentence of a period of more than 2 (two) years can be imposed, an individual's eligibility to be an Individual Member or to be a representative of a Voting Member shall be deemed to be suspended until completion of the trial.

(k) The NPC shall endeavour to appoint a CEO who shall be a salaried management professional with related experience.

(l) The NPC shall always retain its legal, commercial and operational autonomy and democratic nature shall not cede any governance control to any third party or contract with a third party to permit it to direct, control or veto its decision making process or its administration or affairs.

9. Certain provisions to be mandatorily incorporated in the constitution of National Sports Federations

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, each NSF shall in its constitution make the following provisions if not provided for, with respect to its governance and the conduct of its affairs, namely:

(a) Only affiliated units from States will be granted recognition as Affiliated Member and have voting rights in the General Body of a NSF with each such Affiliated Member having one vote in meetings;

(b) At least 10% of the General Body and Voting Members of the NSF shall be constituted by SOMs to be elected by the Athletes Commission of the NSF as representatives (half of whom shall be female representatives and half of whom shall be male representatives).

(c) The NSF shall have a maximum of two (2) Voting Members representing each State (one of whom shall be a male Voting Member and one of whom shall be a female Voting Member).;

(d) The EC of the NSF shall have a maximum of fifteen (15) EC Members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (i) President: One (1)
- (ii) Vice Presidents: Two (2)
- (iii) Secretary General: One (1)
- (iv) Treasurer: One (1)
- (v) Joint Secretaries: As specified in the constitution of the NSF
- (vi) Executive Members: As specified in the constitution of the NSF
- (vii) Two (2) SOM representatives elected by Athletes Commission of the NSF (one male and one female)
- (viii) Two (2) representatives elected by Athletes Commission of the NSF (one male and one female)

Provided further that all EC Members specified for the posts mentioned in sub-clauses (i) to (vi) above shall be duly elected by the General Body.

Provided that where the International Federation specifies a requirement for paid CEO/Secretary General, there will not be elective post for Secretary General in the concerned NSF.

Provided further that female candidates will occupy at least one (1) Vice President post and one (1) Executive Member post and a total of at least 30% of the EC members shall always be female.

(e) The elections for the EC shall be conducted by secret ballot, in a fair and transparent manner at least once in every four (4) years in accordance with the code of elections as may be prescribed by the SRB pursuant to this Bill and the elections shall be overseen by a member of the Sports Election Panel.

(f) The candidate with the highest number of votes for a particular EC Member post will be determined as the winner for such post.

(g) The eligibility criteria for every candidate contesting for election to the EC shall be the following:

- (i) any citizen of India at least 25 years of age subject only to the requirement that his/her name is duly proposed by a voting member of the NSF shall be entitled and eligible to stand for elections;
- (ii) he/she should not have been declared of unsound mind;
- (iii) he/she shall not exceed the age of seventy (70) years at the time of last date of nomination;
- (iv) he/she shall not have been convicted or have had a negative opinion rendered by the ethics commission as provided for in clause (l) below; and
- (v) he/she shall not have had any pending/undisposed charges framed by any Court in India in respect of an offence for which a sentence of a period of more than 2 (two) years can be imposed; and
- (vi) he/she shall obtain previous sanction from the Government if he is a Government servant.

(h) An individual who has served as a Designated Office Bearer of the NSF, for more than two consecutive terms, each term not exceeding four (4) years, shall not be eligible to contest for a Designated Office Bearer post for a period of four years after last serving as a Designated Office Bearer.

(i) In case of any vacancy in an EC Member post, such post shall be temporarily filled by co-option from amongst the remaining Designated Office Bearers or representatives of a Voting Member until the next General Assembly whereby the NSF

shall conduct a fresh election for the post or seek ratification by the General Body for the co-opted individual who filled such vacant post, and the individual so elected or ratified shall occupy the post for remainder of the term for which the original EC Member was elected .

(j) An individual shall be disqualified from being a representative of a Voting Member upon conviction of an offence and being sentenced for a period of more than 2 (two) years. In the event an individual is convicted and sentenced for a period of less than 2 (two) years, the matter shall be referred to the ethics commission of the NSF for opinion, after the completion of the sentence. A decision on his/her eligibility to be a representative of a Voting Member shall be taken by the General Body based on the opinion of the ethics commission of the NSF.

(k) Where charges have been framed by any Court in India, in respect of an offence for which a sentence of a period of more than 2 (two) years can be imposed, an individual's eligibility to be a representative of a Voting Member shall be deemed to be suspended until completion of the trial.

(l) The NSF shall endeavour to appoint a CEO who shall be a salaried management professional with related experience.

(m) The NSF shall always retain its legal, commercial and operational autonomy and democratic nature shall not cede any governance control to any third party or contract with a third party to permit it to direct, control or veto its decision making process or its administration or affairs.

(n) The NSF shall mandate in its constitution that, as a condition of admission to its membership and continuation of such membership, each of its constituent state federation members shall, and shall ensure that each of its own district federation members shall:

- (i) duly register itself with the Sports Regulatory Board of India as a registered sports federation; and
- (ii) incorporate in its constitution and comply with all the requirements specified in this Bill as applicable to the NSF, *mutatis mutandis*, and any applicable rules that may be prescribed by the SRB or Central Government in relation to this Bill from time to time, provided further that if any affiliate unit is subjected to a State Sports Legislation in force, provisions of this Bill shall not be applicable to that affiliate unit.

CHAPTER IV
SPORTS REGULATORY BOARD OF INDIA AND RECOGNITION
PROCEDURES

10. Establishment of Board

(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint, there shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, a Board by the name of the Sports Regulatory Board of India.

(2) The Sports Regulatory Board of India 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.

(3) The head office of the Board shall be at New Delhi.

(4) The Board may establish offices at other places in India.

11. Constitution of Sports Regulatory Board of India

The Central Government shall prescribe:

(a) the composition of the Sports Regulatory Board of India and the appointment procedures;

(b) the eligibility criteria, qualifications and term of the members of the Sports Regulatory Board of India.

