



IOA/ Athletes – 183/ 2019/ 2689

17/1/ 2019

To
Presidents/ General Secretaries/ Secretaries General
National Sports Federations
India

By Email

NSFs Athletes' Commission

Dear Madam/ Sir,

Athletes are placed at the heart of the Olympic movement and Athletes Commission has an important function in strengthening the role of athletes in sports governance.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has established an Athletes' Commission and requires all the stakeholders of the Olympic movement also to have their Athletes' Commission. Accordingly, most of the International Federations have also constituted Athletes' Commission. The remit of an Athletes' Commission varies depending on the athletes they represent and their mandate within the organisation.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) also has Athletes' Commission from 2014 onwards. All affiliated National Sports Federations of IOA are also required to constitute Athletes' Commission, which:

- Represent the athletes within the Federation
- Liaise between active athletes and Federation
- Uphold the rights and obligations of the athletes

It is unanimously decided in the Annual General Meeting of the IOA on 22 December 2018 that all affiliated National Sports Federations (NSFs) should constitute Athletes' Commission within the next three months. We suggest that the norms of the International Federation as applicable should be adopted while drafting the policy and forming the Athletes' Commission. The NSFs should have eligibility criteria for members of the Commission based on merit and international performance. For any queries, assistance or guidelines, you can contact the IOA Office.

I am requesting all National Sports Federations to please expedite the process of constituting Athletes' Commission.

Sincerely,

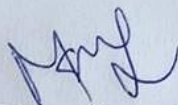

Rajeev Mehta
Secretary General

Guidelines for National Sports Federations forming Athletes Commission:

Aim: To form a majority elected Athletes Commission in each NSF of IOA

Recommendations:

- 1) Number: Minimum of 5 and maximum of 11 athletes are recommended (each NSF can choose its maximum number depending on the strength of the NSF)
- 2) Tenure: Maximum of 8 years from time of election/appointment
- 3) Composition: Majority should be elected athletes. Rest can be nominated by the President of the Federation
- 4) Athletes:
 - a. First preference for Olympians in all Olympic Sports in both summer and winter NSFs. (Since India has had small contingents in the past, many NSF may not have many Olympians and hence Olympians from last 6 Olympiads each for Summer - 1996 onwards and Winter- 1998 onwards can be incorporated)
 - b. Second preference to all medalists in Asian Games and Commonwealth games (Maximum of last 3 Games)
 - c. Third preference will be to International Players not having above in following preference:
 - i. Official World Championships
 - ii. Official World Cup
 - d. Fourth preference is all Asian and Commonwealth games participants (from last 3 Asian and Commonwealth games as the contingents were large)
 - e. If an NSF does not have sufficient athletes from the above, NSF can have athletes from National Championships.
- 5) Elections:
 - a. Elections should be held every 4 years at the National Championships of the federation
 - b. First elections to form the Athletes commission can be held by a simple gathering of top athletes as above with an election by ballot
- 6) Leadership of Commission
 - a. The elected and nominated athletes will form the commission
 - b. These athletes in turn will elect a chairperson and vice chairperson of the commission who will sit on the executive of the NSF
 - c. All NSF will have 2 athletes on the Executive. One from either gender.
- 7) Gender equality
 - a. Athletes Commission will have gender equality
 - b. If the elected athletes are not in equal proportion, nominated athletes will make up the gender equality



IOA Athletes Commission Chairman