



2026:KER:29212

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SATHISH NINAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P. KRISHNA KUMAR

WEDNESDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2026 / 11TH CHAITHRA, 1948

WA NO. 517 OF 2026

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT DATED 25.11.2025 IN WP(C) NO.17066 OF

2024 OF HIGH COURT OF KERALA

APPELLANT/RESPONDENT:

KERALA HOCKEY

TC 24/1085, THYCAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, PIN - 695014

BY ADVS.

SRI.P.MOHANDAS (ERNAKULAM)

SRI.K.SUDHINKUMAR

SRI.SABU PULLAN

SHRI.R.BHASKARA KRISHNAN

SHRI.BHARATH MOHAN

DR.K.P.SATHEESAN (SR.)

RESPONDENTS/PETITIONERS & RESPONDENTS 1, 2 4 & 5:

- 1 KAL LEONAL PINHERO,
AGED 16 YEARS
S/O JEFFERY RAJESH PINHERO, KADAVATHUPARAMBIL HOUSE,
VALLARPADAM P O , ERNAKULAM DISTRICT REPRESENTED BY HIS
FATHER JEFFERY RAJESH PINHERO, PIN - 682504.
- 2 ASHLIN JOSEPH,
AGED 25 YEARS
S/O. JOSEPH M.A., MANAYATH HOUSE, VALLARPADAM P.O.,
PANAMBUKAD, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682504.



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- 3 ESSAN MICHEAL,
 AGED 22 YEARS
 S/O. BAIJU M.V., MANAYATH HOUSE, EROOR WEST P.O.,
 THIRIPPUNITHURA, KUNNALA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682306.
- 4 STATE OF KERALA,
 REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND
 YOUTH AFFAIRS , GOVERNMENT SECRETARIATE,
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001.
- 5 KERALA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL,
 BEHIND SECRETARIAT, YMCA ROAD, STATUE,
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,
 PIN - 695001.
- 6 NANDANA BOSE,
 AGED 19 YEARS
 D/O.CHANDRA BOSE.K.R, TC 15/1555, MPANRA 13, M P APPAN
 NAGAR, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (IMPLEADED VIDE
 ORDER DT. 22.05.24 IN IA 3/24), PIN - 695014.
- 7 KRISHNENDU.S,
 D/O.SUNIL KUMAR.T, KALATHIL VEEDU, KARITHODU LANE,
 KANJIRAMPARA.P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (IMPLEADED VIDE
 ORDER DT. 22.05.24 IN IA 3/24), PIN - 695030.

BY ADVS.
SRI.R.RENJITH
SMT.MANJUSHA K
SMT.SREELAKSHMI SABU
SRI.K.P.HARISH, SR. GOVT. PLEADER

THIS WRIT APPEAL HAVING COME UP FOR HEARING ON 01.04.2026,
ALONG WITH WA.3001/2025, 3015/2025 AND CONNECTED CASES, THE COURT
ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



2026:KER:29212

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SATHISH NINAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P. KRISHNA KUMAR

WEDNESDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2026 / 11TH CHAITHRA, 1948

WA NO. 3001 OF 2025

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT DATED 25.11.2025 IN WP(C) NO.13077 OF
2024 OF HIGH COURT OF KERALA

APPELLANT/4TH RESPONDENT:

THE KERALA HOCKEY,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, VNRA 165, PANGODE,
THIRUMALA P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695006.

BY ADVS.
SRI.P.MOHANDAS (ERNAKULAM)
SRI.K.SUDHINKUMAR
SRI.SABU PULLAN
SHRI.R.BHASKARA KRISHNAN
SHRI.BHARATH MOHAN
DR.K.P.SATHEESAN (SR.)

RESPONDENTS/PETITIONERS & RESPONDENTS 1 TO 3 AND 5 TO 17:

- 1 RAJEEV P.J., AGED 49 YEARS, S/O. JAMES P.L.,
PALATHINGAL HOUSE, VYTTILA P.O., THYKODAM, ERNAKULAM,
KOCHI, PIN - 682019.
- 2 THE STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS, SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001.