(c) The selection of the members of the Sports Regulatory Board of India shall be made by the Central Government on recommendations of the selection committee consisting of:

- (i) Secretary (Sports) – Chairperson;
- (ii) Director General, Sports Authority of India – Member ex-officio;
- (iii) Vice Chancellor, National Sports University – Member;
- (iv) One Khel Ratna – Member; and
- (v) One Dronacharya Awardee – Member.

12. Functions of the Board

(1) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall be responsible for regulating the governance of the NOC, the NPC, NSFs, RSFs and their affiliated units in a manner that ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management and administration of sports in India and for that it shall be empowered to issue necessary

Regulations.

(2) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall grant recognition to the NOC, the NPC, NSFs, RSFs and their affiliated units to ensure compliance with the governance, financial, and ethical standards prescribed by the Board. It shall have the power to grant, renew, or suspend recognition of any such organization found in violation of the prescribed norms after due process.

(3) The NOC, the NPC, NSFs, RSFs and their affiliated units shall, on an annual basis, be required to make such filings and make public disclosure as may be prescribed in accordance with such timelines and procedures as may be prescribed by the Sports Regulatory Board of India.

(4) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall ensure the protection of the rights and welfare of athletes and support personnel.

(5) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall facilitate and ensure compliance by the NOC, the NPC, NSFs, RSFs and their affiliated units with the guidelines and international standards and best practices of the Olympic and sports movement and collaborate with international sports bodies for the development of sports and welfare of athletes in India.

(6) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall prescribe eligibility criteria for recognition of National Sports Promotion Organisations (NSPOs) and regulation of NSPOs and other sports organisations participating in sports governance, athlete support and welfare;

(7) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed or necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act and to promote and protect the integrity, transparency, and development of sports in India.

(8) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall prescribe guidelines for formulation of a Code of Ethics by each recognised bodies as the case may be for its Executive Committee Members, committees, employees, staff, vendors, partners, sponsors, coaches, athletes, officials, Members, Affiliates and others within their circle of influence. The Code of Ethics shall establish minimum standards for the ethical and appropriate conduct of and by such persons. The Code of Ethics shall be in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the IOC and in consonance with the laws of the land and principles enshrined in the Constitution of India. The Code of Ethics shall encourage all such persons to address ethical concerns. The Code of Ethics will also include provisions and measures for protection of vulnerable persons against abuse by persons in positions of trust, responsibility or authority. A person in a position of trust will mean a person who exercises authority, control or influence over a vulnerable person, or a person on whom a vulnerable person is dependent and who is connected with the affairs of the recognised body.

13. Consequences of non-compliance

(1) The Sports Regulatory Board of India shall have rights of audit and inquiry, and may act *suo moto*, and shall also accept complaints from third parties. A third-party complaint under this clause shall be accepted by the Sports Regulatory Board of India only after exhausting all available remedies with the NOC, the NPC or concerned NSF, state or district sports federation, for correcting deficiencies, unless it can be shown by clear and convincing evidence that those remedies would have resulted in unnecessary delay.

(2) The Sports Regulatory Board of India may, where it is satisfied that there is a reasonable cause to do so, on a *suo moto* basis or on the receipt of a complaint by an aggrieved party, suspend or cancel the recognition of the NOC, the NPC or a NSF, state or district sports federation, and employ any of the measures specified below if:

- (a) the NOC or the NPC has been suspended or disaffiliated by the IOC or the IPC, as the case may be, or the concerned NSF has been suspended or disaffiliated by the concerned International Federation or the NOC or the NPC, as the case may be or the state or district federation has been suspended or disaffiliated by the concerned NSF or state sports federation, as the case may be;
- (b) the concerned NOC, NPC, NSF, state or district sports federation has violated this Bill and any rules prescribed, including, without limitation, any eligibility criteria or terms and conditions of recognition;
- (c) the Registrar of Companies or the Registrar of Societies, as the case may be, has reported gross irregularities in the internal functioning of the NOC, the NPC, a NSF, state or district sports federation, as the case may be;
- (d) the Registrar of Companies or the Registrar of Societies, as the case may be, has removed the name of the NOC, the NPC, a NSF, state or district sports federation, as the case may be, from its register;
- (e) the certificate of registration of the NOC, the NPC or the concerned NSF, state or district sports federation, as the case may be, has been obtained by misrepresentation of material information or by fraudulent means;
- (f) the concerned NOC, NOC or the concerned NSF, state or district sports federation, has failed to hold elections for its Executive Committee in compliance with this Bill or any rules prescribed or has committed gross irregularities in election procedures;
- (g) the NOC, the NPC or the concerned NSF, state or district sports federation, has failed to publish its annual audited accounts; or
- (h) the NOC, the NPC or the concerned NSF, state or district sports federation, has

misused or diverted any funds provided by the Central Government;

Provided that any suspension on the ground mentioned under clause (a) shall extend to the period of suspension or dis-affiliation of: (i) the NOC or the NPC by the IOC or IPC as the case may be; or (ii) the concerned NSF by the concerned International Federation or the NOC or the NPC as the case may be; or (iii) the concerned state or district sports federation by the NSF or the state sports federation as the case may be, and for such further period as the Sports Regulatory Board of India may consider necessary.

Provided further that the period of suspension shall be specified by the Sports Regulatory Board of India or extended at the discretion of the Sports Regulatory Board of India.

(3) Where the Sports Regulatory Board of India finds that the NOC's, NPC's or any NSF's, state or district sports federation's non-compliance with this Bill can readily be rectified, then, prior to making a determination of suspension or cancellation of recognition, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may issue an order directing that the NOC, the NPC or NSF, state or district sports federation take such action as is appropriate to correct the deficiency and if and when such deficiency is corrected, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may then make a finding of compliance.

(4) Prior to any action being taken in respect of the NOC, the NPC or any concerned NSF, state or district sports federation in accordance with this section 11 or section 12 below, the Sports Regulatory Board of India shall consult with the IOC, IPC or concerned NSF, state or district sports federation as the case maybe and shall conduct a hearing at which the party concerned shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present factual evidence and legal arguments regarding the allegations with respect to a complaint or the basis of the *suo moto* action.

