

SPORTS POLICY IN INDIA

ANALYSIS: WITH REFERENCE TO SPORTS LAW

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Introduction

India is a varied nation with a rich social, cultural, and sporting history. Indians have always brought honor to the country in every manner they could, whether it be via culture or sports. We now have the greatest athletes in every sport. From Major Dhyan Chand's three gold Olympic medals to his world cup victories in 1983 and 2011. All people have looked up to Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar and Milkha Singh (the Flying Sikh). The first athlete to get the Bharat Ratna was cricket's "God" and living icon Sir Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar. India's national sport, hockey, has won championships eight times. On August 29, our nation observes Sports Day in honor of hockey hero Sir Major Dhyan Chand. The legends of many sports are honored with a plethora of prizes. Both vistas and obstacles have been present in Indian sports. The Indian government oversees sports in the country through the federations. It has also experienced corruption and encumbrance. For a very long time, those sports were not governed by any regulations. Whoever is in charge of regulating these sports was under scrutiny. In order to create premier clubs, the sports federation engaged in extensive corruption. Sports have served as the arena for the core of the legislation, which is still contested and unresolved.

The conflict between the players and sports bodies has been the great cause of the decline in the spirit of the sports. The condition of player at state or national has been the other reason for the decline in the spirit of the sports.

This research paper deals with the critical relation of player and sports bodies and scope of reform. Also deals with the corruption happening in the field of sports. The audacity of hope shall still not dusk till the dawn of the change takes over might.

Sports Law in India

The legal framework and rules governing several facets of sports-related activities in India are referred to as sports law. It covers the laws, regulations, and guidelines that control sports leagues, teams, events, anti-doping policies, sports contracts, broadcasting rights, and other relevant issues. Here are some significant facets of Indian sports law:

Sports Organizations: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, along with a number of national sports federations in charge of particular sports disciplines, serves as India's principal sport's governing organization. These federations are in charge of organizing contests, creating rules and regulations, and keeping an eye on how each sport is progressing.

Sports Rules: The National Sports Development Code of India (NSDCI) is a thorough set of rules that govern how national sports federations must operate. It includes topics like election administration, money management, and accountability, as well as the creation and recognition of sports organizations.

Sports Contracts: Athletes, clubs, teams, and sponsors enter into a variety of agreements through sports contracts. These agreements set forth the rules for things like player transfers, endorsements, image rights, pay, and other conditions. The principal piece of legislation that controls contractual arrangements in sports is the Indian Contract Act of 1872.

Anti-Doping Measures: Implementing anti-doping measures in India is the responsibility of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). It performs anti-doping tests, informs athletes of anti-doping policies, and applies sanctions for doping infractions in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) policy.

Media rights and broadcasting: These two factors are very important in the world of sports. Signals for Sports Broadcasting (Required Sharing with Prasar Bharati).

Many new sports laws are being introduced as per the need of the society.

Sports Policy for Major Games

Cricket-

BCCI which is the governing body in India for the cricket. It is a private body which governs and regulate the functioning of the cricket at international level as well as at national level. In Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulation all the policies are being stated.

Indian Premier League-

There have been a lot of controversies in the Indian Premier League before. But on May 16, it undoubtedly had its worst crisis when the Delhi Police detained three Rajasthan Royals players for spot-fixing shortly after their match in Mumbai: Sreesanth, Ajit Chandila, and Ankeet Chavan.

Amit Singh, a former Royals player, was one of the bookies who was detained at that time. Later, Royals suspended their players, and the BCCI launched an investigation into the claims under the direction of its ACSU chief Ravi Sawani. Additionally, the board disclosed strengthened anti-corruption measures, including the addition of two security personnel to each team. As betting is prohibited in India, the arrests sparked a nationwide search and arrest of bookmakers. A minor actor named Virender "Vindoo" was one of those arrested in Mumbai. Dara Singh was detained on suspicion of having contacts with bookmakers. On May 24, Meiyappan Gurunath, a senior member of the Chennai Super Kings and the son-in-law of BCCI president N Srinivasan, was detained by the police as a result of his evidence. The players were among 39 people who were subsequently charged by the Delhi Police with violations of the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA) and various provisions of the Indian Penal Code. Sreesanth and Chavan were given life bans by the BCCI after Sawani's investigation determined they had fixed games. The previous BCCI President N Srinivasan and Rajasthan Royals co-owner Raj Kundra, however, received clean chits from the board's own investigative team that was established to look into the claims of betting and spot-fixing in the IPL season six. The Bombay High Court found the investigation panel to be "illegal and unconstitutional" in July 2013. The investigative panel report that cleared Board President N Srinivasan's Chennai Super Kings and his son-in-law Gurunath Meiyappan was questioned by the court.

The HC bench rejected BCCI's argument that it could not be sued over an IPL-related problem, saying that the matter was within the court's purview and in the "larger public interest." And the cricket was answerable for this.

Football –

Football in India: With a population of well over a billion, why is it impossible for India to have an eleven-player international football team? There are numerous reasons why the query has piqued the interest of many sports analysts around the world. There was a time when football was only somewhat popular in other areas of the country, but there were many fans of clubs like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan in Calcutta. And for this reason, regional football teams gave players fewer chances to become well-known and famous. There may be many exceptional football players, but the general public did not like them. Cricket players, on the other hand, are not treated less than a celebrity.

Little funding for sports is provided by the Indian government's union budget, making it difficult for athletes to make a living playing sports like football. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), is a private organization and is the wealthiest cricket governing bodies in the world. In India, cricket is the chosen sport, and parents do not urge their kids to pursue football as a career; it is mainly encouraged as a hobby. Other sports are the same. Before they accomplished something monumental in their respective games, Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, and Neeraj Chopra were very little known to us. Few people are aware that Riyan Parag, who played for India at the U-19 World Cup in 2019, became the second Assamese player to do so, following Abu Nechim of the North East. In order to grow the popularity of football in the nation and give players better facilities, another institution is required in addition to the BCCI. There are just a few places in India where football has been played for a very long period and has some well-known players, including Kerala, Kolkata, Goa, and the northeast. In addition to failing to improve sportsmanship, the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) also failed to tap into the untapped market of potential rising states.

Conclusion

In the time of crisis, the only things needed are leadership and the will. We must not lose sight of the fact that the world's youngest population is our greatest national asset during this reform discussion. One area where this is true is sports must be modernized and brought into line with the younger generation. There is a lot of room to expand the role of sports in society. In order to promote and benefit Indian sports, the law can play a significant part in this. A uniform sports legislation must be discussed and passed by Parliament to unify all sports, games, and any other connected or incidental topics under one law, similar to how the Uniform Civil Code has been the subject of extensive debate. There should be strict rules and regulation for the authorities too so that they do not do scam in any of the sports. Nowadays there are many youngsters who are very talented but they do not get recognition because of the authorities. So, to avoid these there should be checks and balances on them as well.

When it comes to constitutional matters, adopting the values of equality, justice, and fair play will help fulfil the objectives outlined in the preamble, fundamental rights, and guiding principles of state policy. There has been a power shift at the middle. There is now a new government in place. By connecting law and sports, it can bring about transformative changes. There is a huge opportunity to promote sports culture in educational settings like schools. The development of a "National Sports Policy" is necessary for India's sports culture to flourish. Younger generations' health and fitness should be prioritized. The idea of "marks for sports" ought to be taught in educational institutions to inspire the next generation. By laying the groundwork for our future today, we can lead the world in sports tomorrow.

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