

Deciphering the Power Politicization in the Indian Sports Sector: Need for a Uniform Regulatory Framework

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Abstract

Sport is an intrinsic part of human society. It is also a means to achieve national development. Owing to its nature, sport is more relevant at the national and international levels. The United Nations has recognised sports as the promoter of global peace & international co-operation. However, due to the involvement of different stakeholders and actors, several legal issues emerged in the long run. And therefore, the need to regulate sports entered the realm.

To govern their activities, different sports organisations have drafted various rules and regulations from time to time. Even though disciplinary actions were taken against athletes who were violating the guidelines, these rules were lacking in certain legal parameters. The prominent issue faced by the Indian sports sector is the politicisation of power in the administration. In India, each sport is being administered by a separate organisation, mostly headed by political leaders and is mostly commercialised. Lack of a uniform framework can be considered the reason for India's poor performance in international competitions.

This research study is an attempt to analyse the challenges posed by the political pressure in the sports jurisdiction, the loopholes in its administration, and the need for enacting comprehensive legislation in the near future. If unregulated, the sports sector will continue as a breeding ground for unlawful activities, crimes, power politics etc. An effective and comprehensive legislation to address all the jurisprudential issues relating to sports is the need of the hour.

Keywords: *Administration; Comprehensive; Development; Lacking; Legal; Politicization; Regulation; Sports.*

Introduction

The importance of Sports in India has evolved since the Vedic era. It acted not only as a means of entertainment but also as a tool of cross-culturalism, economic development, and national integrity. Nonetheless, a recent plea to recognize Sports as a fundamental right under Article 21 has opened new challenges with respect to the regulation of the sports sector and, in turn, portrayed the question of power politics persistent in the sports administration.

According to the **Art. 2(1) (a) of the European Sports Charter** 'sport':

"Includes all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels".

It therefore has the capacity to bring mankind closer through shared celebration of achievements at the global level and act as a tool of cultural enhancement by making ethnic, religious and economic divisions fall away. In India, sports have long been a vital avenue for individuals to unlock their full potential. It plays a key role not only in

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enhancing physical abilities but also in fostering a strong physique and cultivating essential self-defence skills. in its truest force. Sports can be articulated as an excellent medium of socio-cultural & economic change, bridging the cultural gaps, resolving ethnic conflicts and educating the masses, thereby building a healthier society through cross-culturalism. In other words, sports play a vital contribution to holistic growth of an economy.

In 1978, sports were defined as a fundamental entitlement by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and are therefore quintessential for *promoting global peace, development and reconciliation*. A report published by UN Chronicle states that participating in various sports ought to promote *sustainability, peace and human rights*. *This initiative plays a pivotal role in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals*. April Six is observed as the Global Day of Sports for Development and Peace by the United Nations to *foster international cooperation and peaceful existence* through global sports events. Considering sports as a universal cultural phenomenon, playing a pivotal role in the global economy, it is high time to address several current and future potential legal issues generated by sports activities, especially in the competitive arena. Regulating sports in the national level is not an easy practice owing to its global implications.

To promote a stable ecosystem for sports development, a legislative framework is the need of the hour. The urgency to control sports activity arises out of the growing challenges posed by the players or their associations, including *racism, child abuse, sexual harassment, betting, doping, gambling, violence, etc.* It is crucial to safeguard the rights of the athletes, especially women & child players. We should ban dangerous sports, prevent age frauds, eradicate doping, safeguard gender equality, tackle antitrust and competition policy challenges in the realm of sports, which involves ensuring fair practices that protect broadcast licenses, regulate pricing structures, and enhance accessibility to sporting activities. By implementing robust measures, we can create an environment that promotes equity and fosters growth within the sports sector and thereby ensuring efficient professional management & financial accountability in the sports sector.