14. Interim measures

(1) The Sports Regulatory Board of India may take any and all steps that may be necessary to protect the right of Indian sportspersons to participate in international sports competitions under the Indian flag which shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (a) Where the Sports Regulatory Board of India suspends or cancels the recognition of the NOC or the NPC, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may constitute an ad-hoc normalization committee as deemed appropriate by the Sports Regulatory Board of India to administer the NOC or the NPC as the case may be in consultation with IOC/IPC to normalise its activities, constitution and affairs and return it to compliance with the requirements of this Bill.
- (b) Where the Sports Regulatory Board of India suspends or cancels the recognition of a NSF for an Olympic sport or an affiliated unit of the NOC, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may direct the NOC to constitute an ad-hoc

normalisation committee as deemed appropriate by the Sports Regulatory Board of India to administer the NSF.

- (c) Where the Sports Regulatory Board of India suspends or cancels the recognition of a NSF for any other sport than those mentioned at (b) above, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may constitute an ad-hoc normalisation committee as deemed appropriate by the Sports Regulatory Board of India to administer the NSF.
- (d) Where the Sports Regulatory Board of India suspends or cancels the recognition of a state sports federation, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may direct the relevant NSF to constitute an ad-hoc normalisation committee as deemed appropriate by the Sports Regulatory Board of India to administer the NSF.
- (e) Where the Sports Regulatory Board of India suspends or cancels the recognition of a district sports federation, the Sports Regulatory Board of India may direct the relevant state sports federation to constitute an ad-hoc normalisation committee as deemed appropriate by the Sports Regulatory Board of India to administer the NSF.

(2) An ad-hoc normalisation committee constituted under sub-section (1) shall consist of maximum five publicly-spirited eminent sports administrators who had been designated office bearers of the NOC/NPC/NSFs, having no past association with the sports discipline or having any conflict of interest with the sports discipline. In no case one person will be part of more than one ad-hoc normalization committee. The ad-hoc normalisation committee shall normalize the activities of the body concerned within a period of three months and in exceptional circumstances, extension can be granted in consultation with concerned governing body for a period not exceeding three months each time.

(3) The SRB shall initiate process to normalize the activities of all the sports bodies as per the provisions of this Bill on all the disciplines on which this Bill is applicable and are under Administrator/ad-hoc committees.

CHAPTER V

RIGHTS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, NATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

15. Rights of the NOC

(1) The NOC shall be eligible to:

- (a) use the Indian flag, the expression “India”, “Indian”, “National” or any national insignia or symbols in any language (or any other expressions similar thereto) in its title, the description of any team it fields, any competition that it holds or sanctions, or any

other activities that it undertakes in India or abroad;

- (b) regulate Olympic sports at the national level for India;
- (c) receive Government/public funding or concessions, including income tax, service tax and customs duty exemptions and foreign exchange permissions or any other taxes, exemptions or permissions that may become applicable from time to time;
- (d) receive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) grants for sports development or sponsorships from a public sector undertaking or any governmental body; and
- (e) represent or purport to represent itself as the NOC of India in the IOC.

16. Functions and duties of the NOC

- (1) The NOC shall:
 - (a) function as the apex body for Olympic sports in India and perform functions and duties assigned to it under the Olympic Charter;
 - (b) be responsible for all round development of Olympic sports, including selection of sportspersons, for their participation from India in multi-sport competitions as well as their conduct and performance in such events;
 - (c) establish national goals for athletic and sporting activities in the Olympic movement and encourage the attainment of those goals;
 - (d) exercise exclusive jurisdiction, either directly or through its constituent members or committees, over all matters pertaining to the participation of Indian sportspersons in the Olympic Games or Asian Games or Commonwealth Games or Afro-Asian Games or South Asian Games or any other such multi-sport competition and be responsible for all matters pertaining to bidding for such games, with prior approval of the Central Government and comply with the conditions, if any, mentioned therein in the approval;
 - (e) assist organisations and persons concerned with sports in the development of athletic programs for sportspersons;
 - (f) be responsible for the conduct of the National Games at regular intervals;
 - (g) constitute an Athletes Commission for the NOC in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of this Bill;
 - (h) endeavor to secure availability of playing fields, sports equipment and other amenities to sportspersons;
 - (i) discharge its responsibilities in consonance with the principles laid down in the

Olympic Charter;

- (j) ensure that all of its Voting Members comply with the standards prescribed herein this Bill and any rules that may be prescribed with respect to governance;
- (k) perform its duties and discharge its functions as a public authority in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XI of this Bill;
- (l) submit annually a detailed report containing such details as may be prescribed to the Central Government to cause it to be laid before each House of Parliament.

17. Rights of the NPC

- (1) The NPC shall be eligible to:
 - (a) use the Indian flag, the expression “India”, “Indian”, “National” or any national insignia or symbols in any language (or any other expressions similar thereto) in its title, the description of any team it fields, any competition that it holds or sanctions, or any other activities that it undertakes in India or abroad;
 - (b) regulate Paralympic sports at the national level for India;
 - (c) receive Government/public funding or concessions, including income tax, service tax and customs duty exemptions and foreign exchange permissions or any other taxes, exemptions or permissions that may become applicable from time to time;
 - (d) receive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) grants for sports development or sponsorships from a public sector undertaking or any governmental body; and
 - (e) represent or purport to represent itself as the NPC of India in the IPC.

