

F.No.32-14/2013-SP-III
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 28th February, 2014

To

The Secretary General,
Hockey India,
B1/E3, Ground Floor,
Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate,
New Delhi-110044.

Sub: Grant of recognition by Govt. of India to Hockey India as National Sports Federation (NSF) for the sport of Hockey.

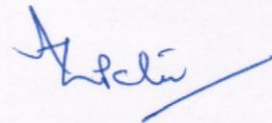
Sir,

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India recognizes the importance of the sport of Hockey in India, its popularity among the masses and medal prospects of India in various international events, etc. Keeping these factors in view, the Ministry realizes the need to quickly resolve the long-pending issue of granting recognition to a federation as NSF for the sport of hockey.

2. Prior to May, 2008, Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and Indian Women Hockey Federation (IWHF) were controlling the sport of Hockey for men and women respectively. In May, 2008, IHF was suspended by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and an ad-hoc Committee was formed by IOA to look after the affairs of the discipline of hockey. On the basis of the same, the Ministry also suspended IHF in May, 2008. In March, 2009, the President of the International Federation for Hockey (FIH) met the then Minister for Sports and expressed his concern on the delay in forming a unified body for Men & Women Hockey in India and insisted that the same be formed within 6 months. Otherwise, holding of the World Cup-2010 in India would be withdrawn. Accordingly, the Government of India also supported the efforts of IOA for formation of a unified body.

3. In August, 2009, the Government granted conditional recognition to Hockey India till 31-12-2010. On 5th August, 2010, taking into account the judgement of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 21.05.2010 and violation of Government guidelines by Hockey India as well as its open declaration that it is a private body beyond the writ jurisdiction and the Government's regulatory powers, Government withdrew recognition granted to Hockey India.

4. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble High Court of Delhi have made the following important orders/judgments on the issue.



- i) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition No.270 of 2010 and SPL (C) 24470 of 2010

Sl. No	Date	Interim orders
1.	17.08.2010	HI and IOA to finalize the Women Hockey Team and take all necessary steps for sending the teams so that participation of Indian Team in the World Cup is assured
2.	27.08.2010	IOA and HI will field the men's and Women's Hockey Team in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. If the Indian Olympic Association wants to make any addition to the National Selection Committee, it may do so
3.	22.10.2010	The arrangement made by this court by interim order dated 27.8.2010 shall apply in regard to participation of the hockey team in Asian Games to be held in China in November, 2011. In the meanwhile, the representative of Hockey India, Indian Hockey Federation and I.O.A. may attempt to hold discussions with the Sports Ministry and sort out the matter.
4.	07.01.2011	On request of the learned counsel for the parties, the matters are adjourned by eight weeks to enable the parties to arrive at amicable settlement.
5.	11.03.2011	The arrangement made by this court by interim order dated August 27, 2010 shall apply in regard to participation of Hockey Team in future games. It will be open to the Union of India to take appropriate decisions in the matter and place it before the court.
6.	08.04.2011	Leave granted Hearing expedited. The ad-interim reliefs granted earlier by orders dated 11.03.2011, 27.08.2010, and 22.10.2010 are directed to continue till further orders.

- ii) Hon'ble Delhi High Court in WP (C) 3713/2008 vide its judgement dated 21.5.2010 while quashing the suspension orders of IHF issued by UOI and IOA observed as under:-

“This court believes that even now it is not too late for the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to get its act together and set things in order with the cooperation of both the IHF and the IOA and any other body that may have been set up. Instead of again panicking about of the revival of IHF, it requires to be seen how the interest of Hockey in India can be best served. Sports bodies have to have a degree of autonomy with the government playing the role of an effective regulator. They must be allowed to function in a democratic manner with persons really interested in developing the game participating in its affairs.”

5. Government after examining the matter decided to take the following action:-

- i) To settle the matter amicably.

(ii) Issue notices to both bodies seeking status of compliance with the recognition guidelines, giving them a hearing and passing a speaking order .

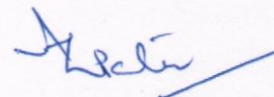
6. Thereafter, the Government took numerous meetings at various levels with both the claimants, viz., HI and IHF (IWHF was said to have been merged with IHF) to reach an agreement. However, the same didn't yield any result. During one of the meetings, both IHF and HI were informed that Government recognition to either of the claimants will be based on the fulfilment of basic requirements. On 16th June, 2011 Government of India asked both IHF and HI to submit detailed documentation in compliance with the conditions for forming a unified body for men and women, recognition of FIH, recognition of IOA, free and fair elections, acceptance of Government guidelines along with duly filled in application form for recognition of NSF.