- 3 THE KERALA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL,
YMCA ROAD, STATUE, PALAYAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, PIN - 695001.
- 4 THE HOCKEY INDIA,
B1-E3, GROUND FLOOR, MOHAN COOPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE, MADURA ROAD, NEW DELHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS
SECRETARY GENERAL, PIN - 110044
- 5 KOLLAM HOCKEY,
VAISHANVAM, MUNDAKKAL, WEST KOLLAM-691001 REPRESENTED
BY ITS SECRETARY, DR. MANOJ M.J., AGED 54, S/O.
MANOHARAN N., MRA 50 A, VAISHNAVAM, MUNDAKKAL,
WEST KOLLAM.
- 6 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM HOCKEY,
CORDIAL, SKYVIEW, LIC, MELARANOOR, KARAMANA P.O.,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM -695 002, REPRESENTED BY ITS
SECRETARY, ANILKUMAR R.S., AGED 49, S/O. RAJAGOPAL P.
CORDIAL SKYVIEW LLC, MELVANNOOR, KARAMANA P.O.,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
- 7 ERNAKULAM HOCKEY,
DOOR NO.35/469, V.P. MARAKKAR ROAD, NEAR VANITHA
THEATRE, EDAPPALLY P.O., KOCHI-682 024, REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, ANTONY VARGHESE, AGED 35,
S/O.CHRISTOPHER P.B. CHAKKALAPADATTH HOUSE, MANAKACHIRA
ROAD, NETTOOR P.O., COCHIN, PIN - 682040.
- 8 HOCKEY ALLEPPEY ASSOCIATION,
KOCHOTHI PURAYIDOM, SANATHANAM WARD, ALAPPUZHA-688001,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, VARGHESE PETER, AGED 42,
S/O. D. PETER, KOCHOTHI PURAYIDOM, SANATHANAM WARD,
ALAPPUZHA.
- 9 PALAKKAD HOCKEY,
VALLONKOTTU HOUSE, PANNIYANKARA P.O., PALAKKAD 678 683,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, SAYO V.S., S/O. V.A.SANI,
AGED 43, VALLONKOTTU HOUSE, PANNIYANKARA P.O.,
PALAKKAD.
- 10 KANNUR HOCKEY,
BORNACHERRY, KANNUR CANTONMENT -670 013, REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, ROY ROBERT, AGED 48, S/O. ROBERT, HOUSE
NO.1068, BORNACHERRY, KANNUR CANTONMENT.



- 11 HOCKEY IDUKKI,
PEACKAL HOUSE, (KUZHIKKAT), NEYYASSERY P.O.,
KARIMANNOOR, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI -685 581, REPRESENTED
BY ITS SECRETARY, RIJO DONY, AGED 32 YEARS, S/O. DONY
KURIAKOSE, PEACKAL HOUSE, (KUZHIKKAT), NEYYASSERY P.O..
KARIMANNOOR, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI.
- 12 THRISSUR HOCKEY,
TC-35/401, EASTEND PLAZA, RICE BAZAR, THRISSUR-680 001,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, EBENESARJOS, AGED 36
YEARS, S/O. M.P. KURIAN, THAZHATHUMARIYIL HOUSE,
KATTILAPOOVAM, THRISSUR, PIN - 680028.
- 13 KOZHIKODE HOCKEY,
4/44, 4TH FLOOR, KAIRALI BUILDING, MAVOOR ROAD, OPP.
NEW BUS STAND, KOZHIKODE, REPRESENTED BY ITS TREASURER,
FIROZ THERATHI, AGED 46 YEARS, S/O. HUSSAIN, LOVSHORE,
AYALOTTU VALAPPU, POST POKKUNNU, CALICUT, PIN - 673007.
- 14 KASARAGOD HOCKEY,
EMIRATES CENTRE, CHERUVATHUR, KASARAGOD DISTRICT
-671313, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MUBARAK M.T.,
AGED 30 YEARS, S/O. MUHAMMED ASHRAF, MUNDANTHODI HOUSE,
VATTALLURE P.O; MALAPPURAM, PIN - 676507.
- 15 MALAPPURAM HOCKEY,
UMMATHOOR HOUSE, CHEMMANKADAVU, KODUR P.O., REPRESENTED
BY ITS SECRETARY, DR.M.S.RASVI, AGED 45 YEARS, S/O. ALI
U., UMMATHOOR HOUSE, CHEMMANKADAVU, KODUR P.O.,
MALAPPURAM, PIN - 676504.
- 16 PATHANAMTHITTA HOCKEY,
ELANTHOOR VEEDU, MALAYALAPPUZHA, THAZHAM P.O.,
PATHANAMTHITTA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, AMRTHRAJ,
AGED 33 YEARS, 689 666, S/O. SOMARAJAN K.K., ELANTHOOR
VEEDU, MALAYALAPPUZHA, THAZHAM P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA.
- 17 WAYANAD HOCKEY,
KURUVAMBALATH, KARADIPPARA, WAYANAD-673 593,
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT, MADAN LAL K.B., AGED 49,
S/O. BHASKARAN, KURUVAMBALATH, KARADIPPARA, WAYANAD.



WA NO. 3001 OF 2025

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BY ADVS.
SMT.R.RANJANIE
SHRI.THOMAS ABRAHAM
SMT.ASHA RANI S.R.
SRI.K.ANAND
SHRI.RISHAB S.
SHRI.HARE KRISHNA
SMT.MERCIAMMA MATHEW
SRI.ASWIN.P.JOHN
SHRI.R.ANANTHAPADMANABAN
SHRI.PAUL BABY
SMT.SWATHY A.P.
SMT.FOUSIYA R
SHRI.RENJITH RAGHU
SRI.MATHEWS RAJU
SHRI.R.K.JAYALAKSHMI
SRI.K.P.HARISH, SR. GOVT. PLEADER

THIS WRIT APPEAL HAVING COME UP FOR HEARING ON 01.04.2026,
ALONG WITH WA.517/2026 AND CONNECTED CASES, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



2026:KER:29212

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SATHISH NINAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P. KRISHNA KUMAR

WEDNESDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2026 / 11TH CHAITHRA, 1948

WA NO. 3015 OF 2025

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT DATED 25.11.2025 IN WP(C) NO.18044 OF
2025 OF HIGH COURT OF KERALA

APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS:

- 1 THE KERALA HOCKEY, REPRESENTED BY MR. C.T. SOJI,
GENERAL SECRETARY
AGED 48 YEARS
TC 24, 1085, DPI, THYCAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPUARAM.,
PIN - 695001.
- 2 V. SUNIL KUMAR,
AGED 50 YEARS,
PRESIDENT, KERALA HOCKEY, TC 24, 1085, DPI, THYCAUD,
THIRUVANANTHAPUARAM, PIN - 695001.