18. Functions and duties of the NPC

- (1) The NPC shall:
 - (a) function as the apex body for Paralympic sports in India and perform functions and duties assigned to it under the Paralympic Charter;
 - (b) be responsible for all round development of Paralympic sports, including selection of sportspersons, for their participation from India in multi-sport competitions as well as their conduct and performance in such events;
 - (c) establish national goals for athletic and sporting activities in the Paralympic movement and encourage the attainment of those goals;
 - (d) exercise exclusive jurisdiction, either directly or through its constituent members

or committees, over all matters pertaining to the participation of Indian sportspersons in the Paralympic Games or any other such multi-sport competition concerning Paralympic sports and be responsible for all matters pertaining to bidding for such games, with prior approval of the Central Government and comply with the conditions, if any, mentioned therein in the approval;

(e) assist organisations and persons concerned with sports in the development of athletic programs for Paralympic sportspersons;

(f) be responsible for the conduct of national level multi-sport competitions concerning Paralympic sports at regular intervals;

(g) constitute an Athletes Commission for the NPC in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of this Bill;

(h) endeavor to secure availability of playing fields, sports equipment and other amenities to Paralympic sportspersons;

(i) discharge its responsibilities in consonance with the principles laid down in the Paralympic Charter;

(j) ensure that all of its Voting Members comply with the standards prescribed herein this Bill and any rules that may be prescribed with respect to governance;

(k) perform its duties and discharge its functions as a public authority in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XI of this Bill; and

(l) submit annually a detailed report containing such details as may be prescribed to the Central Government to cause it to be laid before each House of Parliament.

19. Rights of a NSF

(1) A NSF shall be eligible to:

(a) use the Indian flag, the expression “India”, “Indian”, “National” or any national insignia or symbols in any language (or any other expressions similar thereto) in its title, the description of any team it fields, any competition that it holds or sanctions, or any other activities that it undertakes in India or abroad;

(b) regulate the sport for which it is recognised for India;

(c) receive Government/public funding or concessions, including income tax, service tax and customs duty exemptions and foreign exchange permissions or any other taxes, exemptions or permissions that may become applicable from time to time;

(d) receive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) grants for sports development or

sponsorships from a public sector undertaking or any governmental body; and

(e) represent or purport to represent itself as the NSF for the sport and represent India in the International Federation.

20. Functions and duties of a NSF

(1) A NSF shall:

(a) function as the apex body for its sport in India;

(b) constitute an Athletes Commission for the NSF in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of this Bill;

(c) endeavor to secure availability of playing fields, sports equipment and other amenities to sportspersons;

(d) make efforts to promote and develop the sport all over India;

(e) Discharge its responsibilities in consonance with the principles laid down in the Olympic Charter, Paralympic Charter, the constitution of the NOC, the constitution of the NPC, or the governing documents of the relevant International Federation or continental federation or other umbrella body, as the case may be and as may be applicable to it;

(f) ensure that all of its Voting Members comply with the standards prescribed herein this Bill and any rules that may be prescribed with respect to governance;

(g) perform its duties and discharge its functions as a public authority in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XI of this Bill;

(h) before the conclusion of every year, publish on its website on or before 1st January of the following year details as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER VI **ATHLETES COMMISSION**

21. Constitution of Athletes Commission

Athletes are the core of India's sporting culture and it is important that they are well represented on different decision making forums and have a platform to raise their voices and concerns. International Olympic Committee has also placed athletes at the heart of the Olympic and Sports Movement.

(1) The NOC, the NPC and every NSF shall, within six months of coming into force of this Bill, constitute an Athletes Commission consisting of elected members as prescribed from time to time and to perform the duties and discharge its functions.

(2) The Athletes Commissions of NOC, NPC and every NSFs shall be constituted and elections shall be conducted as per the rules prescribed by the SRB from time to time, which shall be in consonance with the Olympic Charter, the Paralympic Charter and with the guidelines specified by the IOC, the IPC and IFs as the case may be.

(3) Election for the Athletes Commission of the NOC, the NPC and every NSF shall be held in the same year as the election of the EC of the NOC, the NPC or concerned NOC, with the same tenure as the EC Members of the NOC, the NPC or concerned NSF.

(4) All elected members to the Athletes Commission of the NOC, the NPC or concerned NSF will elect one of their members as the Chairperson for the said tenure.

(5) Election for the Athletes Commission will be overseen by the same individual who oversees the election of the NOC, the NPC or concerned NSF, which individual shall be a member of the Sports Election Panel specified in Chapter IX of this Bill.

22. Procedure and Duties of Athletes Commission

(1) Athlete Commission shall devise its own procedure of meeting.

(2) The Athlete Commission will

- a. Represent the views and opinions of the athletes and ensure their voice is heard within the NOC, NPC, NSF as the case may be
- b. Inform athletes about the sport body's activities
- c. Work with and support the NOC, NPC, NSF as the case may be in its mission to develop and promote the sport.
- d. Engage actively with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play;
- e. Consult with athletes in the evaluation of the rules and regulations of their respective sport and subsequently provide feedback to the NOC, NPC, NSF as the case may be or to the SRB

(3) The Athletes Commission will advise the NOC, the NPC or concerned NSF on the need of the sportspersons on the following:

- (i) Development;
- (ii) Training and competition schedules;
- (iii) Sportsperson grievances;
- (iv) Selection and Technical Criteria;
- (v) Logistical and administration support; and
- (vi) Sportsperson support beyond competitive sports career.

(4) The Athlete Commission shall elect the SOMs for representation in the Executive Committee and General Body of the NOC, NPC, NSF as the case may be as per the rules prescribed

- (5) The Athletes Commission shall receive a reasonable budget from the NOC/NPC/NSF. The Government may allocate additional support over and above the NOC's/NPC's/NSF's contribution to support of the Athletes Commission in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

