



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Selection Criteria for Individual Athletes and Teams for the Upcoming Asian Games

New Delhi, 19 Jul 2023 – As we gear up for the highly anticipated event, scheduled to take place in Hangzhou, China the IOA reaffirms its commitment to promoting excellence in sports by strictly adhering to the selection criteria formulated by the Government of India vide their letter dated 10th July 2023. The adherence to these norms aims to foster a culture of transparency, meritocracy, and excellence in the Indian sports ecosystem. It will further ensure that the selected contingent represents India with pride and performs to the best of their abilities at the Asian Games.

The criterion for selection in individual events, aims to identify athletes who have consistently demonstrated their abilities and have the potential to compete at the highest level. In team events, the focus will be on selecting sports that have achieved a top 8 ranking in Asia in the last one year preceding the Asian Games. This approach will guarantee that team sports with a proven track record of excellence and competitiveness in the region gets the opportunity to represent India.

The selection process for wrestlers to participate in the Asian Games is designed to be fair, transparent, and in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the International Federation. The Selection Committee, comprising experienced officials and experts, has recently published the norms for selection of wrestlers, so that the entry process of the team including reserves can be completed before 23 Jul 2023. To maximize the chances of sending the most competitive wrestling team to the Asian Games 2022, the final selection of wrestlers will be made prior to departure of the team for the competition. This approach will enable us to assess the athletes' current form, consider their recent performances, and take into account any last-minute developments that may have impacted the selection process.

Furthermore, in alignment with our steadfast dedication to upholding the principles of clean and drug-free competition, we are resolute in ensuring that only athletes who abide by the highest ethical standards are given the opportunity to participate. Our selection process for the Asian Games involves rigorous anti-doping screenings and testing, adhering to the guidelines set forth

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by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). We will continue to collaborate closely with National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to conduct thorough and surprise tests to ensure that all potential participants are free from any performance-enhancing substances.

Speaking about the selection process, Dr PT Usha, President IOA, said, "*We believe in nurturing a culture of excellence and fair play in Indian sports. The Asian Games provide a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to compete on a grand stage and make the nation proud. By aligning our selection criteria with the Government of India's guidelines, we aim to showcase a contingent that embodies the true spirit of sportsmanship and dedication.*"

The IOA would like to express its gratitude to the Government of India, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and all stakeholders involved for their continued support in fostering a conducive environment for sports development in the country.

As the Indian contingent prepares to represent the nation at the Asian Games, the IOA stands firmly committed to promoting a positive and competitive spirit among athletes and fostering an environment of growth and success.

About Indian Olympic Association (IOA):

The Indian Olympic Association is the apex body responsible for the promotion and development of sports in India. With the vision of making India a sporting powerhouse, the IOA works in tandem with various National Sports Federations to nurture and support athletes at all levels.

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