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Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(Department of Sports)

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi, 110001
Dated the 25th November, 2009

To

The President/Secretary General, IOA
The Director General, SAI
The President/Secretary General/General Secretary of
All National Sports Federations
All State Sports Secretaries

Subject: Measures against age fraud in sports

Sir,

In the recent past, incidents of age fraud committed by athletes, in some major tournaments and selection trials, have come to the notice of the Government, which is a matter of serious concern. In order to ensure fair play, it is imperative that stringent action is taken against athletes found guilty of committing age fraud, and also against their abettors. Government has, therefore, decided that all sports federations/associations/bodies should take appropriate measures to check age fraud, on the same lines as anti-doping measures, as both amount to cheating, which is violative of the basic spirit of sport.

2. In view of the above, it has become necessary to adopt a National Code against age fraud in Sports, which is duly supported by a well laid down mechanism to prevent, detect and penalize such offences. Pending formulation of a National Code against age fraud in Sports, which will be brought out at an early date, all National Sports Federations are advised to adopt the following broad principles to ensure that overage players are not allowed to participate in national and other championships and are not included in national teams participating in international sports competitions.

- (i) National Sports Federations should introduce a system of issuing identity cards to national athletes, which should, inter-alia, contain name, photograph, signature and date of birth of the player, date of issue of the identity card and its validity period.
- (ii) The Federation should lay down a clear policy with regard to submission of documents for the purpose of age verification such as birth certificate, passport, school certificate, etc. The identity card containing the date of birth of the player should be issued only after the Federation has fully satisfied itself about the age of the player.
- (iii) The Federation should maintain an exhaustive and diligent record of the age along with proof of age of athletes who have participated in the annual national championships and other tournaments conducted by it. Each Federation shall be required to maintain a national register of athletes with state-wise details, which will be a public document.

- (iv) The Federation should conduct random age verification at regular intervals, on the basis of the records maintained by it.
- (v) The Federation should resort to medical examination of an athlete whenever any doubt arises with regard the age of an athlete on account of his or her physical appearance, receipt of any complaint or any other valid ground, which should duly communicated to the athlete.
- (vi) The medical tests relating to age verification and medical procedures adopted for this purpose should be duly notified by the Federation and made known to all athletes.
- (vii) The Federation should ensure that the medical tests include physical examination, dental examination and radiological examination.
- (viii) The Federation should notify in advance the list of empanelled hospitals for conduct of age related medical tests. The hospitals should be chosen on the basis of highest standards and credibility. Preference should be given to Government Hospitals meeting these requirements.
- (ix) If an athlete contests the findings of the medical test in question, it would be incumbent upon the Federation to arrange for a re-examination, preferably at a reputed Government hospital.
- x) In the event of conclusive proof that an athlete has committed age fraud, he or she should be banned from participating in any sporting event for a period of 2 years on the first detection and for five years on any subsequent detection.
3. The production of athlete identity card for participation in national and state competitions and in selection trials for international competitions should be made mandatory with effect from 01.02.2010.
4. IOA is requested to enforce the abovementioned guidelines on all National Sports Federations with immediate effect. Similarly, National Sports Federations are advised to issue similar instructions to State Sports Federations and their district affiliates.
5. The above instructions will also be applicable to the Sports Authority of India in respect of its trainees. Similarly, all the State Governments are advised to adopt the abovementioned procedures in respect of State Government Sports bodies.

Yours faithfully,


(Injeti Srinivas)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Tel: 23384152

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