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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



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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**



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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



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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?



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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



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Athletes that NSFs may reach out to

- Elite Athletes
- Developing Athletes
- Former Athletes



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Athletes that SOAs/SOCs may reach out to

- State-level athletes, present and past
- Development athletes in the State
- District and Club-level athletes



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High-Performance staff NSFs 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



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Match officials that NSFs may speak with

- International Umpires/Referees/Judges
- National Umpires/Referees/Judges
- Qualified technical Officials
- Scorers



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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



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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



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NSFs & SOAs/SOCs may reach health experts

- Doctors – Virologists and other specialists
- Sports Medicine specialists



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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



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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?



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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



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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



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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



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Google Forms Link that to be used

Safe Resumption of Sports in India
* Required



Name *

Your answer _____

Location *

Your answer _____

Email ID *

Your answer _____

Role *

Athlete

High Performance Support Team

Match Official

Government

Sponsor

Media

Sports Administrator

Fan

Next

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

<https://forms.gle/nPfXsgfnfPtyn9F38>



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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

Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra

President

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+91 99108 18181