CHAPTER VII

NOC ETHICS COMMISSION

23. Establishment of NOC Ethics Commission

- (1) There shall be a NOC Ethics Commission to address issues concerning corruption and conflict of interest and other ethical issues as may be prescribed by the Central Government in a Code of Ethics notified pursuant to this Bill.
- (2) The NOC Ethics Commission shall comprise of seven (7) members appointed as per sub-section (3) below.
- (3) The NOC Ethics Commission shall include at least four (4) members with a legal background, at least three (3) male and three (3) female members of each gender and at least one (1) sportspersons' representative elected by the Athletes Commission of the NOC.
- (4) The powers and operations of the NOC Ethics Commission shall be regulated by rules as may be prescribed.
- (5) The term of the members of the NOC Ethics Commission shall be four (4) years from the date of appointment or attainment of the age of seventy (70) years whichever is earlier.
- (6) No member of NOC Ethics Commission shall be appointed for more than one (1) term of four (4) years.
- (7) The members of the NOC Ethics Commission will elect one amongst themselves as the Chairperson for the said tenure.
- (8) No member of the NOC Ethics Commission after serving as a member, shall be entitled to seek any position and/or benefit in the NOC, the NPC or in any NSF.
- (9) Any person/body aggrieved by the decision of the NOC Ethics Commission shall be entitled to proffer an appeal to the Appellate Sports Tribunal.
- (10) The NOC Ethics Commission shall establish its own procedures as may be determined by the Chairperson of the NOC Ethics Commission in consultation with the members thereof.
- (11) The costs of the NOC Ethics Commission shall be borne by the NOC. The

Government may provide additional funding, over and above the NOC's contribution, to support the operations of the NOC Ethics Commission.

CHAPTER VIII

NOC DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION

24. Establishment of NOC Dispute Resolution Commission

- (1) There shall be a NOC Dispute Resolution Commission to address any grievances raised by stakeholders of the NOC, any unresolved disputes arising within the NOC or amongst its members or to appeal decisions taken by the NOC.
- (2) The NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall comprise of seven (7) members appointed as per sub-section (3) below.
- (3) The NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall include at least four (4) members with a legal background, at least three (3) male members and three (3) female members and at least one (1) sportspersons' representative elected by the Athletes Commission of the NOC.
- (4) The powers and procedures of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall be prescribed by the NOC.
- (5) The term of the members of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall be four (4) years from the date of appointment or attainment of the age of seventy (70) years whichever is earlier.
- (6) No member of NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall be appointed for more than one (1) term of four (4) years.
- (7) The members of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission will elect one amongst themselves as the Chairperson for the said tenure.
- (8) No member of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission after serving as a member, shall be entitled to seek any position and/or benefit in the NOC, the NPC or in any NSF.
- (9) Any person/body aggrieved by the decision of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall be entitled to proffer an appeal to the Appellate Sports Tribunal.
- (10) The NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall establish its own procedures as may be determined by the Chairperson of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission in consultation with the members thereof.
- (11) The costs of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission shall be borne by the NOC. The Government may provide additional funding, over and above the NOC's

contribution, to support the operations of the NOC Dispute Resolution Commission.

CHAPTER IX

SPORTS ELECTION PANEL

25. Establishment of Sports Election Panel and Appointment of Electoral Officer

- (1) There shall be a Sports Election Panel, whose members shall act as electoral officers and oversee the conduct of free and fair elections for the EC of the NOC, NPC and NSFs and elections for the Athletes Commissions of such bodies.
- (2) The Sports Election Panel shall comprise of a roster of retired members of the Election Commission of India, retired State Election Commissioners, retired Chief Electoral Officers of the States and retired Deputy Election Commissioners as may be designated by the Sports Regulatory Board of India from time to time.
- (3) The professional fees and allowances for engaging any of the members of the Sports Election Panel shall be as prescribed by the Sports Regulatory Board of India.
- (4) The NOC and NPC shall be required to engage only a retired member of the Election Commission of India from the Sports Election Panel as an electoral officer for elections to their respective ECs and Athletes Commissions.

Provided that in the event that a retired member of the Election Commission of India from the Sports Election Panel is not available to act as electoral officer for the NOC or the NPC, the NOC or the NPC may engage a retired State Election Commissioner or retired Deputy Election Commissioner from the Sports Election Panel as electoral officer.

Provided further that in the event a retired State Election Commissioner of India from the Sports Election Panel is not available to act as electoral officer for the NOC or the NPC, the NOC or the NPC may in consultation with the Election Commission of India engage any other individual who is not in the Sports Election Panel and who is a retired member of the Election Commission of India or is a retired State Election Commissioner.

- (5) ANSF shall be required to approach and engage a member of the Sports Election Panel to act as electoral officer and conduct its elections to their respective ECs and Athletes Commissions

Provided that, in the event that no member of the Sports Election Panel is not available to act as electoral officer for the NSF, the NSF may in consultation with the Election Commission of India engage any other individual who is not in the Sports Election Panel and who is a retired member of the Election Commission of India or retired State Election Commissioner, retired Chief Electoral Officers or retired Deputy Election Commissioners.

CHAPTER X
APPELLATE SPORTS TRIBUNAL

26. Establishment of Appellate Sports Tribunal

(1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Appellate Sports Tribunal.

(2) The Central Government shall also prescribe:

- (a) the composition of the Tribunal and its benches;
- (b) the manner of selection, qualifications and term of the members of the Tribunal;
- (c) the expeditious procedure to be followed by the Tribunal;
- (d) the matters and places in relation to which the Tribunal shall exercise jurisdiction;
- (e) all other matters pertaining to the administration of the Tribunal including the composition of the benches, staff, removal and resignation of members.

(3) The selection of the Appellate Sports Tribunal shall be made by the Central Government on recommendations of the selection committee consisting of:

- (a) Retired Supreme Court /High Court judge – Chairperson;
- (b) Secretary, Department of Sports – Member ex-officio;
- (c) Secretary (Law) or his/her nominee.- Member ex-officio;

27. Exclusion of jurisdiction

(1) The Appellate Sports Tribunal shall not adjudicate-

(a) any matter or disputes or conflicts arising during the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games or during other similar events organised by the International Federations, and other matters in respect of which the Court of Arbitration for Sports established in Lausanne, Switzerland has the exclusive jurisdiction; and

(b) doping related disputes, where Disciplinary Panels constituted under the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 have exclusive jurisdiction.

28. Members, etc., to be public servants.

The members and other officers and employees of the Appellate Sports Tribunal shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

29. Transfer of pending cases

(1) All civil cases concerning matters coming under the scope of this Bill and in which the NOC, NPC or a NSF has been impleaded as party and pending adjudication before District Court or High Court immediately before the date of establishment of the Appellate Sports Tribunal, shall, on such establishment, stand transferred to the Appellate Sports Tribunal on such date as specified by the Central Government.

