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IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

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CNR No. DLHC010482362026

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W.P.(C) 14813/2026 & CM APPL. 69487/2026, CM APPL. 69488/2026

TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA Petitioner

Through: Mr. N. Hariharan and Mr. Avi Singh Senior Advocates with Mr. Prateek Som, Mr. Parth Goswami, Mr. Manat Tipnis, Mr. Aman Shreyas, Mr. Ranjeet Pawar and Mr. Aditya Shukla, Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

.....Respondent

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Udit Dedhiya, SPC, Mr. Harsh Vardhan, GP, Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. R.V. Prabhat, Mr. Shubham Sharma, Mr. Naman, Mr. Preyansh Gupta and Mr. Arihant Shrivardhan, Advocates for UOI.

Ms. Geetika Vyas and Ms. Ananya Milak, Advocates for IOA.

Mr. Saurabh Kirpal, Senior Advocate with Mr. Rajat Choudhary and Mr. Rijul Taneja, Advocates for Intervenor.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT MAHAJAN

ORDER

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15.10.2026

1. The petitioner is aggrieved by the order dated 12.08.2026 (**'impugned order'**), pursuant to which the recognition granted to the petitioner as National Sports Federation was suspended and consequent to the same, the Indian Olympic Association (**'IOA'**) has



been requested to constitute an interim mechanism including an Ad-hoc Committee in accordance with the applicable constitutional framework, governing the sports of Table Tennis, till such time as a duly compliant governance structure is restored in the petitioner.

2. The learned senior counsel for the petitioner submits that the impugned order was passed pursuant to the Show Cause Notice dated 30.06.2026 ('SCN') in which following allegations were made:

"Whereas the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has recognized Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) as a National Sports Federation (NSF) for the promotion and development of sport discipline of Table Tennis in the country.

Whereas the extant framework as applicable to all the National Sports Federations (NSFs) mandates the NSF's to follow healthy management practices, accountability, transparency, impartial and transparent selection procedures, age and tenure restrictions of office bearers, basic universal principles of good governance in sports, proper accounting procedures, prevention of age fraud & sexual harassment of women, and holding of elections as per Model Election Guidelines.

Whereas for maintaining the recognized status as a National Sports Federation (NSF) for a concerned sports discipline with the Government and getting financial assistance which is supplemental in nature for various activities, an NSF is expected to foster good governance in its functioning which is not only beneficial for the promotion and development of concerned sport discipline but also to ensure continued participation of Indian athletes in international events.

Whereas several instances of misgovernance, lack of co-ordination amongst the office bearers of TTFI have come to the notice of this Ministry. Needless to state that recently this Ministry was constrained to issue a show cause notice dated 24.12.2025 to TTFI for the reasons that TTFI failed to publish the annual calendar for 2025-2026 for Table Tennis competitions despite several reminders from Sports Authority of India and also for the fact that, it did not announce the dates for conduct of national championships for the year 2025 till the end of December, 2025.

Whereas despite communications by this Ministry and the Sports Authority of India for taking corrective measures, TTFI has failed to address the deficiencies pointed out from time to time and has continued to function in a manner inconsistent with the principles of transparency, accountability, democratic governance and athlete-centric administration mandated under the National



Sports Development Code of India, 2011 and the conditions governing recognition of National Sports Federations.

Whereas the appointment of Shri Mahinder Pal Singh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TTFI has come to the notice of this Ministry. It is observed that Shri Mahinder Pal Singh had earlier served as Treasurer and Secretary General of TTFI and the said appointment appears to be inconsistent with the Ministry's policy framework communicated vide letter dated 28.02.2022, which seeks to prevent circumvention of tenure restrictions and continued control over the affairs of a National Sports Federation through alternative executive positions.

Whereas, TTFI failed to hold fresh elections for the post of Treasurer pursuant to demitting of the said post by Mr. Nagendra P. Reddy in the year 2024 on account of having completed the tenure of 5 years as applicable to the Government Servants. The continued existence of such vacancy has resulted in an incomplete governance structure and raises concerns regarding compliance with principles of institutional accountability expected from a recognized National Sports Federation.

Whereas statement of accounts for the F.Y 2024-2025 duly certified by the Comptroller Auditor General Empanelled Chartered Accountant has not been uploaded by TTFI on its website despite Ministry's mandatory and clear directives to all the NSFs vide letter dated 26.02.2015 regarding hoisting of information by the NSFs on their website.

