

## Table Tennis Federation of India

Comments on the proposed Sports Act: -

1. **Limitation of Tenure & Age bar** :- It has been observed that in majority of National Sports Federations Secretary / President / Treasurer takes the charge of Association approximately at the age of 55 years or beyond. By the time he understands about the International Federation and becomes part of International Federation, he nearly attains the age of 70 years. It is at this time he can contribute in managing the policies and contribute towards International Federation and help in making the policies which suits Indian conditions.

The Government of India does not have any control over International Federation but Indian Players will have to follow the International Federation. There are games where Indian control either Asian Federation or International Federation and Government has not given any thought on fate of such positions. If this act is enacted it take lot of time to lobby and especially oneself at International level. The time limitation given by Government will automatically loose the change at Asian and International Level. Finally if it happens, we are going to loose few medals as the rules of those games will also changes according to the stability of those countries where persons holding Asian / International Federation. As such we feel limitation on tenure and age bar should not be there.

2. Government is forcing us to have professionally managed federations and accountable, but Government does not provide any financial support to the National Sports Federation as regards appointment of professional in Finance and Administration. As you know, expenses of National Sports Federations has increased considerably due to the laws & rules e.g. website creation, RTI, Parliament question. Also hiring of office space and maintenance of offices in Delhi for which we have to spend lot of amount. Government should look into this aspect if they are make NSF's accountable.

3. The grant in aid given for holding of National Championship & Zonal Championship is very meagre. No one can conduct Senior

National championship in 2 lacs. Government should consider revising the same considering the high cost of living over the years. We feel Government should give a financial grant of atleast 20 lacs for hosting of National championships and 10 lacs for hosting of Zonal Championship.

4. The basic question which we have to state is that why Parent should encourage their wards to take up sports as career. There should be a fare and uniform decision about the same. The proposed act is dealing with the functioning of National Sports Federation, but there is nothing written which is aimed as reward for medals winners athletes performing exceptional and winning medals in Olympics and other events. I feel that there should be some job reservation for the medal winner in Government department and also in PSU's. This should be seriously looked upon. They should be given equal opportunities by way of cash awards and employment. This will ensure the increased participation of the youth in sports and will be supported by the Parents.

5. The other prerequisite for sports is the availability of infrastructure which we lack. It should available either free of cost or at very reasonable cost. It has been observed that Government has made very good infrastructure during the commonwealth games but this infrastructure are hardly available for the sports events. Either these infrastructures is not available or we have to spend a huge amount which no sports federation can afford. I feel there should be a clear cut policy by Government for making this infrastructure available for the sports federation either free of cost or at a very nominal cost which will boost and improve the level of the games in India.

However, other clauses like Good Governance, Athlete representation, accountability, etc are acceptable.

We request you to kindly pursue the above suggestions and if found acceptable may kindly make the necessary changes and oblige.

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Further comments on the National Sports Development Code, we are forwarding herewith following additional comments:-

You have indicated that the Secretary General and the Treasurer of National Sports Federation including IOA, may serve a maximum of 2 successive terms of 4 years each after which a minimum cooling off period of 4 years, will apply, to seek fresh election to either of post .

Normally in any NSF, the Treasurer is the one who is groomed to take over from secretary at the end of the term. It is also a fact that the Secretary & the Treasurer are the ones who take care of the day to day administration including liaising with Statutory Authorities and Government Agencies. If both of them are to go, it will put the NSF into a very delicate position, so it is our suggestion to delete the last 3 words i.e. **to either post** and instead to insert **to the same post**.

You have also indicated that for subsequent elections, one has to have 2/3 majority, which we feel is not correct. We would request you to replace 2/3 majority with simple majority for seeking subsequent elections.

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