At the International level, various nations have implemented proper guidelines for the governance of sports, so as to enhance the public good. **The International Sports Federations (IFs)**, international NGO recognised by the IOC, are accountable for upholding the integrity on a global scale. Several organisations, the **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)**, **International Cricket Council (ICC)**, **World Boxing Association (WBA)**, **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**, etc., have established an extensive regulatory framework to oversee their sporting activities. Within these regulations, a significant emphasis is placed on disciplinary measures addressing the conduct of all involved stakeholders. France serves as a prime instance of effective sports administration, where the enhancement of sports is regarded as perennial. Contrast to other countries, the French government plays a pivotal part in overseeing and managing sports initiatives.

In particular, with respect to India, *political monopoly* is the major challenge in the sports administration. There are several federations working for the enhancement and growth of different sporting activities but most of these federations are *commercialized and politicized*. This power monopoly in turn is culminating several crimes and unlawful activities in the sports sector. India therefore is lacking in a comprehensive legislation so as to control diverse jurisprudential nuances and other allied activities. Sport development is crucial for the economic progress and socio-cultural advancement of a state. Hence, *sports administration should be under the periphery of sportspersons and not political leaders or businessmen*.

Sports Administration in India

Significance of sporting events in India has been underscored in the landmark case of *Zee Telefilms Ltd. & Anr v. Union of India & Ors* where the significance was spotlighted with lucid reference to cricket and the functions and responsibilities of authorities across different jurisdictions in United States of America, Australia, United Kingdom, Scotland and New Zealand and highlighted the rich sport culture in India since the Vedic period. **The Apex Court in K. Murugan v. Fencing Association of India observed that:**

“In today's world, sports hold significant importance for the public, with international competitions capturing greater attention than ever before. Over the past few decades, we have witnessed remarkable performances from smaller

nations in recent Olympic Games, showcasing their exceptional talent. In contrast, a country like India, which boasts the world's second-largest population, has struggled to achieve similar success, highlighting a notable disparity in athletic performance”.

Sports Federation as a ‘State’?

The development of sports is the prime concern of a Nation as it is interrelated to various aspects of national interest. It ensures a healthy lifestyle for all, social inclusiveness, child and women care, promoting youth empowerment, enhancing employment prospects, cultivating peace and development, and instilling a sense of unity are essential goals. Inclusion of 'sports' in the State list of the Seventh Schedule (Entry thirty-three) signifies its importance. As a state subject, the development of sporting events is primarily managed by State Governments, while it also falls under the Central Government's purview through its residuary powers and in accordance with Entries ten and thirteen of the Union List in the Seventh Schedule for national and international initiatives.

At the national level, sports hold equal importance to public education and healthcare, being recognised as a valuable public asset. Although National Athletic Governing Entities and federations *don't come under Article twelve* owing to their autonomous nature, they are in the purview of Article 226, which is being discussed in the landmark case of BCCI. This is due to their execution of functions typically associated with state entities like the intricate process of selecting national teams to represent the country in various international sports events and forums. Except for Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, no other states in India have implemented a functional Sports Law so far.

Athletic law “encompasses different sets of rules that apply to athletes and the sports they play”. The legal landscape in sports is multifaceted, extending beyond a single governing framework. Common legal issues encompass antitrust laws, contracts, torts, labour relations, trademarks, and taxation. Regulations can vary based on subjective factors, such as an athlete's status, or objective criteria, like the nature of the sport itself. Recognising the significant role of sports in society, sporting regulations must align with legal standards both nationally and internationally. Additionally, the push for economic growth has driven governing federations to engage in commercial ventures. Today, the responsibilities of sporting events' governing bodies extend well beyond merely establishing playing rules. The proper implementation of law will act as a catalyst for regulating the sports sector from the vicinity of commercial hands.

Governing Authorities

The enhancement of sports activities falls primarily under the purview of the States. Meanwhile, the Government of India has taken numerous initiatives to foster effective governance practices in sports administration at the national level. To advance and excel in sports, both domestically and internationally, the government established the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Key governing bodies in Indian sports include the National Sports Policy, the Sports Law and Welfare Association of India, and the Sports Authority of India. Each organization, tasked with specific objectives aimed at benefiting the sports community.