(2) The matters transferred to the Appellate Sports Tribunal under sub-section (1), may be heard and adjudicated from the stage at which such dispute was pending in the court or the authority, as the case may be or hear the matter afresh if it so deems appropriate.

30. Bar on jurisdiction of a civil court.

No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter on which the Appellate Sports Tribunal is empowered under this Bill 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 by or under this Bill.

31. Powers of Appellate Sports Tribunal

(1) The Appellate Sports Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Bill, 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:

- (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 section 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872;
- (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 Appellate Sports Tribunal shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228, and for the purpose of section 196 of the Indian Penal Code and the Appellate Sports Tribunal shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purpose of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973.

32. Appeal to Supreme Court.

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or in any other law, an appeal shall lie against any order, not being an interlocutory order, of the Appellate Sports Tribunal to the Supreme Court on one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of that Code.

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

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

(4) 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 proffering the appeal in time.

33. Orders passed by Appellate Sports Tribunal to be executable as a decree

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

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Appellate Sports 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.

34. Removal of Members

(1) The Central Government shall remove from the office the member of the

Appellate Sports Tribunal who:

- (a) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member;
 - (b) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his/her functions as a member; or
 - (c) has so abused his position as to render his continuation in office prejudicial to public interest.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), any member of the Appellate Sports Tribunal shall not be removed from his office on the grounds specified unless the Chief Justice of India or his nominee judge, on a reference being made to him in this behalf by the Government, has on enquiry held, in accordance with such procedure as he may specify in this behalf, approved the removal.

CHAPTER XI

SAFE SPORTS

35. Safe Sport and Grievance Redressal Mechanisms

- (1) The SRB shall prescribe (a) a safe sport policy, including with respect to the protection and safety of minor athletes, and (ii) the provisions of the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act, 2013 in all activities, events, operations and proceedings undertaken by NOC, NPC, NSFs/RSFs as the case may be.
- (2) The SRB shall prescribe an internal grievance redressal mechanism for each recognised body to address the grievances of the athletes, coaches and others associated with the functioning of the NOC/NPC/ NSFs/RSFs as the case may be

CHAPTER XII

APPLICABILITY OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

36. NOC, NPC and NSFs deemed to be public authorities except respect of certain matters.

- (1) The NOC, the NPC and each NSF shall be deemed to be public authorities as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and shall perform their duties and discharge their functions as such under that law.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Right to Information Act 2005, the NOC, the NPC and the NSFs shall not be deemed to be public authorities in respect of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) selection, appointment or exclusion of a sportsperson, coach, trainer or physiotherapist for participation in a sports competition;
- (b) quality of performance of a sportsperson at sports competitions;
- (c) injuries suffered by a sportsperson;
- (d) medical health and fitness of a sportsperson;
- (e) the whereabouts of a sportsperson; test results and information that are treated as confidential under the National Anti-Doping Act 2022 and rules made thereunder; and
- (f) information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party.

CHAPTER XIII

USE OF NATIONAL NAMES AND INSIGNIA; OFFENCES

37. Use of national names and insignia.

(1) Other than the NOC, NPC and NSFs recognized hereunder this Bill, no sports organization may use the Indian flag, the expression “India”, “Indian”, “National” or any national insignia or symbols in any language (or any other expressions similar thereto) in its title, the description of any team it fields, any competition that it holds or sanctions, or any other activities that it undertakes in India or abroad without the prior written consent of the Sports Regulatory Board of India.

(2) Any sports body or organization, including the NOC, NPC or any NSF, that wishes to use the word “India”, “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 prior to such registration or use and shall be required to produce the same before the relevant registrar or other authority as a pre-condition to any registration thereof.

(3) No sports association shall use the name "India" or the name of any State/District, or conduct any sports trials, tournaments, or events after the cancellation of its recognition by the SRBI. No person or group of persons, either individually or collectively, shall represent or be allowed to represent the nation or any state/district, in any sports trials, tournaments, or events without being authorized by a recognised National Sports Federation its affiliate unit, as the case may be. No sports association shall be entitled to use the description "India" or the name of a State/District as part of its name or undertake any sports trials, tournaments, or events purporting to represent the country or a state unless such sports association is recognised as a NSF or

State/District Level Sports Association, as the case may be.

(4) Whoever contravenes the provisions of this Bill or the rules made thereunder shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but may extend to one year, or with a fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but may extend to ten lakh rupees, or with both. If the contravention is by a sports association, then all the office bearers of such sports association shall be jointly and severally liable for the said offence.

(5) No court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act, except upon a complaint made in writing by authorised officer of the SRBI or any other officer authorized by the Central Government.

CHAPTER XIV

DEVELOPMENT AN DPROMOTION OF SPORTS

38. Power to make rules.

(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Bill. Such rules may provide for measures as may be necessary for promotion and development of sports and any other measure necessary in public interest and in consonance with the Olympic Charter and Paralympic Charter, as the case may be.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in sub-section (1), such rules may provide for all or any of the following, namely—

- (a) inclusion and exclusion of sports to be covered under this Bill;
- (b) welfare and interests of sportspersons;
- (c) functioning of Appellate Sports Tribunal pursuant to this Bill;
- (d) composition and functioning of the Sports Election Panel and the terms of engagement, including fees to be paid to members of the Sports Election Panel;
- (e) conduct of elections by the NPC, the NOC and any NSF, including Model Election Rules; and
- (f) emergent issues such as sportsperson data, sportsperson privacy and appropriate use of technology and analytics in the context of sport.

(3) Every rule and every notification issued under this Bill shall be laid as soon as may be, after it is made, 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 session aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or notification or both Houses agree that the rule or notification should not be made, the rule 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 or notification.

