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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, Mr. Chaitanya Gosain, Mr. Saurabh Jain and Mr. Hanif Chimthanawala, Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Nishant Gautam, CGSC with Mr. Vineet Negi, Mr. Vibhav V. Nath, Ms. Kavya Shukla and Ms. Theresa, Advocates for R-1.
Mr. Hrishikesh Baruah, Mr. Parth Goswami, Mr. Ranjit Panwar and Ms. Nishtha Sachar, Advocates for R-2.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT BANSAL

ORDER

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24.03.2026

1. Pursuant to the order passed by this Court on 14th January 2026, an affidavit has been filed on behalf of the respondent no.1/Union of India (UOI). Paragraphs 10 and 11 of the said affidavit are set out below:



10. In view of the foregoing, and in specific response to the twin queries raised by this Hon'ble Court in para 9 of the order dated 14.01.2026, it is respectfully submitted as follows:

- i. In so far as the query regarding Rules notified under the NSG Act is concerned, it is submitted that two sets of Rules, namely the National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026 and the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, have been notified as on date, details whereof are set out in para 5 above.
- ii. In so far as the query as to whether elections of NSFs can take place under the mechanism put forth in the NSG Act, 2025 is concerned, it is respectfully submitted that elections can indeed take place under the said mechanism. The viability and appropriateness of the said mechanism has been duly recognised and applied by this Hon'ble Court in the judgment dated 12.02.2026 in W.P.(C) No. 3165/2022 titled as "Karnataka Judo Association v. Judo Federation of India and Others", wherein elections to the Judo Federation of India were directed to be conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the NSG Act, 2025 and the Rules framed thereunder.



11. It is, therefore, humbly submitted that in view of the above judicial precedents, all of which consistently uphold the approach of conducting elections first and thereafter directing the elected body to align the constitution of the federation with the applicable statutory framework, this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to issue directions to GFI to conduct its elections in terms of the mechanism as laid down by this Hon'ble Court in the matter of Karnataka Judo Association v. Judo Federation of India & Ors. (supra), subject to the final outcome of the present petition.

2. An affidavit has also been filed on behalf of the respondent no.2/Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI), wherein it is stated that the constitution of the respondent no.2 has been amended in terms of the provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

2.1 A copy of the same has been sent to the respondent no.1/UOI for their approval.

3. Mr. Hrishikesh Baruah, counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent no.2/GFI submits that in terms of Rule 3 of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, every national sports body is required to have a minimum of four (4) sportspersons of outstanding merit in the General body. The Rule further provides that the manner of elections for nomination of sportspersons on outstanding merit shall be specified in the Byelaws of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

3.1 Mr. Baruah submits that the necessary amendments in the Byelaws



have been made, which provide that there shall be four (4) sportspersons of outstanding merit.

4. Let the subsequent amendments also be sent to the respondent no.1/UOI within one (1) week from today.

5. The aforesaid constitution was approved in the Extraordinary General Meeting ('EGM') of the respondent no.2/GFI conducted on 7th March, 2026.

5.1. Let the amended constitution be placed on record within one (1) week from today, supported by an affidavit with a copy to the counsel for the petitioner herein.

6. Mr Rahul Mehra, counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submits that the respondent no.2/GFI is deliberately restricting the sportspersons of outstanding merit in the General body to the minimum prescribed limit of four(4).

7. The Union of India, to whom the Byelaws have been sent for approval, shall, while approving the Byelaws, also consider the aspect of the number of players/sportspersons of outstanding merit that are required to be in the General Body.

8. The Union of India shall communicate its decision in relation to the amended constitution of the respondent no.2/GFI at the earliest. The Union of India shall file an affidavit in this regard before the next date of hearing.

9. The respondent no.2/GFI shall also file an additional affidavit detailing the steps taken by them for holding the elections in terms of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

10. List on 6th July, 2026.

AMIT BANSAL, J

MARCH 24, 2026/Rzu