National Sports Policy

India got its first sports policy in 1984. It was the first governmental action to mainstream sports to develop a favourable environment for its promotion and expansion. The subsequent sports policy was developed in 2001. The major focus of National Sports Policy was envisaged on finding and nurturing sports talent to enhance infrastructure, harmonize sports with education, ensure access to high-quality equipment, provide training for athletes, and promote the growth of national sports federations, we need a multifaceted approach and thereby achieving excellence in national and international events. Though the objectives were novel, the systematic study of the efficacy of the policy is still lacking with respect to certain parameters. A comprehensive revision is necessary. Various programs including Khelo India had improved sports participation at the several levels, but it is yet to be implemented across the nation. Some States in India namely Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya and Haryana have developed state-oriented sport policies. However, these policies are not binding in nature and the effective implementation is highly dependent on that particular state.

National Sports Development Code:

In twenty-eleven, the National Sports Development Code was established for regulating the National Sports Federations in India. The Delhi High Court affirmed its legitimacy in the case of Indian Olympic Association v. Union of India. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports under Govt. of India had implemented the code for betterment of the sports administration in the country and in improving its sports performance in the global level. The Ministry oversees the administration and financing of sports, led by a cabinet minister. These federations operate in alignment with the guidelines established in the Olympic Charter, ensuring effective management and oversight of sports activities.

The Sport Law and Welfare Association of India:

A non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, advancing, implementing sporting events' law in India. This organization offers consultations on matters related to sports law, the regulatory bodies of various sports, and intellectual property issues within the sector. Additionally, it fosters dialogue and perspective sharing among various stakeholders by creating a platform for lawyers to represent athletes, teams, leagues, and educational institutions.

The Sports Authority of India:

It was established to promote a range of sports activities in India, aiming to bolster the sports sector and engage in diverse initiatives such as academic programs, raising awareness about physical education, and enhancing the skills of Indian athletes along with their associated organizations.

E-sports

Esports in India is witnessing rapid growth, with the industry projected to reach USD 140 million by 2027. States like Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh are leading the way in promoting this sector. Madhya Pradesh launched India's first "Esports Academy" in 2023, receiving over 40,000 applications for just 200 seats. Tamil Nadu's Electronic Sports Authority is introducing esports in rural schools, while Uttar Pradesh plans to establish esports centres as part of its new sports policy. Non-profits like the E-Sports Federation of India and the E-Sports Players Welfare Association are also paramount in promoting and training esports talent. Legally, India has made significant strides in recognizing esports. The Government of India, through the Three Hundred and Seventieth Amendment Rules, 2022, officially recognized esports. States like Sikkim and Nagaland already have laws regulating esports, and Rajasthan is contemplating similar regulations.

India's Online Gaming Rules (2021) include provisions that may apply to esports, particularly around online games that are free-to-play or involve real money. However, these rules are not fully operational as Self-Regulatory Bodies (SRBs) designated by MeitY have yet to be formed. The rules address concerns related to sovereignty, public order, and user harm, with user protection being a central focus. Esports is becoming more mainstream, with banned games like BGMI and Free Fire returning with restrictions. This trend reflects the growing intersection between gaming, media, and sports law. With the commercialization of personality rights and streaming rights, esports is fast evolving into a lucrative sector, calling for robust regulatory frameworks to ensure its sustainable growth.

The Need For Uniform Regulatory Framework

Sporting has become a major economic activity in India. Therefore, we need to implement efficient laws to comply with the sporting activities. Failing to address this issue can leave them exposed and susceptible to various forms of exploitation. In its two-thousand three resolution 58/5, the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the role of sports as a powerful tool for fostering paramount fundamental factors. The current policies and governing bodies seem insufficient to meet our sports objectives, highlighting the need for a new governance model in our country. Sports have evolved beyond mere recreation; they now symbolise national pride. Therefore, legislative action must be taken to address this critical issue. Although multiple federations exist, our country still struggles to establish an effective sports system.