BY ADVS.
SRI.SUNIL V.MOHAMMED
SHRI.MANOJ N.
SHRI.TOM PIOUS
SMT.THASNEEM ASHRAF
SHRI.MOHAMED HANEEFA PALAPRA
SRI.E.K.NANDAKUMAR (SR.)

RESPONDENTS/RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS &
YOUTH AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001.
- 2 THE KERALA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL,
STATUE JUNCTION, PALAYAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, PIN - 695001.
- 3 THE HOCKEY INDIA,
B1/E3, GROUND FLOOR, MOHAN CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE, MATHURA ROAD, NEW DELHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS
SECRETARY GENERAL, PIN - 110044.
- 4 JEFFERY RAJESH PINHERO,
AGED 49 YEARS,
S/O. CHARLES PINHERO, HEROVILLA, VALLARPADAM P.O.,
KOCHI, PIN - 682504.
- 5 K.KRISHNA KUMAR,
AGED 58 YEARS,
S/O. KRISHNAN NAIR, KUNJU VEEDU, KARAMANA,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM PIN - 695002.
- 6 PRAVEEN KUMAR G,
AGED 47 YEARS,
S/O GOPI, TC 24/75, THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
PIN - 695014.

BY ADVS.

SHRI.THOMAS ABRAHAM
SMT.GIRIJA K GOPAL
SRI.SANTHAN V.NAIR
SMT.MERCIAMMA MATHEW
SRI.ASWIN.P.JOHN
SHRI.R.ANANTHAPADMANABAN
SHRI.PAUL BABY
SMT.SWATHY A.P.
SMT.FOUSIYA R
SMT.K.N.VIGY
SMT.SOORYA MARIYA KURIAN



2026:KER:29212

WA NO. 3015 OF 2025

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SMT.AISWARYA AJAYAGHOSH
SMT.RIYA KOCHUMMAN
SMT.ARATHY A.R.
SMT.BAKKITHA P. M.
SRI.K.P.HARISH, SR. GOVT. PLEADER

THIS WRIT APPEAL HAVING COME UP FOR HEARING ON 01.04.2026,
ALONG WITH WA.517/2026 AND CONNECTED CASES, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



2026:KER:29212

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SATHISH NINAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P. KRISHNA KUMAR

WEDNESDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2026 / 11TH CHAITHRA, 1948

WA NO.3138 OF 2025

AGAINST THE JUDGMENT DATED 25.11.2025 IN WP(C) NO.40327 OF 2024 OF
HIGH COURT OF KERALA

APPELLANT/PETITIONER:

C.T. SOJI,
AGED 48 YEARS
S/O K. THOMAS, KONATTU CHECKEMPARAMBIL (H), CANAL WARD,
ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688007

BY ADV SRI.P.MOHANDAS (ERNAKULAM)

RESPONDENTS/RESPONDENTS:

- 1 THE STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS &
YOUTH AFFAIRS ,GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001.
- 2 THE KERALA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, YMCA ROAD, STATUE,
PALAYAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001.
- 3 THE HOCKEY INDIA,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY GENERAL,B1-E3, GROUND
FLOOR, MOHAN CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MADURA
ROAD, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110044.



- 4 JEFFERY RAJESH PINHERO,
HEROVILLA, VALLARPADAM P.O., KOCHI, PIN - 682504
- 5 K. KRISHNA KUMAR,
KUNJU VEEDU, KARAMANA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695002
- 6 PRAVEEN KUMAR G. ,
TC 24/75, THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
PIN - 695014.
- 7 KOLLAM HOCKEY, ,
VAISHANVAM, MUNDAKKAL, WEST KOLLAM - 691001,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, DR. MANOJ M.J., AGED 54,
S/O. MANOHARAN N, MRA 50 A, VAISHNAVAM, MUNDAKKAL,
WEST KOLLAM.
- 8 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM HOCKEY,
CORDIAL, SKYVIEW, 11C, MELARANOOR, KARAMANA P.O.,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695002 REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,
ANILKUMAR R.S., AGED 49, S/O. RAJAGOPAL P. CORDIAL
SKYVIEW 110, MELVANNOOR, KARAMANA P.O,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
- 9 ERNAKULAM HOCKEY,
DOOR NO.35/469, V.P. MARAKKAR ROAD, NEAR VANITHA
THEATRE, EDAPPALLY P.O., KOCHI-682024, REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, ANTONY VARGHESE, AGED 35, S/O.
CHRISTOPHER P.B., CHAKKALAPADATTH HOUSE, MANAKACHIRA
ROAD, NETTOOR P.O. COCHIN, PIN - 682040.
- 10 HOCKEY ALLEPPEY ASSOCIATION,
KOCHOTHI PURAYIDOM, SANATHANAM WARD, ALAPPUZHA-688001,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, VARGHESE PETER, AGED 42,
S/O. D. PETER, KOCHOTHI PURAYIDOM, SANATHANAM WARD,
ALAPPUZHA.
- 11 PALAKKAD HOCKEY,
VALLONKOTTU HOUSE, PANNIYANKARA P.O.. PALAKKAD 678683,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, SAYO V.S., S/O. V.A.SANI,
AGED 43, VALLONKOTTU HOUSE, PANNIYANKARA P.O.,
PALAKKAD.



