



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT DHARWAD

DATED THIS THE 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE LALITHA KANNEGANTI

WRIT PETITION NO.101741 OF 2026 (GM-POLICE)

BETWEEN:

MANDARA SPORTS AND CULTURAL
RECREATION CLUB (R),
KUMBARA VEERABHADRAPPA LAYOUT,
JOLADA KUDLIGI ROAD,
VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT, KOTTURU-583134,
REPRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT
K. MANJUNATH S/O. MAILARAPPA,
AGED ABOUT 39 YEARS.

- PETITIONER

(BY SRI. VADIRAJ P., ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HOME,
VIDHANA SOUDHA, BENGALURU-560001.
2. THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,
VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT, VIJAYANAGARA-583201.
3. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE,
VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT, VIJAYANAGARA-583201.
4. THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE,
VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT, VIJAYANAGARA-583201.
5. THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
KOTTURU TALUK, VIJAYANAGARA-583201.
6. THE CIRCLE INSPECTOR OF POLICE,





KOTTURU TALUK, VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT-583201.

7. THE SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
KOTTURU TALUK,
VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT-583201.

- RESPONDENTS
(BY SRI. T. HANUMAREDDY, ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO ISSUE WRIT OF MANDAMUS OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE WRIT, DIRECTIONS OR ORDER TO THE RESPONDENTS NOT INSIST THE PETITIONER ASSOCIATION TO OBTAIN ANY LICENSE TO CARRY ON LAWFUL ACTIVITIES LIKE FOR PLAYING SKILL GAMES, LIKE CHESS, SNOOKER, CAROM, BADMINTON, VOLLEY BALL, TABLE TENNIS, RUMMY, INDOOR GAMES AND OTHER INDOOR AND OUTDOOR GAMES LIKE CRICKET AND KABADDI ETC, IN THE PREMISES OF THE PETITIONER SOCIETY EITHER UNDER THE LICENSING AND CONTROLLING OF PLACES OF PUBLIC AMUSEMENT ORDER OR UNDER THE KARNATAKA POLICE ACT AND NOT TO INTERFERENCE WITH THE RECREATIONAL AND OTHER LAWFUL ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON IN THE PETITIONER SOCIETY IN ANY MANNERS IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY & ETC.

THIS WRIT PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE LALITHA KANNEGANTI



ORAL ORDER

This writ petition is filed seeking the following prayer:

a) Issue writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, directions or order to the Respondents not insist the Petitioner Association to obtain any license to carry on lawful activities like for playing skill games, like chess, snooker, carom, Badminton, Volley ball, Table Tennis, Rummy, Indoor Games and other Indoor and outdoor games like cricket and Kabaddi etc, in the premises of the petitioner society either under the licensing and controlling of places of public amusement order or under the Karnataka police Act and not to interference with the recreational and other lawful activities carried on in the petitioner society in any manners in the interest of justice and equity.

b) Grant such others reliefs as this Hon'ble Court deems fit in the facts and circumstances of the case in the interest of justice and equity."

2. Petitioner is a society registered under ***the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960***. The petitioner's recreation club is established to encourage the games like chess, snooker, carom, badminton, volley ball, table tennis, rummy and other indoor and outdoor games like cricket, kabaddi etc.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that, the entry to the petitioner's Association is restricted only to its members and outsiders and other public are not allowed to enter or enjoy the benefits of the society as a matter of right or on payment. He further submits that, the respondent-Police are now forcing the



petitioner recreational club to obtain licence to conduct the activities in the said club. Hence, this writ petition is filed.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submit that the recreational activities that are carried out in the recreation club would not fall under Sections 6 & 7 of the Karnataka Police Act,1963. Hence, they are not required to secure any license from the authorities.

5. Learned A.G.A. appearing for the respondents submits that the issue involved in this writ petition was examined by the Division Bench of this Court in W.A.No.728/2020, disposed of on 18.01.2021.

6. Hence, this writ petition also requires to be disposed of in the light of the order passed in W.A.No.728/2020 on the following terms and conditions:

- (i) The petitioner shall install CCTV cameras at the places of access to its members and also at all the places, where in game(s) is / are played by the members within a period of six weeks. The CCTV footage of at least prior 15 days period



shall be made available by the petitioner to the jurisdictional police, as and when called upon to do so.

- (ii) The petitioner shall issue identity card(s) to all its member(s), which shall be produced by the member(s), when called upon by the concerned police, during the raid(s), surveillance, etc.,
- (iii) The petitioner shall not allow any non-member(s) or the guest(s) of the member(s) to make use of its premises for the purpose of playing any kind of game(s) or recreational activities.
- (iv) The petitioner shall not permit any activity by any of its member(s), by indulging in acts of amusement, falling within the definition of Sections 2(14) and 2(15) of the Act and shall not permit any game(s) of chance as per Explanation (II) of SubSection(7) of Section 2 of Karnataka Police Act, 1863. The member(s)



shall not be allowed to play any kind of game(s) with stakes or make any profit or gain out of the game(s) played.

- (v) The petitioner shall put proper mechanism in place and shall ensure that no game(s) is played in any unlawful manner by the member(s). If the jurisdictional police find the game(s) played is/are contrary to any law and in violation of the settled practice, it is open to them to take action against the petitioner and the offenders, in accordance with law.
- (vi) The jurisdictional police shall have liberty to visit premises periodically and / or on receipt of any information about any unlawful activity being carried on in the petitioner's premises.
- (vii) The respondents are directed not to interfere with the lawful recreational activities carried on by the members of the petitioner's-Club / Association.



- (viii) It is made clear that this order would not come in the way of the jurisdictional police invoking the provisions of the Act and taking action in accordance with law, if the member(s) of the petitioner is / are found to have indulged in any unlawful or immoral activities.

Sd/-
JUSTICE LALITHA KANNEGANTI

BVV
CT: UMD
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 41