The Challenges Faced by the Sports Governance System

Lack of Governmental Support: Sports have grown well in recent times, but *the lack of support from the government and inadequacy in proper governing laws for sports has hindered the success it deserves*. As a result, poor governance persists in all levels of administration. Despite the government is investing a substantial portion of its budget into enhancing sporting infrastructure and improving training techniques across the nation. 'still needs proper administration and governance to enhance the growth'. With the surge in reach of sports in India to a global stage, the necessity to have proper laws that can be followed and implemented and that can regulate the sports industry became imperative. The recent decision by the Delhi High Court to reinstate the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) comes as a significant development in the sports governance landscape. The court's ruling, which stays the appointment of an ad-hoc panel to manage the federation's affairs, underscores ongoing concerns about the legal framework governing sports organizations in India. Ambiguity revolving around the Sports Code and the powers of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to appoint ad-hoc bodies has led to conflicts and uncertainties, particularly when it comes to ensuring fair representation and accountability within sports federations. The court emphasized that the EFI, having a legitimate governing body, should not be sidelined without just cause. This case highlights the urgent need for clearer regulations to delineate the roles and responsibilities of sports federations, as well as the legal mechanisms available to address disputes, ensuring that the governance of sports remains both fair and effective.

Increased Political Interference: Though India is blessed with talented sportspersons, she has not been able to excel in the international arena. The pertinent reason for this crisis is the increased political pressure in the sports administration. The governance of sports federations in India has increasingly become intertwined with politics, often featuring politicians and business magnates in key positions. Many sports associations, including the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), operate with significant political influence. Above situation underscores the urgent need for transparent regulations that can establish a robust legal framework. Cricket, being the most popular sport in India, has suffered notably due to this politicization. The leadership of the BCCI has frequently been comprised of individuals with substantial political connections or previous political roles. A notable case is that of N. Srinivasan, the former President of the BCCI, who successfully pushed through constitutional amendments favouring his tenure while holding office. During his presidency, multiple amendments were made that raised concerns about governance integrity.

Commercialisation of Sports Economy: Sports have been turned into a pool of *commercial ventures*. Therefore, in order to regulate its commercial aspects, competition authorities has been forced to look into matters about it. Sports in our country are governed by regulatory bodies working for sports like the BCCI for cricket. There are different bodies for different sports.

However. These bodies are generally confined to regulating the rules of the game and its discipline, but not to ensuring its adherence to competition laws. Since these bodies are themselves the controlling authority of that particular sport, there remains the *possibility of abuse of dominant position by them, which is violative of competition law*, a few instances of which have already been observed in the past that attracted the intervention of the competition authorities. Justice T.S. Thakur and Justice Chelameshwar commented in the landmark hockey judgment:

"It is a sad commentary that people who are administrators of the game have nothing to do with sports, and they run the bodies at the cost of the game. Sports are being controlled by private individuals. Can the game be held hostage only by private interest? And this is the reason why hockey has come down, and the team is struggling to qualify for the Olympics, where we used to win gold medals earlier."

Corruption & Lack of Transparency: India boasts a vibrant sporting culture that spans traditional and colonial sports. However, it faces significant challenges on the international stage, largely due to rampant corruption and discriminatory practices within the sports sector. The absence of uniform regulations governing issues like betting, gambling, and match-fixing has exacerbated this corruption. Allegations of nepotism, unaccountability, and financial misconduct are pervasive, leading to a tarnished reputation.