- 12 KANNUR HOCKEY,
BORNACHERRY, KANNUR CANTONMENT-670013 REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, ROY ROBERT, AGED 48, S/O. ROBERT, HOUSE
NO.1068, BORNACHERRY, KANNUR CANTONMENT.
- 13 HOCKEY IDUKKI,
PEACKAL HOUSE, (KUZHIKKAT), NEYYASSERY P.O.,
KARIMANNOOR, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI-685581 REPRESENTED BY
ITS SECRETARY, RIJO DONY, AGED 32 YEARS, S/O. DONY
KURIAKOSE, PEACKAL HOUSE, (KUZHIKKAT), NEYYASSERY P.O..
KARIMANNOOR, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI.
- 14 THRISSUR HOCKEY,
TC-35/401, EASTEND PLAZA, RICE BAZAR, THRISSUR-680001,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, EBENESARJOS, AGED 36
YEARS, S/O. M.P.KURIAN THAZHATHUMARIYIL HOUSE,
KATTILAPOOVAN, THRISSUR, PIN - 680028.
- 15 KOZHIKODE HOCKEY,
4/44, 4TH FLOOR, KAIRALI BUILDING, MAVOOR ROAD, OPP.
NEW BUS STAND, KOZHIKODE, REPRESENTED BY ITS TREASURER,
FIROZ THERATHI, AGED 46 YEARS, S/O. HUSSAIN, LOVSHORE,
AYALOTTU VALAPPU, POST POKKUNNU, CALICUT, PIN - 673007.
- 16 KASARAGOD HOCKEY,
EMIRATES CENTRE, CHERUVATHUR, KASARAGOD DISTRICT 671
313, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MUBARAK M.T., AGED
30 YEARS, S/O. MUHAMMED ASHRAF, MUNDANTHODI HOUSE,
VATTALLURE P.O., MALAPPURAM, PIN - 676507.
- 17 MALAPPURAM HOCKEY,
UMMATHOOR HOUSE, CHEMMANKADAVU, KODUR P.O., REPRESENTED
BY ITS SECRETARY, DR.M.S.RASVI, AGED 45 YEARS, S/O. ALI
U., UMMATHOOR HOUSE, CHEMMANKADAVU, KODUR P.O.,
MALAPPURAM, PIN - 676504.
- 18 PATHANAMTHITTA HOCKEY,
ELANTHOOR VEEDU, MALAYALAPPUZHA, THAZHAM P.O.,
PATHANAMTHITTA-689666 REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,
AMRTHRAJ, AGED 33 YEARS, S/O. SOMARAJAN K.K., ELANTHOOR
VEEDU, MALAYALAPPUZHA, THAZHAM P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA.
- 19 WAYANAD HOCKEY,
KURUVAMBALATH, KARADIPPARA, WAYANAD-673593, REPRESENTED
BY ITS PRESIDENT, MADAN LAL K.B., AGED 49, S/O.
BHASKARAN, KURUVAMBALATH, KARADIPPARA, WAYANAD.



WA NO.3138 OF 2025

-4-

BY ADVS.
SMT.GIRIJA K GOPAL
SRI.SANTHAN V.NAIR
SMT.ASHA RANI S.R.
SRI.K.ANAND
SHRI.RISHAB S.
SHRI.HARE KRISHNA
SMT.K.N.VIGY
SHRI.RENJITH RAGHU
SRI.MATHEWS RAJU
SHRI.R.K.JAYALAKSHMI
SMT.AISWARYA AJAYAGHOSH
SMT.RIYA KOCHUMMAN
SMT.ARATHY A.R.
SMT.BAKKITHA P. M.
SHRI.DIJIL P.S.
SRI.K.P.HARISH, SR. GOVT. PLEADER

THIS WRIT APPEAL HAVING COME UP FOR HEARING ON 01.04.2026,
ALONG WITH WA.517/2026 AND CONNECTED CASES, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



2026:KER:29212

SATHISH NINAN &
P. KRISHNA KUMAR, JJ.

= = = = =
W.A. Nos. 3001, 3015, 3138 of 2025 &
517 of 2026

= = = = =
Dated this the 1st day of April, 2026

J U D G M E N T

Sathish Ninan, J.

The writ petitions from which these writ appeals arise, relate to the election held to the administration of “Kerala Hockey”, a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act.

