

F. No. 32-24/2008 SP III
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(Department of Sports)

.....

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 27th July, 2010

To,

The President,
Indian Olympic Association,
B-29, Qutub Institutional Area,
New Delhi - 110 016

The President,
Indian Hockey Federation,
B/40, South Patel Nagar,
New Delhi-110 008

The President,
Hockey India,
NDCC - II, Jai Singh Road,
Connaught Place,
New Delhi.

Sir / Madam,

In compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the matter of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) vs. Union of India (UOI), the Government would like to clarify as under: -

1. The Government has carefully studied the judgement dated 21.05.2010 of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in WP(C) No. 3713/2008 in the matter of Indian Hockey Federation vs. Union of India & Ors. wherein the Hon'ble Court has quashed the suspension and disaffiliation / de-recognition of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Union of India (UOI).
2. In view of the above judgement, Government, vide letter no. F.32-23/2008 SP-III(Vol. II) dated 25.05.2010, had directed the Hockey India (HI) not to take any further action with regard to holding of elections till the entire matter was examined in detail by the Government.
3. Subsequently, HI vide their email dated 24.6.2010, informed the Government that the International Hockey Federation (FIH) had given them an ultimatum that in case the elections were not held by 31.07.2010, the participation of India in the Women's World Cup to be held in August / September, 2010 and the qualifying tournaments for the 2012 Olympic Games would be jeopardized.
4. Taking the above position into consideration, and further taking into consideration that the Hon'ble High Court, in the above mentioned judgement, had quashed the order withdrawing recognition of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and the Hon'ble Court had not pronounced itself on the recognition granted by the Government to HI, based on the recognition of HI by FIH, the Government on 13.7.2010, communicated a conditional no objection to HI for holding their elections subject to adherence to the government guidelines laid down under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations, including the recent order of 1.5.2010 regarding the age and tenure limits, and the terms and conditions of the recognition granted to HI on 11.8.2009.

...2/-

6. Subsequently, on receipt of a complaint from Shri Jocquim Carvalho, Olympian and former National Coach, regarding a threat extended by HI to its players against participation in the National Championship organized by the IHF at Bhopal, the Government, vide its letter dated 19.7.2010, clearly stated to the HI that the recognition of IHF stood restored in the light of the judgement of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. Accordingly, HI was advised not to take any disciplinary action or impose any penalty against any player for participation in the senior men's hockey National Championship conducted in Bhopal from July 4 to 18, 2010. It was clearly stated in the letter that the players can not be faulted in the current situation when both IHF and HI enjoy Government recognition.

7. On 19.7.2010, the institutional members of HI, namely Inter-University Control Board, Railway Sports Control Board, Air India Sports Board and Services Sports Control Board were also advised accordingly. Based on the above action, a comprehensive reply was also sent to Shri Jocquim Carvalho on 19.7.2010.

8. The Government has also taken note that during the scrutiny of nominations for HI elections, HI took a stand that they were not bound by government guidelines relating to age and tenure limits. The Government is of the view that every NSF is fully bound by the government guidelines for it to function as an NSF and perform the public function of selecting the national team and deputing it for participation in international competitions. The Government Election Observer's presence at the Annual General Meeting of HI, which is scheduled to be held tomorrow, does not in any manner reflect Government's endorsement of the election process or its outcome. However, in deference to Hon'ble Court's directives, the Government has decided not to depute the Government Election Observer to oversee the elections of HI on 28.07.2010.

9. In the present situation with two recognized NSFs for the promotion of Hockey in India, only one of which, namely HI, enjoying the required support of the FIH, the Government will comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Court to obtain the cooperation of IHF and IOA and any other body that may have been set up to resolve the matter in the best interest of Hockey in the country.

Yours faithfully,

(Injeti Srinivas)

Joint Secretary (Sports)

27/07/10