One of the most disheartening events was the suspension of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) due to political interference. IOA officials were implicated in serious crimes, including criminal conspiracy and document forgery, resulting in Indian athletes having to compete at the Sochi Winter Games under the IOC flag rather than representing their nation.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has pinpointed several leaders of the Indian Olympic Association, including Lalit Bhanot, and has requested authorization to initiate legal action against them under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The 2012 IOA-IOC conflict underscores the deep-seated irregularities in Indian sports administration and highlights the pressing need for effective legislation. Governance issues such as corruption, lack of transparency, and ambiguous delineation of roles have fostered an environment rife with malpractice.

To combat corruption and enhance accountability in the oversight of sports, it is essential to scrutinize the conduct and financial transactions of governmental bodies and agencies responsible for sports administration. Introducing incumbency limits and age restrictions for federation office bearers is long overdue. Agreements that contravene the Trade Practices Act should not be upheld, and any denial of vital facilities necessary for competitors must be addressed rigorously. This is especially pertinent in a country where the administrative structure is hierarchical, with a single dominant agency overseeing operations.

Denial of Rights of Sportspersons: There is currently a lack of platforms for athletes to address disputes with their federations, resulting in many choosing to withdraw from their sports. Issues such as contract breaches, inadequate compensation, wrongful terminations, and a lack of transparency regarding expenditure records highlight the need for uniform legal frameworks. Additionally, harassment of athletes remains a significant concern that requires urgent attention. It is essential to establish clear provisions outlining the rights and privileges of retired athletes. Furthermore, India has been witnessing an increase in legal battles related to broadcasting rights and capricious decisions made by sports governing bodies.

Broadcasting Rights: India's Competition Act, 2002, voids any pact that has a significant adverse impact on market competition. Despite this, the (BCCI) has long sold broadcasting rights to exclusive partners, raising concerns about the concentration of media rights in the hands of a few, which can hamper fair competition in the broadcasting industry. The exclusivity of sports broadcasting rights, especially for major events like the Indian Premier League (IPL), has brought this issue into focus. One of the fundamental principles supporting public interest in watching sports is that sports events are temporary, unique, and irreplaceable. The unpredictability of outcomes and the fact that a live event cannot be replicated make the broadcasting of sports highly valuable. This uniqueness creates high demand for exclusive broadcasting rights, but when concentrated in the hands of a few, it undermines fair market competition and restricts public access.

A landmark case in this context is *Star India Private Limited vs. Competition Commission of India (CCI) & Ors.* (2019). In this case, Star India, which held exclusive broadcasting rights for BCCI cricket matches, was accused of engaging in anti-competitive practices. The CCI investigated whether the exclusive sale of broadcasting rights created an unfair monopoly, limiting the entry of other players into the market. While the CCI cleared Star India of charges, the case highlighted the need for greater scrutiny of how broadcasting rights are allocated, ensuring they do not lead to anti-competitive practices.

The exclusive sale of sports broadcasting rights, as seen in the BCCI's dealings, raises serious concerns under competition law. A robust legal framework is necessary to regulate the allocation of broadcasting rights and prevent monopolistic practices. This will ensure that sports remain accessible to the public while promoting fairness and competition in the media sector. Such regulation would strike a harmony amidst the commercial nuances of broadcasters and the public's right to view sporting events, safeguarding the integrity of sports broadcasting. When a limited number of entities hold a disproportionate amount of power over media rights, it significantly undermines the potential for equitable practices in the industry. Sporting events should be conducted with the highest standards of honesty and integrity; those who compromise these values must be held accountable for their behavior.

Injury Risks and Legal Accountability: Athletes are inherently at risk of injury while engaging in sports, making it essential for sports organizations to implement comprehensive safety protocols to prevent and manage injuries. The physical demands of competitive sports, combined with the unpredictability of gameplay, expose athletes to a variety of injuries, some of which can have long-term consequences. Therefore, preventive measures such as proper training, adequate safety gear, and medical support on-site are crucial to minimizing the risks faced by athletes.

