Resumption of Sport in India Covid-19 scenario

A study initiated by President Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra
Current Sports Scenario: a quick overview

• Due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic entire nation is under lockdown since March 25, 2020

• All International and National sports competitions are either cancelled or postponed

• All sports gatherings such as competitions, meetings, training on sports grounds has been stopped by order of Government due to lockdown

• There is complete uncertainty when the situation will become conducive to travel, train and for the competitions to be organised
Current Sports Scenario: overview (contd.)

• Training of the athletes was at the peak when the lockdown was enforced and the athletes had to stop their training at once, although it differs from sport to sport
• The risk of athletes & coaches losing motivation is real
• Since there are no sports activities, sponsorships and media coverage have substantially reduced
• When there are thousands of positive coronavirus cases and so many casualties across the country, the priority of the sports has diminished
• 2020 Olympics has been postponed to 2021
  • Some advantages and disadvantages for the athletes
Facilitating decision-making

• In the present scenario, we will have to find out what is the way forward and how athletes can resume sports activities, training and eventually competitions.

• It goes without saying that resumption of sport will have to be guided by the Central and State Governments and the public health policies laid down.

• However, as a pro-active and responsible organisation, IOA must share feedback and ideas from the sports community with the decision-makers.
Some questions that we ask ourselves

• Which are the safest sport to start early?
  • Athletics, Archery, Shooting & Weightlifting?
  • Badminton, Squash, Table tennis and Tennis – as non-contact sport?

• How and when should team sport resume in the country?
  • Basketball, Football, Hockey, Volleyball & doubles in badminton, tennis, TT etc

• How and when should water sport resume in the country?
  • Swimming, Sailing, Rowing, Canoeing & Kayaking

• How and when should contact sport resume in the country?
  • Boxing, Wrestling, Judo, Karate, Taekwondo, Wushu
Some more doubts that crop up

• Remember training equipment is shared and athletes will touch them
• How can sport like athletics maintain social distancing in track events?
• Since players have to touch tennis balls, shuttlecocks, table tennis balls, basketballs, handballs and volleyballs, how safe would it be to resume these sport and when?
• In sport like basketball, football, handball, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho and squash which see body contact, how safe would it be to resume training and competition?
• As each sport has its own idiosyncrasies, the questions will vary from discipline to discipline
What can sports administrators do now?

• **Come up with a White Paper** with insightful and practical suggestions on returning to sport, both at individual and societal levels
  - **Based on consultations** with a wide spectrum of stakeholders across the country, the White Paper can be a **vision statement**
  - It can be **helmed** by IOA President, Secretary-General and Chairman, Preparation Committee
  - **Driven** by National Sports Federations & State Olympic Associations
  - **Audited** by a Committee of Experts from different walks of life
Purpose of creating White Paper

• To be in the forefront of drawing up a blueprint for resumption of competitive sport at all levels
  • From a medical perspective
  • From an athlete’s perspective
  • From a social perspective
  • From the economic perspective
  • From the perspective of holding competitions
  • From the perspective of safe training and free travel of sports community

• To be seen as a responsible organisation which cares for athletes at all levels and for the society at large
Methodology

• IOA/National Sports Federations will **lead** this mission by
  • Holding dialogue with MYAS/SAI/Training Centres under SAI and State Governments
  • Removing all impediments
  • Compiling responses from all stakeholders

• Respondents can click on a Google Forms questionnaire (link provided at the end of the presentation) and share their answers

• A special panel will **compile** the suggestions and analyse the data gathered from across the country

• IOA President, Secretary General & Chairman, Preparation Committee will consult experts and **oversee** the compilation of the White Paper as well as ensure effective implementation of the training/competition programme and remove hurdles, if any
Time-frame for NSFs and SOAs/SOCs

• A draft White Paper will be prepared based on responses collated by identified NSFs and SOAs by **May 20, 2020** to address resumption of sports activities for
  • For athletes who have qualified/are likely to qualify for Olympic Games
  • Other international and national-level athletes
  • Activities at the State-level athletes

• A final, more comprehensive version of the White Paper will be readied for release in June 2020. It will include responses collated by other NSFs and States/Union Territories Olympic Committees/Associations
  • Other NSF and SOC/SOA Deadline: May 31, 2020
Deadline for identified NSFs: May 20, 2020

- Archery Association of India
- Athletics Federation of India
- Badminton Association of India
- Boxing Federation of India
- Cycling Federation of India
- Equestrian Federation of India
- Indian Golf Union
- Hockey India
- Fencing Association of India
- Judo Federation of India

- National Rifle Association of India
- Rowing Federation of India
- Swimming Federation of India
- Table Tennis Federation of India
- All India Tennis Association
- Indian Weightlifting Federation
- Wrestling Federation of India
- Yachting Association of India

For other NSFs, deadline is May 31, 2020
Deadline for identified SOCs/SOAs: May 20, 2020