(4) Power to relax rules

(a) The Central Government shall have the power to relax any of the provisions of any rules prescribed hereunder, in whole or part, as a special exemption where considered necessary and expedient for the promotion of sports, sportspersons or to remove difficulties in the rules, always being guided by and not inconsistent with the overarching spirit of good governance and ethical conduct enshrined in this Bill and Olympic Charter.

(b) The Central Government may exercise this aforementioned power to relax the eligibility criteria for Designated Office Bearers of the NOC, the NPC or any NSF if and where such person serves as an office bearer, or on the executive committee or similar body, of a corresponding International/Asian Federation or the General Body of the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee.

(c) The reasons for any relaxation provided as per sub-clause (a) above shall be recorded in writing.

39. Power to issue directions and impose restrictions in national interest.

(1) The Central Government may, from time to time, give such directions as it may think fit for the efficient administration of this Bill and when any such direction is given the direction shall be duly complied with by the Sports Regulatory Board of India and/or any other person or entity that it applies to.

(2) The Central Government, under extraordinary circumstances may, by an order in writing, impose reasonable restrictions in national interest on the participation of the national team in international sports competitions or participation of an individual in the activities of the NOC, the NPC or a NSF.

CHAPTER XV
MISCELLANEOUS

40. Crediting sums realised by way of penalties to the Consolidated Fund of India.

All sums realized by way of penalties under this Bill shall be credited to the

Consolidated Fund of India.

41. Protection of action taken in good faith

No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person or authority for anything which has been done or intended to be done in good faith under this Bill or the rules made hereunder.

42. Conflicts with Olympic Charter or Paralympic Charter.

(1) The NOC shall be guided by the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions issued from time to time by the IOC. In case of interpretation difficulties of the sections mentioned in this Bill or in the eventuality of a conflict with the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions of the NOC, the latter (i.e., the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions of the IOC) shall prevail.

(2) The NPC shall be guided by the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions issued from time to time by the IPC. In case of interpretation difficulties of the sections mentioned in this Bill or in the eventuality of a conflict with the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions of the NPC, the latter (i.e., the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions of the IPC) shall prevail.

(3) ANSF shall be guided by the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions issued from time to time by the concerned IF. In case of interpretation difficulties of the sections mentioned in this Bill or in the eventuality of a conflict with the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions of the IF, the latter (i.e., the statutes, rules, regulations bye-laws, directions and instructions of the IF) shall prevail.

43. Power to remove difficulties.

(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Bill, the Central Government may in the interests of sportspersons and Indian sport, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of five (5) years from the date of commencement of this Bill.

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

Annexure I

[Draft] Model Election Rules

It is in the interest of the NOC, the NPC and the NSFs (each a “**Federation**”), their respective Members and the candidates (“**Candidates**”) for elections (“**Elections**”) to posts (“**Posts**”) on the Executive Committee or equivalent body (“**Executive Committee**”) therein that respect for “universal fundamental ethical principles”, one of the foundations of Olympism and the Sports Movement should prevail. It is also essential that equality be observed between the Candidates and an atmosphere of mutual respect prevail amongst them. Notwithstanding the confidence that the Candidates enjoy, there is also a need to ensure a degree of harmonisation in the conduct of the Elections and the procedures employed therein.

Therefore, these Model Election Rules (“**Election Rules**”) are issued to govern the Elections to all Posts, including Officer Bearers, EC Members in the NOC, the NPC and each NSF and in respect of the NOC and the NPC, Athletes Commission representatives.

Clause 1: Scope and Applicability

- (i) These Election Rules apply to all Elections to Posts in the Federation.
- (ii) As from the moment that the Election Rules apply to a particular Candidate, Voting Member or other participant in the Election, that person shall also be subject to the National Sports Governance Bill, 2024 (“**NSD Bill**”) and the National Code of Ethics if he/she is not otherwise already bound and covered by these.

Clause 2: Conduct of Elections

- (i) The Elections shall generally take place at the General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Federation and, where so required, may also take place at a specially convened General Meeting.
- (ii) Elections shall always be by secret ballot.

Clause 3: Electoral Officer

- (i) As soon as may be after the issue of the Notice for the General Meeting (AGM), the President of the Federation, or the Secretary-General of the Federation (if so requested by the President or in his/her absence), shall nominate a member of the Sports Election Panel as constituted in accordance with this Bill, as the Electoral Officer for conduct of the Elections.
- (ii) The Electoral Officer shall be responsible for supervising the administrative process relating to the Elections, including (a) ensuring the correct application of the NSD Act

and the Election Rules in matters relating to the Elections; (b) setting reasonable deadlines for each stage of the Elections and enforcing these 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, including any Government Observer; and (f) all other tasks necessary to ensure the smooth running of the electoral process.

Clause 4: Calling Elections and the Electoral College

(i) Elections shall be called by the Federation's Executive Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Federation'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) Name of the Electoral Officer; (b) the Posts that are the subject of such Elections and any prerequisites or qualifications for Candidates to contest such Posts; and (c) The electoral calendar, which shall be determined in consultation with the Electoral Officer.

(iii) The President shall prepare the list of the Voting Members in any Elections (and their designated representatives where applicable) and circulate a copy of the list ("**Electoral College**") so prepared by him to all Voting Members with a copy to the Electoral Officer.

Clause 5: Nominations

(i) Any eligible person may be a Candidate for Election subject to their being proposed by one (1) of the Voting Members (through its authorised representative, where required), and also seconded by one (1) other voting Member (through its authorised representative, where required). Each Nomination Paper shall be delivered personally to the Electoral Officer in person by the Candidate himself/herself by the deadline specified.

(ii) No person or Member shall be eligible to nominate more than one Candidate for the same Post, either as proposer or seconder; and, if he/she does so all the nominations shall be deemed to be void and inoperative. No person shall be permitted to withdraw his/her name as proposer/seconder, once the nomination paper subscribed by him/her has been delivered to Electoral Officer.

(iii) The Electoral Officer shall prepare a list of all nominations received by him, Post wise, and make it available for inspection.

