

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30TH JULY, 2010 AT 5.30 PM
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY (SPORTS) WITH THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION, INDIAN
HOCKEY FEDERATION, INDIAN WOMEN HOCKEY FEDERATION AND
HOCKEY INDIA

Secretary (Sports) took a meeting with Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), Indian Women Hockey Federation (IWHF) and Hockey India (HI) on 30th July, 2010 at 5.30 PM which was attended by the following:-

1. Shri Randhir Singh, Secretary General, IOA
2. Shri K.P.S. Gill, President, IHF
3. Mrs. A. Ram, President, IWHF
4. Mrs. Amrit Bose, Secretary General, IWHF
5. Shri Narinder Batra, Secretary General, HI
6. Shri Injeti Srinivas, Joint Secretary (Spots), MoYAS
7. Mrs. Deepika Kachhal, Director (Sports), MoYAS
8. Sh. Shankar Lal, Under Secretary (Sports), MoYAS

2. At the outset the Secretary (Sports) explained that the meeting was called in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the light of the present impasse in the management of Hockey at the national level. She further stated that the purpose of the meeting was twofold; first, to understand the stand of IOA, IHF, IWHF and HI on how to move forward; and second to arrive at a consensus on what is in the best interest of Hockey in India, and how to achieve it.

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3. The President, IHF stated the following:-

- I. There has to be genuine effort to resolve the differences and focus on the promotion and development of the game.
- II. This would only be possible if we are willing to give up the litigation route and sit together to find a robust solution which could be achieved in a few days, if all concerned pursue it sincerely.
- III. Excessive interference on the part of the FIH should be strongly objected to.
- IV. The recent World Cup tournament conducted by FIH was apparently done through a private society, which is highly objectionable and should be examined.
- V. He stated that the Vice President, FIH in charge of Indian affairs had specifically stated that FIH do not consider it necessary for HI to have Government recognition, as it had IOA and FIH's recognition.
- VI. It was also questioned as to how the FIH was unilaterally allotting tournaments to India without the letter of support from the Government of India. It was pointed out that conduct of tournaments with private society arrangement would be injurious to the future of Indian Hockey.
- VII. It was also stated that it should be made clear to FIH that only the body recognized by the Government will have the status of the National Sports Federation and can organize international tournaments in India, and not private bodies.
- VIII. On issue of unified body for men and women, it was stated that IHC fully met with the requirement of FIH Constitution, and there was no reason for FIH to force for total merger of men and women body. The specific example of Malaysia was cited, which is said to have been adopted the IHC model, and which has been accepted by FIH.
- IX. It was emphasized that national pride was most important and the country should not allow undue interference by FIH even if it means that India should stay out from the FIH recognized events. The example of China withdrawing from Olympic movement for 30 years (from 1852 to 1986) was cited.

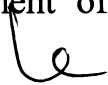
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4. The President and the Secretary General of IWHF maintained that by virtue of the May 21, 2010 judgement of Hon'ble Delhi High Court, the earlier combined body of IHF and IWHF, namely, the Indian Hockey Confederation (IHC) also stood restored. They also raised strong objection to the manner in which the present electoral college of HI had been finalized and cited several examples wherein Presidents and Secretaries of State Olympic Committees, who had little or nothing to do with the Hockey were acknowledged as the State Hockey Unit office bearers. They also alleged that there has been a lot of manipulation in the voters list with a view to ensuring that a particular candidate emerged victorious.

5. The President, HI did not attend the meeting. Secretary General, HI handed over an E-mail from the President, HI, addressed to Secretary (Sports), which questioned the validity of IHF, IWHF and IHC. The Secretary General, HI deined the allegations of manipulation of voters list. He also informed that the HI has obtained an order from the Hon'ble Supreme Court vacating the stay imposed by Delhi and Bombay High Courts on their elections that were to be held on 28.07.2010. He further stated that HI will hold their elections very soon and that it does not require a fresh notice, as they had only adjourned the previous meeting of the general assembly. He, further indicated that after holding the elections, HI would be willing to be a part of any committee set up to resolve the present impasse.

6. The President, IOA did not attend the meeting. Secretary General, IOA communicated that they along with HI will study the legal position and would take complete legal advise before giving detailed comments. It was also communicated that IOA had complied with the orders of Hon'ble High Court and intimated to FIH about the orders passed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, which has now been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

7. Joint Secretary (Sports) made the following observations:-

- I. Based on May 21, 2010 Judgement of Hon'ble High Court, the recognition of IHF stood restored. 

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- II. The present recognition given by HI was valid upto 31.12.2010 subject to compliance with the Government guidelines and other instructions issued from time to time.
- III. No National Sports Federation can claim to be a private body; further a Government recognized National Sports Federation has to function as a public body and subject itself to public accountability.
- IV. The stand taken by HI in the Court that it was a private body make it liable to lose Government recognition, especially since it has also argued in the Court that by virtue of being a private body, it was beyond the writ jurisdiction of the Hon'ble High Court. The same argument was also apparently pursued by HI in the case filed by it in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- V. HI also took similar stand before the Returning Officer appointed by it for conduct of elections. On that occasion, it stated that it did not require Government support and was, therefore, not bound by the Government guidelines.
- VI. It was stated that in the light of the present stand taken by Hockey India, of being a private body and Government guidelines not being applicable to it, the Government was left with no option but to communicate to all member units of Hockey India that their stand of being a private body would deprive them of Government recognition and all concessions and privileges which flow out of it. It was further stated that all the voters must be aware of these facts before they decide which way they want to go. It was noted that these contentions were made by a few nominated members of the adhoc body of Hockey India, which is yet to have elected body, and, therefore, it does not have the seal of approval of the general assembly of Hockey India, which alone is entitled to take decisions that have such far reaching implications.

It was also mentioned that once Hockey India holds its elections today as a private body, it cannot tomorrow claim the status of a National

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Sports Federation for Hockey in India, which is necessarily, has to be a public body. He specifically cited the Supreme Court Judgement in Zee Tele Films case wherein the Hon. Court observed that BCCI cannot be treated as a private club because it performs functions akin to those of a State, such as selection of a national team. Accordingly, the Court had observed that BCCI was within the writ jurisdiction of High Courts under Article 226 of Constitution of India.

8. Concluding the meeting Secretary (Sports) indicated that there has to be a meeting ground to move forward. She felt that there was no scope for HI, IHF and IWHF as well as IOA to adopt rigid postures, which was apparent with the number of Court cases springing up throughout the country. She hoped that all concerns raised above are fully addressed for promoting Hockey in India. She indicated that the next meeting would be held after receiving written comments of IOA.

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Injeti Srinivas)
Joint Secretary (Sports)
31st July, 2010