- Assam
- Delhi
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra

- Manipur
- Odisha
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Tamil Nadu
- Telangana
- Uttar Pradesh
- West Bengal

For other SOCs/SOAs, including those from the nine Union Territories, the deadline is May 31, 2020
Seven questions to ask stakeholders

• What would be the right time and strategy to resume training?
• What changes do you foresee in Sport when it resumes after lockdown – with personal hygiene, social distancing, self-protection?
• When would be it safe to resume competition and what will be the strategy?
• What precautions need to be taken when resuming sport?
• Do you prefer spectators in-Stadia when competitive sport resumes?
• How should local-level sport resume in schools, colleges and clubs?
• What norms should be followed in public playgrounds & play spaces?
Other factors that need addressing

• What are the anticipated number of community sport members?
• How will the training venues be sanitised from time to time?
• Can any training be adequately be done in homes/hostel rooms?
• Can training be staggered to reduce numbers and contact?
• How can social distancing be maintained at all sports venues?
• How can shared sports equipment & facilities be sanitised?
• Are resources for cleaning and sanitisation available?
• How can athletes’ time in shared facilities be limited?
• Are isolation areas available in/near training and competition venues?
Stakeholders for consultation

• Athletes
• Coaches, Medical staff & Recovery Experts
• High-Performance Support Personnel
• Match officials
• Central Government, including public health professionals, MYAS, SAI & State Sport Authorities
• Sponsors, including NGOs
• Media
• Fans
• Sports Administrators
Athletes that NSF may reach out to

• Elite Athletes
• Developing Athletes
• Former Athletes
Athletes that SOAs/SOCs may reach out to

• State-level athletes, present and past
• Development athletes in the State
• District and Club-level athletes
High-Performance staff NSF$s may reach out to

- High Performance Managers or High-Performance Directors
- National Chief Coach
- Medical Doctors & Recovery Experts
- Deputy Chief Coach
- Assistant Coaches
- Sports Physiologists
- Trainers, Physiotherapists, Masseurs & Masseuses
- Sports Psychologists
Match officials that NSFs may speak with

- International Umpires/Referees/Judges
- National Umpires/Referees/Judges
- Qualified technical Officials
- Scorers
Central Government whose views IOA will seek

• Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
  • Sports Authority of India
• Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
• Niti Aayog
• Ministry of Urban Development
• Ministry of Rural Development
State Olympic Committees/Assns to seek views

- State Sports Ministries
- State Health Ministries
- Municipal authorities in cities, towns & at block level
  - With special focus on resumption of club-level, school and college sport and in public spaces
  - Officials who will supervise execution, ensure proper precautions to be taken in regard to social distancing using proper equipment, sharing other facilities
NSFs & SOAs/SOCs may reach health experts

• Doctors – Virologists and other specialists
• Sports Medicine specialists
Media that may be asked for views

- Broadcast Partner of each NSF (CEO & Producers)
- Sports Editors & Journalists in Print Media
- Writers on Sports Websites
- Reputed commentators of each sport
Fans who may be reached

• In Stadia
• Broadcast & other digital media
• Social Media

• Important questions to be asked of them
  • Will they support resumption of competitions sport with minimum attendance at venues?
  • How can they help maintain hygiene and social distancing at venues?
Sports administrators

- IOA President, Secretary-General & Chairman, Preparatory Committee
- IOC members in India
- NSF Presidents & Secretaries-General
- NSF Chairmen of Selection Committees & Technical Committees
- SOA/SOC Presidents & Secretaries-General
- Other experienced administrators
A classification of disciplines

- **Individual Sport**
  - Archery
  - Athletics
  - Cycling
  - Equestrian
  - Fencing
  - Golf
  - Shooting
  - Squash
  - Table tennis
  - Tennis
  - Weightlifting etc

- **Team Sport**
  - Basketball
  - Football
  - Handball
  - Hockey
  - Kabaddi
  - Kho-kho
  - Volleyball etc

- **Contact Sport**
  - Boxing
  - Judo
  - Karate
  - Taekwondo
  - Wrestling
  - Wushu etc

- **Water Sport**
  - Canoeing
  - Rowing
  - Sailing
  - Swimming etc
Your co-operation is integral to this project

• It goes without saying that without the support and co-operation of NSFs and SOCs/SOAs, the White Paper will not see the light of the day

• Instead of waiting for Government directions, the sports community can come together to evolve some norms for resumption of all sport

• It will be a path-breaking exercise that will establish sports administrators as aware, caring, thinking and responsible
Google Forms Link that to be used

• Following is the Google Forms link so that respondents can answer directly

https://forms.gle/nPfXsgfnfPtyn9F38
Let’s do it together and as Team India

• Those wishing to e-Mail response in PDF or Word Document format, can send mail to kukubatra57@gmail.com, drkuku@batra.ind.in, ioa@olympic.ind.in, and neha@olympic.ind.in

• Thank you, in advance, for your support of this path-breaking study

Warm regards
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