

AMATEUR KABADDI FEDERATION OF INDIA

Recognised by : Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Affiliated to : Indian Olympic Association, Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation & International Kabaddi Federation

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Comments on Proposed Sports Act

While appreciating the step of Government to improve the standard of the sports in the country there are a couple of issues which are not being touched and are the key factors in order to produce world class players capable of winning Medals in Olympics, Asian Games and or at other international events.

The proposed act is mainly dealing with the functioning of NSF's and National Olympic Committee, there is nothing in this act which is aimed at reward mechanism for athletes which at present is limited merely to provide some cash awards only to medal winners at select events like Olympics, Asian Games etc. but events like South Asian Games (SAF), Asian Indoor Games, Asian Beach Games are few international events in which even if GOLD MEDAL is won Government does not reward the Medal Winners. This should be looked into.

A basic question which we all have to address is why parents should encourage their wards to take up sports as their Career? There should be a fair and uniform well defined policy or act giving equal opportunities to athletes irrespective of game though rewards may be higher as per the category of event but by all means the future of a probable medal winner player must be secured and ensured than only the participation of youth will increase in the sports and will be supported by the parents.

The other prerequisite for sports is availability of infrastructure where we lack. Small-Small countries of the World have made mandatory provisions in their laws to construct Gymnasium and Swimming Pool in every colony by the colonizers. This provides a platform for children of 6-12 years to use the same. This is the age in which Gymnasium and swimming pool helps in developing the agility and flexibility of the children and makes him ready to adopt any game at an age after 12 years. Government of India should seriously consider enacting such laws in the country which will help in producing good athletes.

The sports persons are not produced by the NSF's and/or NOC, these bodies only pick the talent from Schools, Colleges and or universities and these are the places which needs to be strengthened in terms of sports in order to produce good athletes. The fact is that today our production of Athletes is severely jeopardized.

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Sports should have been compulsory subject during schooling but the situation is so pathetic in the country that majority of schools lack the playing field leave aside the sports equipments or sports material like shuttle cocks, rackets and many more of similar nature. The act and the intentions of the government are silent on the subject.

While government wants NSF's to be accountable for performance and their functioning the government has miserably failed so far in rewarding those federations whose game has been winning Gold continuously for a considerable period of as long as 20 years. The attitude and rewards are similar to all. Where is the incentive for good performers and the act again remain silent on the issue. Government treats every federation at same platform weather winning or losing at international level.

India lost its position in hockey as soon as FIH changed the rules and playground which now suits Europeans rather than Asians. The artistic and skill Hockey has now become a game of force. We as country never had our say in FIH and could not resist it.

The government of India does not have any control over International Federations but Indian Players will have to follow their rules. There are games where Indians control either Asian Federation or International Federation and Government has not given any thought on the fate of such positions if this act is enacted. It takes time to lobby and establish oneself at international level and 12 years is a small time for that as after 12 years the Indian will cease to be there in NSF of India and will automatically loose his chance at Asian and International Level. God forbid if it happens we are going to lose a few gold medals in future as the rules of those games will also change according to the suitability to those countries whose persons hold the Asian and/or International Federation. For example Kabaddi is one Indian Game which is being established at international level due to the efforts of Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India and it took lot of time to do so step by step. Today if we are winning it is mainly as the rules are original Indian rules which favor the Indian style, and they are being maintained as the International and Asian Federation both are headed by an Indian, if this changes time is not far when the rules will change and will favor other countries.

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All the countries of the world have spent millions of dollars to popularize their game as Japan did for Judo, Korea for Taekwondo, China for Wushu and Malaysia for Sepak Takraw. Indian Government did not spend even a single penny to do so in the absence of any such policy. Will any thing be done to make provisions to do so?

While government has unlimited powers and will eventually force every NSF to succumb to its pressures as no one can fight the Government and particularly in the light of facilities like railway concessions, Custom Exemptions, Income Tax Exemptions and even the use of word India or Indian but who will be accountable or responsible for the performance if it does not improve for the reasons stated as the NSF and NOC are merely facilitators not the producers of the sports persons. Sports persons will be produced only if the basics are improved rather than taming down the NSF and/or NOC.

The correspondence of NSF's has increased considerably due to the new laws and rules for example Web Site Creation and maintenance, RTI, Parliamentary Questions etc. but government does not provide any financial support to the NSF's even the salary provision to NSF's Joint Secretary and Assistant Secretary is also payable only if such positions and office of the Federation is based in Delhi. Maintaining office in Delhi in itself is a costly affair. Will government consider providing financial support to the NSF's irrespective of the location of its office, in other words will the salary facility of JS and As of Federation be extended to those federations whose offices are out of Delhi.

The grant in aid given for holding National Championships is a meager amount. No one can conduct a national event in Rs. 2 Lac. Government should consider revising the same.

(Janardan Singh Gehlot)