2. The National Sports Code, 2011, provides for recognition of National Sports Federations. There will be only one such Federation in each sport, having the recognition of the Government of India. In the sport of Hockey, “Hockey India” is such Federation. State Associations from the various states in the country get affiliation from such Federation. Such State Associations can seek recognition from the State Sports Council. The National Federation recognises only such players send with the approval of the Sports Council. The State Association is



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comprised of nominees from the District Associations. “Hockey Kerala” is an association recognized by the Kerala Sports Council and affiliated to “Hockey India”.

3. Formerly there was a State Association named “Hockey Kerala”. It was recognized by the Sports Council and was affiliated to “Hockey India”. One Mr.V.SunilKumar was its President. In the year 2014 (with effect from 30.06.2014) its recognition was withdrawn by Hockey India and the Sports Council on allegations of misappropriation of funds. It is in the meanwhile that the present association, “Kerala Hockey”, came into existence somewhere in August, 2014.

4. In October 2016, the then President of “Kerala Hockey” resigned. On 02.10.2016 a General Body meeting of “Kerala Hockey” was held, in which substantial amendments are alleged to have been made to the bye-laws of the Association. There is an allegation that the General Body was not properly convened and that the amendments to the bye laws were effected without complying with the required mandates.

5. On 09.07.2017, there was a general body meeting of “Kerala Hockey”. In the said meeting, elections were held to its



-: 3 :-

Committee. Therein, the earlier mentioned Sri.V.SunilKumar was elected as the President. There is an allegation that there was no valid meeting and no proper election.

6. On 15.05.2022, the next election to the Committee of “Kerala Hockey” was conducted and Sri.V.SunilKumar was elected as the President. There is allegation that the meeting was not properly held and that there was no proper election.

7. Raising complaints against the amendment to the bye-laws and election, there were complaints from hockey players of various districts. This Court as per judgment dated 04.07.2023 in Writ Petition(C) No.21601/2023 directed the Sports Council to look into the complaints.

8. In the meantime a suit was instituted as OS 120/2023 before the Munsiff's Court, Palakkad, challenging the amendment of the bye-law. The suit was subsequently withdrawn with leave to file a fresh suit, and OS 665/2025 has been filed before the same court, which is pending.

9. With respect to the conduct of election on 15.05.2022 and regarding the selection of players by the association, Writ Petition (C) Nos.31063/2022, 34913/2023, 37508/2023 and



-: 4 :-

37582/2023 were filed before this Court by interested persons. As per common judgment dated 16.11.2023, the writ petitions were disposed of. The directions in the judgment were essentially two fold - (a) granting liberty to the Sports Council to enquire into the elections, under the statutory scheme; and (b) the teams selected by the "Kerala Hockey" was allowed to participate in the National Championship.

10. Pursuant to the directions of this Court as above, the Sports Council constituted a three member enquiry committee. The Committee submitted its report dated 20.12.2023. In the report, the majority upheld the election, with a dissent by one member. On 02.07.2024, the standing committee of the Sports Council, in the light of the report of the Enquiry Committee, resolved to recognise the election held on 15.05.2022. Based on the same the Secretary of the Sports Council issued order dated 06.07.2024, that the election held to the Kerala Hockey on 15.05.2022 is recognised.

11. On 08.07.2024, the Secretary forwarded a copy of the order to the Government. This was followed by the complaint dated 04.10.2024, challenging the acceptability of the report



-: 5 :-

recognising the election held on 15.05.2022. As per order dated 18.10.2024, the Government directed constitution of a three member committee of the Sports Council to enquire into the matter. The Committee submitted a report dated 11.12.2024. The Committee came to the following conclusions:-

(a) That the amendment to the bye-laws made on 02.10.2016 was not in accordance with law.

(b) That the elections held on 09.07.2017 was based on the amended bye-law.

(c) Sri.SunilKumar was the President of Hockey Kerala at the time when its affiliation was canceled in the year 2014. The cancellation of affiliation was on the ground of financial irregularities. Section 31A(3) of the Kerala Sports Act casts ineligibility on the office bearers of such organisation from becoming office bearers of any sports organisation.

The Committee recommended: -

(a) Dissolution of the hockey association of which Sri.Sunil Kumar is the President.

(b) Conduct of fresh election to the Kerala Hockey within three months as per the bye-law approved by the Sports Council.



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(c) Appointment of an adhoc committee to conduct election.

(d) A technical committee is to be formed to cater to the rights and needs of the players till an elected body assumes office of the Kerala Hockey.

12. The Government accepted the report and issued Order dated 02.05.2025, accepting the recommendations. The Sports Council was directed to take necessary action for its implementation.

13. In W.P.(C) No.13077/2024, from which W.A. No.3001/2025 arises, the challenge is against the report dated 20.12.2023, the resolution of the Standing Committee of the Sports Council dated 02.07.2024, and the order of the Secretary of the Sports Council dated 06.07.2024 recognising the election held on 15.05.2022. W.A. No.3015/2025 arises from W.P.(C) No.18044/2025 wherein also identical challenge is raised. W.A. No.3138/2025 arises from W.P.(C) No.40327/2024, wherein the Government order dated 18.10.2024 constituting a three member committee to look into the complaints against the report dated 20.12.2023 is under challenge. W.A. No.517/2026 arise from W.P.(C) No.17066/2024 seeking a direction to the Sports Council to conduct championship till the disputes



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with regard to “Kerala Hockey” are settled.