Equally important is the issue of liability. When athletes are injured, the question of who bears responsibility often arises. Sports organizations, officials, and coaches may face legal consequences if they are found to have disregarded to impart secure environment. Clarifying the extent of this liability is essential to ensuring accountability. Sports governing bodies must be transparent in outlining their obligations toward athletes, particularly in terms of health and safety.

In addition to preventive measures and liability clarity, the issue of compensation for injured athletes needs attention. Athletes must be adequately compensated for injuries sustained during participation in sports, whether through insurance or other financial mechanisms. Provisions should ensure that athletes who suffer career-impacting injuries receive support for medical treatment, rehabilitation, and, where necessary, income replacement. This compensation framework must also account for long-term health impacts that arise from injuries sustained in sports.

Criminal activities: Instances like the Olympic Games bidding scandal, the IPL controversy, and the FIFA scandal highlight the urgent need for a cohesive governance framework for sports in our nation. Additionally, the pervasive issue of drug abuse among athletes must be eradicated, necessitating stringent measures to address this serious problem effectively. The provisions in regard with sport is being clubbed together with other sectors such as entertainment, cinematic performances and amusement, which means there is no particular legislation to govern sporting activities till now. This in turn is making the sector as a breeding ground for several illegal activities including drug trafficking, sexual harassment, criminal offences etc. The central govt. has set up a National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), Concerning the ongoing debate surrounding the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes. It promotes the oversight of sports activities, ensuring they remain free from corruption and controversies. Still doping continues as a matter of concern and is lacking in certain parameters of equality. Currently, individuals facing criminal accusations during an ongoing procedural inquiry are permitted to run for elections in sports federations. *Joy Bhattacharjya, who previously served as the team director for the Kolkata Knight Riders and held the position of director for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, stated that:*

“There is a need for structural change in the administrative sector. The worst thing today is that federations enjoy power without responsibility. Primarily, this is because we are apathetic to how sports fares. Unless we resolve this apathy, there will be no change in the existing system. Federations will always exist, but we need to find better people to manage federations. We need a watchdog on federations to ensure they do their job efficiently”

Current laws, policies, and regulatory bodies tend to focus primarily on enhancing sports or improving facilities, as well as exchanging ideas and perspectives. However, they lack stringent measures to address violations of rules and regulations during sports events. Numerous unethical practices can occur, including unfair gameplay, exploitative contracts with team owners, broadcasting disputes, and match-fixing. These issues are prevalent in the sports industry and warrant urgent attention; it is imperative that comprehensive regulations are established to govern these matters effectively.

Enacting a New Model

Undoubtedly, the current governance model of Indian sports administration demonstrates a significant lack of reliability and lucidity cultivates an atmosphere ripe for rampant ethical erosion. This situation poses a threat to the overall integrity of tournaments. Even the Indian Premier League, despite being one of the most profitable and better-managed leagues in the country, has faced its share of controversies recently. Unless robust mechanisms are established to oversee the substantial financial resources and diverse interests of stakeholders, such events will continually risk losing their credibility. This erosion of trust can have detrimental effects on the future of players and other involved parties. A legislative measure is necessary to prevent individuals from having a “*political background*

from holding positions in sports federations and associations. Running these federations without any political influence will be an immense boost for sports in the country”.

The proposed legislation should advocate for ethical standards and a culture of sportsmanship among competitors and decision-making bodies. At its core, the vision emphasizes ethical resolutions to legal challenges in sports. This strategy will enhance players' morale by nurturing stronger contractual relationships with administrative bodies. Contracts ought to explicitly define the expectations and responsibilities of both players and agents. Furthermore, providing consultancy services to athletes and sports organizations is essential. A synergistic partnership between the legal field and the sports industry is crucial for fostering a positive and productive relationship.