Clause 6: Scrutiny and Finalisation of Nominations

(i) The Electoral Officer shall scrutinise each nomination paper, one by one, received

by him/her, and determine its validity or otherwise as per the NSD Act, the rules prescribed thereunder, the constitutional documents of the Federation and the Election Rules. At the scrutiny of nominations, each Candidate or one of his/her authorised representatives shall have the right to be present and raise any objection in relation to nomination of another Candidate for the Post for which he/she has filed his/her nomination. Where the Electoral Officer deems fit or necessary, an integrity check shall be conducted by the Electoral Officer about the eligibility or otherwise of a Candidate to contest the Elections.

(ii) As soon as may be after the scrutiny of all nomination papers has been completed by him, the Electoral Officer shall prepare a list of valid nominated Candidates.

(iii) Each Candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny shall be entitled to withdraw his/her candidature prior to the commencement of the Election. Notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled. The Electoral Officer shall accept the notice of withdrawal if he/she is satisfied as to the genuineness of the notice.

(iv) The Electoral Officer shall prepare the final list of contesting Candidates, make it available for inspection, publish it on Federation's official website, and also furnish a copy of the same to each of the Candidates, if they so demand.

(v) The Federation shall produce the ballot papers under the supervision and charge of the Electoral Officer. The ballot papers shall be printed clearly and legibly. The names of the contesting Candidates shall be arranged, for each Post, in alphabetical order according to English alphabets.

Clause 7: Campaign Practices

(i) Electoral campaigns shall be carried out by the Candidates in a fair and reputable manner and, more generally, 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, for the Federation and its Members. A Candidate may produce no spoken word, written text or representation of any nature likely to harm the image of another Candidate or cause his/her prejudice.

Criticism of other Candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programmes, past record and work. Criticism based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.

(iii) Each Candidate may present to the Electoral College his/her plans and views for the Post, in the form of a written document, whatever the means used to distribute it.

(iv) Candidates shall avoid excessive expenditure in campaigning, recognising that it

could become a factor of inequality amongst the Candidates

(v) The promotion of a Candidate shall exclude any form of publicity, including the use of new media or social networks. No public meeting or gathering of any kind may be organised in the framework of promoting a candidature. 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.

(vi) All Candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities that are “corrupt practices”, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, etc.

(vii) Candidates may in no case and under no pretext give presents, offer donations or gifts or grant advantages of whatever nature, directly or indirectly, to Voting Members or their representatives.

(viii) The incumbent Designated Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members 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 Federation or its Members in the newspapers and other media or misuse the Federation’s official media channels during the Elections; (c) sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time Elections are announced; and (vi) 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 Federation’s Members or its partner.

Clause 8: 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 Designated Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members shall refrain from making any public declaration and may in no way support a Candidate.

(iii) Candidates may not accept mandatory instructions from any public or private, natural or legal person. No direct or indirect assistance, be it financial, material or in kind, be it direct or indirect, may be given to Candidates by any third party. Candidates may not enter into any form of undertaking with any natural or legal person likely to affect the freedom of decision or action of the future Post.

(iv) The Federation’s executive team and administration shall maintain a strict duty of neutrality at all times. No support or service in relation to a candidature may be requested from any member of the Federation’s administration or staff.

Clause 9: Polling

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

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

(iii) At the poll, Voting Members (through their authorised representatives, where required), who are in the Electoral College, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each of the Posts remaining unfilled, where only one such seat is to be filled and cast as many votes as are the number of seats to be filled for any Post, where more than one seat is to be filled. The ballot papers shall contain the name(s) of the Candidate(s), and the voters must mark one Candidate only.

(iv) Each voter shall be required, before he/she is supplied with a ballot paper, to give his/her signature on the authenticated copy of the Electoral College list for taking the poll.

(v) A secret ballot shall always be conducted, regardless of how many Candidates there are. The secrecy of the ballot shall be guaranteed by the provision of a procedure ensuring privacy for the voter. The Electoral Officer shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers and be responsible for ensuring that the process is properly documented.

(vi) Voting Members must vote in person (through their authorised representatives, where required). The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper in secrecy in a voting compartment specially provided for the purpose at the polling station. The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper by placing a tick mark against the name of the Candidate of his/her choice. 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. The ballot paper marked by a voter shall be deposited by him/her 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.

(vii) The Electoral Officer shall close the poll at the designated time of closure. However, all those voters who are present at the polling station at the appointed closing hour shall be entitled to vote even if the poll proceedings have to be continued for some more time.

(viii) The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the Electoral Officer before the commencement of the voting. 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. 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.

Clause 10: 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. Each contesting Candidate can nominate one authorized representative and he/she shall be entitled to be present at the place of counting of votes. Other than such authorised representative, only the Electoral Officer and members of the Federation's executive team (as specifically approved by the Electoral Officer) may take part in the count.

(ii) Each 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.

(iii) The following ballot papers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected by the Electoral Officer: (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. 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.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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 Post or category of Posts, where applicable, shall be deemed to have been duly elected to those Posts.

(vi) 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. The general secretariat shall keep these envelopes and shall retain them until the completion of 100 days after the end of the General Meeting.

Clause 11: 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 Federation's General Meeting.

(ii) The results of the Election shall be published on the Federation's official website within 24 hours of completion thereof.

Clause 12: Sanctions and Complaints

(i) All administrative matters relating to any Election not covered by the NSD Act or the Election Rules shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Officer.

(ii) If there is proof of a breach of these Election Rules, upon reference from the Electoral Officer, the Federation's Ethics Committee may make to the Candidate in question (a) observations, which could be made public; or (b) issue a warning, which will be automatically made public on the Federation's official website.

(iii) In the event of a serious breach of these Election Rules, upon reference from the Electoral Officer, the case shall be referred to the Appellate Sports Tribunal constituted under the NSD Act for possible sanctions.

(iv) If a Candidate or a voting Member has any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of Elections, he/she may bring the same to the notice of the Electoral Officer and if the complaint or problem relates to the Electoral Officer, he/she may bring the same to the notice of the Government Observer, where one has been appointed.