14. The learned single Judge considered all the writ petitions together and disposed of the same as per common judgment dated 25.11.2025. It was held that,

(i) The directions by the Government to dissolve the association is beyond the powers of the Council under the Sports Act.

(ii) The direction to conduct election is a matter of an internal affair of “Kerala Hockey” which is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act and that a Committee constituted under the Sports Council could not be entrusted with the said task.

(iii) The Sports Council cannot intervene in the election process of “Kerala Hockey”, it being ultra vires of its powers.

(iv) The Sports Council will constitute a technical committee, to protect the rights, necessities and interests of hockey players in Kerala, till the Kerala Hockey or any other state level Hockey Sports Association is recognised by it.

15. We have heard Sri. E.K.Nandakumar(Sr.), Dr.K.P.Satheesan(Sr.), Sri.R.Lakshmi Narayanan (Sr.), Smt.Latha



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Anand, Sri.Thomas Abraham, Sri.Dinesh R. Shenoy, Sri.R.Renjith, Sri.P.Mohandas, Sri.Sunil V. Mohammed, Sri.Santhan V. Nair and Smt.R.Ranjanie, the learned counsel appearing for the respective parties.

16. W.A. No.3138/2025 is filed by the General Secretary of Kerala Hockey, and the other appeals are by Kerala Hockey. It is argued that the Government could not have directed the constitution of a further committee to enquire into the very same issue which was already enquired into by the Sports Council. There could not have been two parallel enquiries resulting in contradictory findings. The second report is bad in law; the principles of res judicata applies. The present finding of the learned Single Judge that the validity of the election cannot be gone into by the Sports Council is contrary to the directions of this Court in W.P.(C) No.31063/2022 and connected writ petitions. It is also contended that, as against the report dated 20.12.2023 and the consequent orders accepting the election held on 15.05.2022, the remedy of the aggrieved was, to challenge the same before the appropriate forum and not to resort to a fresh proceeding before the Government. Further, referring to the



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subsequent report of the Committee dated 11.12.2024 it is argued that the enquiry was held on dictation by the Minister and hence is vitiated. It is also argued that the said report suffers from the vice of violation of principles of natural justice since, the affected parties were not heard. It is also argued that there could not be any disqualification under Section 31(A)(3) of the Sports Act since the de-affiliation of Hockey Kerala was not under the said provisions but was under Rule 55(1) of the Sports Rules; the very Section was brought into the statute book only in the year 2016 while the de-affiliation was in the year 2014.

17. The following are the points of dispute between the parties awaiting resolution: -

(i) Validity of the General Body meeting held on 02.10.2016 and the amendments made to the bye-laws in that meeting;

(ii) Validity of the General Body meeting held on 15.05.2022 and the elections held on that date;

(iii) Acceptability of the report dated 20.12.2023, and the resolution of the Standing Committee of the Sports Council and the order of the Secretary of the Sports Council, recognising the election held on 15.05.2022;



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(iv) Validity of the action of the Government in having called for a fresh report on the face of the report of the enquiry committee dated 20.12.2023;

(v) Sustainability of the directions issued by the Government in its G.O. dated 06.07.2024.

18. Challenging the validity of the amendments made in the bye-laws, a suit is pending as OS.665/2025 before the Munsiff's Court, Palakkad. As already noticed, the earlier suit was withdrawn with leave and the present suit has been instituted. One of the grounds on which the amendment is challenged is that, subject regarding amendment of bye-law was not included in the agenda of the meeting, when inclusion was mandatory as per the bye-laws of the Society. The Sports Council in its proceedings dated 14.12.2023, as per which a three member enquiry committee was constituted, noted that, clause 7(1)(b) and clause 7 sub clause (ii) of the bye-laws of the Society specifically mandated inclusion of such item in the agenda and the notice of the meeting. Except for noticing that no material has been placed before us indicating that amendment of bye-law was an item in the agenda, we do not deem it appropriate to delve further into the



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issue, in the light of the pending civil suit.

19. Now we come to the powers of the Sports Council to enquire into disputes regarding election to the association/society. Section 31 of the Sports Act deals with registration of sports organizations. Section 31(1A) prescribes the qualifications and conditions to be satisfied for registration. Among other conditions, it provide for existence of written bye-laws providing for election of office bearers, introduction of no-confidence motion against office bearers, the term of office of the office bearers, holding of General Body meetings and meetings for election and the requirement of an observer from the Sports Council for such meeting, provision for completion of accounts on the close of every financial year etc. Section 31 A(1) empowers the Sports Council to suspend the recognition of Sports Organisation pending a complete and comprehensive enquiry into the irregularities mentioned under Section 31 A(1) (a) to (i). The irregularities enumerated includes failure to conduct election as prescribed in the bye-law or serious lapses in the election process. It also includes financial irregularities. Section 31 A(2) enables the Sports



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Council to withdraw the recognition of a Sports Organisation on the grounds enumerated thereunder. One of the irregularities included therein is, the failure to conduct election as per the bye-laws or serious lapses in the election process. Section 31(A) reads thus: -