7. After examination of the documents submitted by IHF, the following has been observed:-

- i. IHF does not have the recognition of the International Federation (FIH). Vide their letter dated 07.08.2010, FIH has indicated that IHF was derecognized by them way back in the year 2000 as both IHF and IWHF were in complete non-compliance of FIH statutes and regulations. FIH stated that in the best interest of Hockey in India, it recognized Indian Hockey Confederation (IHC) in 2001 on the basis of representation made by IHF and IWHF that IHC is the sole body to govern both men and women hockey in India. However, on knowing in 2008 that IHC is a defunct and non-existent body, FIH derecognized IHC. From the letter of FIH, it appears that both IHF and IWHF have been representing themselves as IHC before FIH. IHC does not appear to be a registered society. This appears to be a serious lapse both on the part of IHF and IWHF.
- ii. IHF does not appear to have conducted its elections democratically and in accordance with the model election bye-laws and guidelines. Further, it came to notice that when Shri Shetty who was elected as President of IHF in 2010 resigned, IHF appointed Shri V. Dinesh Reddy, an IPS officer. Shri Reddy also resigned and IHF appointed Shri K.D. Singh, Member of Parliament as President. It is not known what process IHF followed in appointment of the above two Presidents. Shri K.D. Singh was till recently holding the post of President of Korfball Federation of India (KFI) and while holding this post, he refused to adopt Government guidelines. Hence, it was decided to suspend all activities with KFI and annual recognition has not been granted to it from 2011.
- iii. IHF does not appear to be a unified body representing both the men and women players of hockey. IHF during a meeting held under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary produced a paper in Tamil indicating that it was a certificate of Registrar of Society approving the merger of IHF and IWHF and IHF agreed to provide authenticated version in English. Government has sent several reminders to IHF for producing the required documents, but they have not responded so far.

8. The documents submitted by HI vide its letter dated 4th July, 2013 were also examined and the following were noticed:-

- i) HI conducted its elections on 05.08.2010 and in respect of one post, i.e. President, HI had not adhered to the age and tenure guidelines of Government. A person above 70 years of age was elected as President which was against the



Government guidelines. There was no other complaint or issue with regard to holding of elections. However, the said President resigned subsequently and HI accepted the government guidelines relating to age and tenure. HI also amended its constitution accordingly.

- ii) HI has completed three years since it was registered in May, 2009.
- iii) HI has conducted nationals in all the categories for all the three years and have also conducted various international events in India.
- iv) HI has the recognition of IOA.
- v) HI has the recognition of FIH, the international body for the sport of Hockey.
- vi) HI is complying with the Government guidelines on the provision of the RTI Act.
- vii) The Special Committee constituted by the IOA has gone into the details of the dispute between the IHF and the HI. The said Committee has also examined the matter for grant of recognition to the body for the sport of Hockey. In their detailed report and decision dated 05.09.2012, the Committee has found, inter-alia, that the IHF does not meet any of the criteria for recognition. On the other hand, it has found that Hockey India satisfies all the conditions laid down for the recognition. Therefore, the Special Committee of IOA ordered that Hockey India be confirmed and endorsed as the Central Authority responsible for all matters relating to hockey in India.

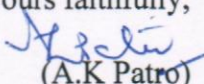
9. There have been a number of court cases filed by IHF, IWHF and HI against each other and also against Government of India. Government has considered the matter and is of the view that there is no legal impediment in taking an appropriate decision in the matter by the Government as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 11.03.2011.

10. After a careful and detailed examination of the documents on record and keeping in view all the relevant factors, Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has reached the conclusion that "Hockey India" may be given recognition as the National Sports Federation for governing the sport of hockey (both men and women) in India.

11. Accordingly, "Hockey India" having its office at B1/E3, Ground Floor, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110044 and having Ms. Mariamma Koshy as its President, Dr. Narinder Batra, as its Secretary General and Md. Mushtaque Ahmed as its Treasurer is hereby given recognition by the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as National Sports Federation for the sport of Hockey. Accordingly, Hockey India is made responsible and accountable for the overall management, direction, control, regulation, promotion and development of the sports discipline, i.e. Hockey (Men and Women).

12. In order to be eligible for assistance and continuing the recognition of Government of India, Hockey India is required to follow the guidelines of the Government issued from time to time and also those prescribed in the National Sports Development Code of India.

13. The recognition is being granted with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports.

Yours faithfully,

(A.K. Patro)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy for information to:-

- (i) PS to Hon'ble (I/C) YAS
- (ii) PS to Secretary (Sports)
- (iii) Director (Sports)
- (iv) Director (Finance) MYAS
- (v) US (SP-II & IV)/ US (SP-I & III)/ US (ISD)/ US (ID)
- (vi) Secretary General, Indian Hockey Federation, New Delhi.