Whereas the Ministry's letter dated 05.03.2025 regarding selection of sportspersons for participation in international events, inclusion in coaching camps and selection of coaches/support staff mandates for publishing and uploading of selection policy/criteria for mega sports events such as Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games, Para Asian Games and Commonwealth Games on the website of an NSF at least two years in advance of the commencement of these Games. Further, it also mandates putting a mechanism in place for redressal of grievances of the athletes related to selection. However, on perusal of the website of TTFI, it has come to notice that TTFI has neither uploaded its selection policy/criteria for Asian Games, 2026 nor any mechanism viz., Grievance Redressal Committee/Dispute Redressal Committee is in place in TTFI for redressal of grievances of its athletes.

Whereas while the NSFs enjoy autonomy in their day-to-day management and functioning however, at the same time they are also required to adhere to Government Guidelines issued from time to time, which require the NSFs to adopt good governance practices in all areas of sports management, including fair and transparent selection of national teams; conduct of national championships; democratic management; financial accountability; etc. Whereas the Ministry has received material indicating persistent administrative dysfunction within TTFI, including



failure to maintain a complete governance structure, non-compliance with mandatory transparency requirements, failure to implement prescribed governance mechanisms and continued non-compliance with directives issued by the Ministry. Such circumstances raise serious concerns regarding the ability of TTFI to effectively discharge its responsibilities as the recognized National Sports Federation for Table Tennis in India.

Whereas material available before the Ministry prima facie indicates serious and continuing differences amongst the senior office bearers of TTFI, including the President and the Secretary General, resulting in allegations and counter-allegations concerning the administration of the Federation. The continuation of such disputes has adversely affected institutional decision making, undermined confidence in the governance structure of TTFI and has the potential to prejudice the interests of athletes and other stakeholders. The affairs

of the Federation raise serious concerns regarding the effective functioning of TTFI in accordance with its Constitution and the obligations expected of a recognized National Sports Federation.

Whereas the cumulative effect of the aforesaid acts and omissions has resulted in serious concerns relating to athlete welfare, transparency of selection processes, access to competitions, grievance redressal and the overall administration of the sport. The Ministry is further concerned that the continuing governance issues may adversely affect preparation and participation of Indian athletes in forthcoming national and international competitions.

Whereas the aforesaid facts, when viewed cumulatively, prima facie indicate that the issues referred to herein are not isolated instances but may reflect continuing governance deficiencies which, appear to have remained unaddressed and have the potential to adversely affect the administration of the sport and the interests of athletes.”

3. He submits that as per National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 (**‘Code’**), there is a specific procedure provided for suspension of a sports federation. He submits that the grounds of suspension have been provided in the Code itself, and none of the allegations as made in the SCN were in regard to the grounds, which are available for the respondent authorities to take action. He submits that an appropriate reply in that regard was also given.

4. He further submits that the Code also specifically provides that



the action of suspension of a federation can only be taken as an interim measure until complete and full enquiry is concluded. He submits that in the present case no enquiry is being conducted and only the SCN has been issued.

5. He submits that reasons which are attributed on the petitioner which led to the suspension are also informal. He submits that the impugned order has been passed on three main grounds. Firstly, the appointment of Mr. Mahinder Pal Singh as Chief Executive Officer of petitioner is in violation of Ministry's communication dated 28.02.2022. In that regard he submits that on the petitioner being made aware, the said Mr. Mahinder Pal Singh had resigned in the year 2024 itself which is almost 2 years before the issuance of the SCN and the same thus could not have been the ground for passing of the impugned order.

6. He submits that the second ground which had led to passing of the impugned order was that the audited financial statement for the financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25 had not been uploaded by the petitioner. In that regard, it is contended that the said audited financial statements had already been submitted but could not be uploaded on account of Annual General Meeting not being conducted for more than a year. He submits that even otherwise, it is not disputed that the audited balance sheets have now been uploaded.

7. He further submits that the third ground in the impugned order is the alleged differences between the President and Secretary General of the federation, however, he submits that it is an admitted fact that the said reason was not mentioned in the SCN for the proposed action which is sought to be taken.

8. Considering the arguments of the Petitioner, this Court is *prima*



facie satisfied that the impugned order is arbitrary.

9. It is however pointed out that pursuant to the passing of the impugned order, the *Ad Hoc* Committee had in fact being constituted and the dispute in regard to the members of the Committee was also considered by the High Court of Karnataka.

10. Issue notice.

11. Mr. Chetan Sharma, learned Additional Solicitor General accepts notice on behalf of the Union of India.

12. Ms. Geetika Vyas, learned counsel accepts notice of IOA.

13. The IOA is directed to place on record the paper book of the proceedings before the High Court of Karnataka and the orders passed in the said case.

14. Reply, if any, be filed before the next date of hearing.

15. List on 06.11.2026.

AMIT MAHAJAN, J

OCTOBER 15, 2026

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