“31 A. Withdrawal or suspension of recognition of Sports Organizations :—

(1) The State Sports Council may, if any of the following irregularities are found out in the activities of a recognized Sports Organization, until a complete and comprehensive enquiry is made, suspend the recognition of that Sports Organization, as an interim measure namely:-

(a) If the Registrar of Societies or any other authority has initiated legal proceedings on the basis of accusation of misappropriation of fund;

(b) If it fails in conducting election as prescribed in the bye-law of the organization or if serious lapses occur in the election process;

(c) if it fails in submitting the audited annual accounts as prescribed;

(d) if the funds are misappropriated or unauthorizedly re-appropriated;

(e) if it fails in furnishing correct informations as and when demanded;

(f) if continuous lapses occur in complying with the provisions stipulated in accepting the general funds including Governmental assistance;

(g) if report of a statutory authority, alleging grave irregularities on the internal affairs of the organization is received;

(h) in a situation in which any other grave irregularities are found out, in public interest;

(i) if the affiliation of a State Organization is suspended by the National Association or Federation concerned;

(2) The State Sports Council may, after giving the Sports Organization an



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opportunity of being heard, withdraw its recognition on any of the following grounds, namely:-

- (a) Violation of the terms and conditions for recognition or of its bye-law;*
- (b) if an irregularity under clauses (a),(b)(d),(f) and (g) specified in sub-section (1) regarding the functioning of the organization is confirmed on enquiry;*
- (c) if the concerned National Association or Federation concerned has perpetually canceled the recognition or nullified the affiliation of the State Organization;*
- (3) The office bearer of an organization, the recognition of which has been cancelled as per this section, shall not be eligible for becoming the office bearer of any other Sports Organization.*
- (4) If the recognition of any organization is cancelled under the section, the State Sports Council may organize District Level and State Level competitions of athletic items concerned, in consultation with the Central Federation of such organization in the manner as may prescribed.”*

20. From the above it is evident that, though the functioning of a Society is as per its bye-laws and election is its internal affair, the Sports Council has authority to enquire into the failure to conduct election as prescribed in the bye-laws or as to whether any serious lapses have occurred in the election process. Of course, the scope of such enquiry is limited for the purpose of withdrawal of recognition of such association by the Sports Council. Further, Section 31 A(1) gives the power



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to suspend the recognition of the Society and Section 31 A(2) provides for withdrawal of recognition under various situations.

21. The enquiry conducted in the case at hand could only be one enabled under Section 31 A(1), which would lead to a proceeding for withdrawal of recognition under Section 31 A(2) of the Sports Act.

22. Section 8(3) of the Sports Act empowers the Government to call for the records and resolutions from the State Sports Council. Section 8(2) requires the Sports Council to forward a copy of every resolution to the Government. It is accordingly that the resolution of the Sports Council, accepting the enquiry report was placed before the Government. It is pertinent to note that, at that time, complaints regarding the subject were before the Government, and it was accordingly that the matter gained a further consideration. Section 8(4) enables cancellation or modification of the resolutions, after hearing the Sports Council. The second report obtained by the Government can only be considered as continuation of the enquiry contemplated under Section 31 A(1) above, which would lead to a proceeding for withdrawal of recognition under Section 31 A(2).



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23. The appellants contended that the report submitted before the Government by the enquiry committee violated the principles of natural justice since they were not heard. We find that the said contention has no force. The report is only one obtained in an enquiry under Section 31 A(1). In terms of Section 31 A(2), the affected has an opportunity of hearing as against the report as and when steps are taken based on the report, for withdrawal of recognition. Therefore the issue of violation of natural justice does not arise.

24. A contention is raised that the second enquiry report was obtained on dictation by the Minister for Sports, and hence is vitiated. However, we find no merit in the contention. While the report mentions that the Committee was formed as per the direction of the Minister, which is referred to as item (2) therein, evidently, item (2) is a Government Order dated 18.10.2024. The mentioning of it in the report as, 'direction from the Minister', is obviously a mistake.

25. In the case at hand there are allegations of serious irregularities in the selection process and in the conduct of election held on 15.05.2022. Even the report of the three member



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committee constituted by the Sports Council, which accepted the election with 2:1 majority, had noted that the General Body Meeting held on 02.12.2016, did not contain an agenda with regard to amendment of bye-laws. It was also noticed that clause 7(1)(b) and clause 7 sub clause (ii) of the bye-laws of the Society specifically mandated such item to be included in the agenda and the notice of the meeting, and that the meeting did not comply with these stipulations.

26. With regard to the ineligibility of Sri.SunilKumar under Section 31 A(3) of the Sports Act, while the committee reported that the withdrawal of affiliation was under Rule 55(1) of the Sports Rules and not under Section 31 A and therefore the ineligibility under Section 31 A(3) is not attracted, the second report held otherwise. It is not disputed that the withdrawal of affiliation of Hockey Kerala by Hockey India, upon which occurred derecognition by the Sports Council, was on the ground of financial irregularities. Though Section 31 A(3) was brought in only in the year 2015, notably, financial irregularity is one of the grounds upon which ineligibility occurs under Section 31 A(3). The second report finds him disqualified.



