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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 10138/2023 & CM APPL. 39234/2023, CM APPL. 62316/2024, CM APPL. 8809/2025, CM APPL. 35555/2025, CM APPL. 46970/2025

PADMAJA GARIKIPATI

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Rahul Mehra, Sr. Adv. with Mr. Chaitanya Gosain, Mr. Saurabh Jain, Mr. Hanif Chimthanawala, Mr. Prayag Jain, Advocates (M:9999981270)

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Nishant Gautam, CGSC with Mr. Prithviraj Dey, Ms. Kavya Shukla, Advocates (M:8826148996)
Mr. Hrishikesh Baruah, Mr. Parth Goswami, Mr. Ranjeet Pawar, Mr. Yashaswy Ghosh, Advocates for R-2 (M:6355306939)
Ms. Kumudavalli Seetharaman, Advocate for R-3/IOA

CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA

ORDER
03.12.2025

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1. All the parties are *ad idem* that elections to the Gymnastic Federation of India ("GIF"), have to be held. The last elections were held on 05th November, 2019 and the tenure of the said executive committee ended on 04th November, 2023.
2. Since, there were disputes with regard to the National Sports



Development Code of India, 2011 (“National Sports Code”) not being followed in totality, the present writ petition came to be filed.

3. Attention of this Court has been drawn to the various violations by the current executive with respect to the tenure violations of the National Sports Code, pertaining to the cooling off period, age limit as well as the minimum player’s representation.

4. This Court has been informed that the President, Mr. Sudhir Mittal has already reached the age of 70 years in the year 2023 and therefore, in terms of the letter dated 01st May, 2010 issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India (“GOI”), the tenure of the said President automatically ceases.

5. Similarly, it has been submitted before this Court that the current General Secretary, Dr. Shanti Kumar Singh was member of the executive from 2003 to 2007. Subsequently, he was the Joint Secretary from 2007 to 2011 and the Treasurer from 2011 to 2015. Thereafter, he has continued as General Secretary from 2015 to 2019.

6. Attention of this Court has been drawn to the relevant provision of the National Sports Code, which categorically states that there has to be a cooling off period of four years, after a tenure of eight years. Thus, as far as tenure of Dr. Shanti Kumar Singh is concerned, there is violation with regard to the cooling off period.

7. Attention of this Court has also been drawn to the application being *CM APPL. 46970/2025* filed by the UOI, whereby, UOI has prayed for conduct of immediate elections of GFI.

8. Further, attention of this Court has also been drawn to the application being *CM APPL. 35555/2025*, filed by the GFI, wherein, the GFI has also made a similar prayer for conduct of elections.



9. Learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the judgment passed by the Supreme Court in the case of ***All India Football Federation Versus Rahul Mehra & Ors., 2025 SCC OnLine SC 2020***, to submit that in the present case also, the Constitution of GFI be amended as was done in the case of ***All India Football Federation (Supra)***.

10. He further submits that time bound elections be held on the basis of the amended Constitution and directions be passed accordingly.

11. At this stage, learned counsel for the UOI submits that the New Sports Governance Act, 2025 is likely to be implemented shortly and an affidavit in that regard has been filed before the Division Bench of this Court.

12. He submits that a similar affidavit would be placed before this Court as well. He further submits that elections be directed to be conducted as per the New Sports Governance Act, 2025.

13. The present is a part-heard matter, wherein, the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner has addressed his arguments. For arguments on behalf of the respondents, re-notify on 09th January, 2026.

14. As far as the issue with respect to the President and Secretary General of GFI is concerned, arguments on behalf of the GFI have been heard.

15. Learned counsel for the GFI submits that he wishes to place on record an affidavit in that regard.

16. Accordingly, permission is so granted.

17. Let the needful be done, with service of advance copies to learned counsel for the petitioner, before the next date of hearing.

18. Re-notify on 11th December, 2025 at 2:30 PM.

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

DECEMBER 3, 2025/au