

Dr PT Usha
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
President, Indian Olympic Association



IOA/VI-55/2872

27 March 2026

OFFICE ORDER

APPOINTMENT OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNANCE OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT IN INDIA

In compliance with the judgment dated **18 February 2026** passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in *W.P.(C) No. 10342/2019 and connected matters* and in furtherance of the statutory framework under the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** and the Rules notified thereunder with effect from 01.01.2026, and in alignment with the obligations of the Indian Olympic Association ("IOA") under the **Olympic Charter**, and upon obtaining concurrence from the **Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI)**, the IOA hereby issues the following Order:

1. Nature and Legal Basis: This Order is issued pursuant to binding judicial directions of the Hon'ble High Court, in discharge of the Indian Olympic Association's role as the National Olympic Committee, and in furtherance of statutory compliance under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the Rules, 2026. The IOA has been directed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court to constitute an ad-hoc committee for the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), a registered society (Ad-Hoc Committee). The Ad-Hoc Committee shall function as an interim committee which shall be in charge of the fiduciary, regulatory, administrative, supervisory and transitional function of EFI till the restoration of lawful democratic processes in EFI, as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court.

2. FEI Concurrence and International Alignment: The IOA has obtained concurrence and acknowledgment from the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) for the constitution of this Ad-Hoc Committee, and the Committee shall function in a manner consistent with FEI regulations.

3. Constitution of Ad-Hoc Committee

3.1 The IOA hereby constitutes an Ad-Hoc Committee, with immediate effect, to administer and govern EFI and to put in place a reformation process so that independent elections can be conducted in EFI and a duly elected Executive Committee is able to administer EFI.

3.2 Composition:

- (a) Hon'ble Shrimant Yashodhara Raje Scindia – Chairperson
- (b) Mr. Francisco Lima, Director – Governance, FEI – Member
- (c) Mr. Vidushpat Singhania, Advocate – Member (Legal)
- (d) Col. Ashok Yadav (Retd.) – Member (Administration)

3.3 The Chairperson shall exercise overall supervision. The Committee shall function collectively.

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4. Scope of Authority : The Ad-Hoc Committee shall act strictly as a caretaker and transitional administrative and governance body and it shall exercise such powers as are necessary to implement the judicial mandate, including exercising fiduciary powers (Including power to operate the bank accounts of EFI) for the interim period, ensure statutory compliance(s), facilitate elections, governance reforms. The Ad-Hoc Committee may use EFI assets for its administrative functions and for the purpose of conducting competitions, trials, events and facilitating the logistics and selection, for participation of equestrian teams and athletes in various events/competitions. For this purpose the Ad-hoc committee may appoint sub-committees/consultants to facilitate the exercise including appointment of i) selection sub-committee, ii) Finance sub-committee and iii) Technical sub-committee.

5. Handover of Functional Control: The Executive Committee of EFI had a fixed tenure which expired in September 2023. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court has held that upon expiry of its tenure, the Executive Committee ceased to have any independent statutory or electoral mandate to continue. Therefore the erstwhile Executive Committee members shall hand over **functional governance, financial and administrative control relating to the sport** to the Ad-Hoc Committee within seven (7) days from the receipt of this order. Until the governance, administrative and financial control are handed over to the Ad-Hoc committee by EFI, the IOA shall support the Ad-Hoc committee including by opening a bank account for the Ad-Hoc committee till the handover is done by the erstwhile EFI dispensation, so that the sport does not suffer.

6. Governance Reforms: The Ad-Hoc Committee shall align the EFI Constitution and By-laws with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the Rules, 2026; restructure the General Body and membership framework in accordance with law; ensure that the Constitutions and By-laws of all affiliated State Units are compliant; conduct free, fair, and transparent elections to the Athletes Commission; and ensure the lawful constitution of the electoral college.

7. Elections and Transition: The Ad-Hoc Committee shall finalise the Constitution and By-laws within two (2) months, notify elections within thirty (30) days thereafter, and ensure that such elections are conducted in an independent, fair, and transparent manner; upon completion of this process, the duly elected body shall assume charge forthwith.

8. Flexibility under NSG Framework: The timelines and processes set out herein shall be subject to modification in light of the implementation of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, the Rules notified in 2026, and any amendments thereto, and the Ad-Hoc Committee shall ensure full compliance with all evolving statutory requirements.

9. Operational Continuity: The Ad-Hoc Committee shall ensure uninterrupted functioning, including but not limited to athlete and horse registrations, participation in events, and coordination with the IOA, the FEI, and all relevant stakeholders.

10. Safeguards and Limitations: The Committee shall act in a fiduciary and custodial capacity. It shall function independent of IOA control but may seek guidance and support from IOA, where necessary.

11. Conflict of Interest: Members shall submit declarations of independence and absence of conflict.

12. Automatic Dissolution: The Ad-Hoc Committee shall stand dissolved upon assumption of charge by a duly elected Executive Committee.

13. Non-Derogation: Nothing in this Order shall override EFI's status as a registered society or confer ownership or any permanent control upon the IOA.

14. Natural Justice Compliance: This Order is issued as a consequence of judicial directions, and the Ad-Hoc Committee shall ensure fairness and transparency, provide an opportunity of representation wherever required, and record reasons for all material decisions; any urgent actions taken shall remain valid, subject to compliance with principles of post-decisional fairness.

15. Absence of Mala Fides: This Order is issued bona fide, in compliance with judicial and statutory obligations, and devoid of extraneous considerations.

16. Jurisdiction: This Order is within the authority of the IOA, being issued pursuant to Court directions, consistent with the Olympic Charter, and limited strictly to the interim period.

17. Proportionality: The intervention is necessary due to the absence of an elected body, and is proportionate, time-bound, and least intrusive in nature.

18. Continuity: Actions shall minimize disruption. Past lawful acts of EFI remain unaffected unless contrary to law.

19. Protection of Good Faith Actions: No legal proceedings shall lie against IOA or Ad-Hoc Committee members for actions taken in good faith under this Order.

20. Severability: Invalidity of any provision shall not affect the remainder of the Order.

21. Interpretation: This Order shall be interpreted in harmony with the High Court judgment, consistent with the National Sports Governance Act and the Rules, and in a manner that favours the restoration of democratic governance.



(Dr PT Usha)
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
President, Indian Olympic Association

Copy to: The President, Fédération Équestre Internationale
The Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Internal : IOA Executive Council
IOA Legal / Staff