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27. With regard to the meeting dated 15.05.2022, in which the election was held, the committee reported that approximately 40 persons participated but the observer was unable to ascertain whether they were district representatives. The Committee observed that the observer had given contradictory reports with regard to the validity of the election. The second enquiry committee held that the meeting was not properly held.

28. As noted earlier, the appellants would get a right to challenge the second enquiry report in the proceeding under Section 31 A(2). At that stage, all their contentions can be agitated. The order of the Government, dated 02.05.2025, in so far as it directed dissolution of the Society and to conduct election through an ad-hoc committee, were set aside by the learned Single Judge. There cannot be a direction for dissolution of the Society. The finding does not warrant any interference. Reckoning the directions by the Government, those contained in the impugned judgment and also the discussions made supra, the recognition of Kerala Hockey will stand suspended till culmination of a proceeding under Section 31 A(2). The Sports Council is to initiate steps under Section 31 A(2) without delay.



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29. With regard to the constitution of an ad-hoc committee for conduct of election, as rightly held by the learned single Judge, it is not a matter falling within the purview of the Sports Council but, within the exclusive domain of the society.

30. The direction in the impugned judgment to appoint a technical committee is only a step to cater the needs of sports persons/students. The direction to the Sports Council to constitute a Technical Committee is justified in the light of the powers conferred on the Sports Council under the Sports Act, as hereunder: -

“S. 5. Duties, powers and functions of the State Sports Council.— (1)xxxx

(2)Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the State Sports Council shall have the following powers and functions, namely:-

(a) to organize, co-ordinate, regulate and promote all types of sports in the State;

xxxxx

(d) to conduct or organize by the council itself or through District Sports council, Corporation Sports Council, Municipal Sports Council, or Village Sports Council or to ensure their participation, in tournaments, competitions, training courses, seminars, coaching centres, exhibitions, tours and other items which help in the promotion of sports and games in the State;

xxxxx

(i) to arrange or otherwise make provisions for conducting competitions in sports in the State at national, international, inter-state or local level and to



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arrange sports tours;

xxxxx

(q) to do any other act that may be conducive to the furtherance of the objects of this Act.

S. 31 A(4). If the recognition of any organization is cancelled under the section, the State Sports Council may organize District level and State Level competitions of athletic items concerned, in consultation with the Central Federation of such organization in the manner as may be prescribed."

31. The issues in the Writ Appeals are answered as above.

The Writ Appeals are disposed of accordingly, with the directions at paragraph 28 of the judgment. No costs.

Sd/-
SATHISH NINAN
JUDGE

Sd/-
P. KRISHNA KUMAR
JUDGE

kns/-

//True Copy//

P.S. To Judge

W.A. Nos.3001, 3015, 3138 of 2025 &
517 of 2026



2026:KER:29212

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In pursuance of the order dated 08.04.2026 in WA Nos.3001, 3015, 3138 of 2025 & 517 of 2026, paragraph 15 of the judgment dated 01.04.2026 in the aforesaid writ appeals stands substituted as follows :-

“15. We have heard Sri. E.K.Nandakumar(Sr.) instructed by Sri.Sunil V. Mohammed, Dr.K.P.Satheesan(Sr.) instructed by Sri.K.Sudhinkumar, Sri.R.Lakshmi Narayanan(Sr.) instructed by Smt.R.Ranjanie, Smt.Girija K. Gopal, Sri.Thomas Abraham, Sri.Santhan V. Nair; Sri.Vishnu S., Sri.Renjith, the learned counsel appearing for the respective parties and Sri.K.P.Harish, the learned Senior Government Pleader.”

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar

APPENDIX OF WA NO. 3001 OF 2025

RESPONDENT ANNEXURES

Annexure R1 (a)	THE TRUE COPY OF THE LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS ALONG WITH THE COVERING LETTER DATED 30.06.2016
Annexure R1 (b)	THE TRUE COPY OF THE AFFIDAVIT DATED 17.12.2025 IN OS 665/2025 ON THE FILE OF THE PRINCIPAL MUNSIF COURT, PALAKKAD, SWORN BY SMT. MARIAMMA KOSHY

APPENDIX OF WA NO. 3015 OF 2025

RESPONDENT ANNEXURES

Annexure R6 (a)	TRUE COPY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE 4TH RESPONDENT DATED 15.12.2025 ALONG WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Annexure R6 (b)	TRUE COPY OF THE DETAILS OF HOCKEY KERALA RECEIVED UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT FROM THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DATED 21.01.2026 ALONG WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Annexure R6 (c)	TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL BYE-LAW OF THE 1ST RESPONDENT ALONG WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE 25TH PAGE OF THE ANNEXURE R6 (C)
Annexure R6 (d)	TRUE COPY OF THE COVERING LETTER SUBMITTED BY HOCKEY KEALA, AUDIT REPORT AND LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 2015-16 DATED 30.06.2016 FILED BY THE 2 APPELLANT AS THE PRESIDENT OF HOCKEY KERALA BEFORE THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
Annexure R6 (E)	A COPY OF THE NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING DATED 21.2.2026 ISSUED BY THE APPELLANT ASSOCIATION
Annexure R6 (F)	TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE DATED 21.2.2026 ISSUED BY THE APPELLANT TO THE 4TH RESPONDENT HEREIN.