National identity and the essence of symbolizing India should take precedence over political decisions. It is crucial to have a former athlete in leadership roles rather than merely relying on administrators or politicians with personal agendas. To address corruption, implementing term limits and age restrictions for federation office bearers is essential. Any deliberate denial of essential services or exclusionary policies targeting a player or a competing organization should lead to the immediate removal of the responsible administrator. Misuse of power must be met with strict consequences. Introducing salary caps for players and teams is necessary. Practices that obstruct new entrants or alienate current participants, ultimately threatening the viability of competitions, should not be tolerated. Increased support and legal resources for women athletes are vital, and those guilty of harassment and discrimination must face severe penalties. Additionally, promoting high-quality research and ongoing education in the field of sports should be strongly encouraged.

The Way Forward

The intricate relationship between sports and law has highlighted the urgent need for a deeper comprehension of how legal principles intersect with the sporting realm. India requires skilled sports law consultants and researchers to navigate the complex array of legal fields that encompass sports law and policy, including contract, tort, taxation, labour, competition, broadcasting rights, match-fixing, and associated criminal laws. Legal professionals and athletes must collaborate to enhance, promote, and ethically practice sports law in India, making this collaboration more essential than ever.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has recently been filed in the Supreme Court by Kanishka Pandey, a sports researcher, advocating for the recognition of sports as a fundamental right under Article twenty-one of the Indian Constitution. He argued for the acknowledgement of physical literacy as a fundamental right in India. The petition proposes that the central government should establish the National Physical Literacy Mission (NPLM) to operationalise this right. This mission would entail creating and enforcing a comprehensive responsibility framework that encompasses curriculum design, compliance monitoring, review processes, grievance redressal, and self-correction mechanisms. Additionally, the petition calls for a mandate requiring all non-residential colleges and schools to grant free access to their playgrounds and sports facilities to local children outside of regular working hours, starting from the academic year 2022. It emphasizes the advantages of physical activity, the sustainability of sports, the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, and the safeguarding of children's interests.

To recognize sporting events into the realm of fundamental rights, it is high time to introduce legislations to govern the administrative sphere. Currently it is politicized and commercialized. We need to formulate a new model to tackle all the pertinent issues and associate all the sporting activities into a single sphere of governance. Different federations for sports pose pertinent challenges in the jurisprudential framework.

The National Sports Development Bill, 2013, and the Prevention of Sporting Fraud Bill, 2013, are two draft bills currently pending in Parliament. We eagerly await their transformation into effective laws that could revolutionize sports governance in the country. Now is the perfect moment to enact legislation that harnesses the economic potential of sports.

Sports, often seen as a minor player in economic growth, present a tremendous opportunity for enhancing nations to boost their GDP, particularly with a substantial population ready to participate in this sector. India, with its vast and passionate sporting community, must seize this moment for monetization. Key indicators of socio-economic

progress, such as infrastructure development and the nurturing of human resources, can pave the way for talented individuals from all corners of the country to compete on international stages and bring home accolades.

Constituting a *Sports Council* is the need of the hour. The Council will be bestowed with various goals namely; “examine the proposition that sport can be a powerful agent for change that should be leveraged by stakeholders including individuals, businesses, governments and elite athletes to drive significant positive development and progress in a social-economic and political context”. Sports helps the society to foster a positive mind set, to tackle all the hurdles in life through its vibrant nature. While being involved, as a player, an administrator, or a spectator, one can fathom lack of hindrances in sports in terms of socio-cultural, political, and ethnic aspects.

Sporting events are an intrinsic vital component of society, it serves as both an educational institution and a source of entertainment. This platform powerfully illustrates that a person's socio-economic status does not determine their worth; rather, it is their compassion that truly defines them.” To address the jurisprudential challenges pertaining to sports we need to enact efficient and comprehensive policies in the national sphere. It is crucial to implement strict regulations to minimize the exploitation of both natural and human resources. Careful legislation regarding intellectual property rights (IPR) in sports is essential to promote fair competition and prevent monopolistic practices from dominating the industry. *Good Governance in Sports Administration should be practiced so as to regulate unfair practices and monopolistic competition in the sports sector.*

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