



Madame PT USHA
President
Indian Olympic Association

Lausanne, 20.03.2026

Steering Committee for the Interim Volleyball Federation of India (VFI)

Dear Madame PT USHA,

We trust this letter finds you in good health.

Following recent consultations between the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) concerning the governance situation of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) and the transitional arrangements currently in place, we are pleased to confirm the establishment of a Steering Committee to support the governance and operational activities of volleyball in India during this interim period.

The objective of the Steering Committee is to ensure institutional coordination between the FIVB, IOA, and the VFI interim leadership, while safeguarding the interests of athletes and ensuring the continuity of national team programmes and international participation.

In agreement with the IOA, the Steering Committee will be composed of the following members:

Mr. Rohit Rajpal

Chair of the Steering Committee
Executive Council Member, Indian Olympic Association

Mr. Raghuram Iyer

Chief Executive Officer
Indian Olympic Association

Mr. Steve Tutton

FIVB General Sports Director
Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB)

Mr. Stephen Bock

Head of Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB)

Mr. Hitesh Malhotra

Head of FIVB Empowerment and National Federation Relations
Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB)

*received
20.3.26
4.20 PM*

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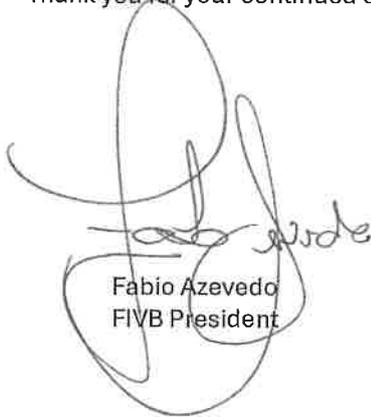
The Steering Committee will operate in accordance with the Terms of Reference outlined in Annex 1 of this letter. In particular, the Steering Committee will support the VFI interim leadership in:

- overseeing governance reforms and compliance with applicable regulations;
- supervising the process of updating the VFI Statutes in line with applicable law and the regulations of the FIVB and IOA;
- facilitating the establishment of the Athletes' Commission;
- ensuring transparent processes for national team programmes and athlete selection through an independent selection committee of experts appointed by the Steering Committee;
- overseeing the preparation and conduct of future elections for the leadership of the Volleyball Federation of India; and
- supporting the organisation and participation of Indian national teams in upcoming international volleyball competitions and events.

The Steering Committee will work closely with the VFI interim leadership, the Indian Olympic Association, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to ensure that the transition toward a fully recognised and democratically elected VFI leadership is conducted in a transparent and orderly manner.

We remain confident that the collective expertise of the Steering Committee will contribute positively to the continued development and governance of volleyball in India.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.



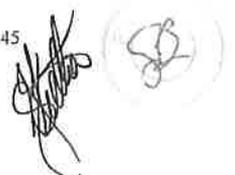
Fabio Azevedo
FIVB President

Best regards,



Hugh McCutcheon
FIVB Secretary General

CC:
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)
Sports Authority of India
VFI Interim Body





Annex 1

Steering Committee – Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Steering Committee is established jointly by the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) in coordination with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to provide oversight, guidance, and coordination during the interim governance period of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI). The Steering Committee shall ensure that the transition toward a fully recognised and democratically elected leadership of VFI is conducted in accordance with:

- applicable Indian law
- the FIVB Constitution and Regulations
- the IOA Constitution and Regulations
- principles of good governance, transparency, and athlete protection

The Steering Committee shall operate according to the following principles:

- protection of athlete interests
- transparency and accountability
- independence of technical decisions
- compliance with national and international governance standards
- Promotion of the development of volleyball in India

2. Composition

The Steering Committee shall consist of the following members:

Chair

Mr. Rohit Rajpal
Executive Council Member, Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

Members

Mr. Raghuram Iyer
Chief Executive Officer, Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

Mr. Steve Tutton
FIVB General Sports Director, FIVB

Mr. Stephen Bock
Head of Legal Affairs and General Counsel, FIVB

Mr. Hitesh Malhotra
Head of FIVB Empowerment and National Federation Relations, FIVB

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3. Role and Authority

The Steering Committee shall provide strategic guidance and oversight to the VFI interim leadership during the provisional recognition period.

The Steering Committee shall operate as a coordinating governance body between the FIVB, IOA, and the VFI interim leadership.

During the interim period, the VFI interim leadership shall cooperate fully with and follow the guidance of the Steering Committee in matters relating to governance compliance, national team programmes, and implementation of the recognition roadmap.

4. Key Responsibilities

4.1 Governance Oversight

The Steering Committee shall:

- monitor implementation of the provisional recognition roadmap
- supervise the process of updating the VFI Statutes
- ensure alignment with Indian law, FIVB regulations, and IOA regulations
- ensure that the governance structure of VFI complies with good governance principles

4.2 Athletes' Commission

The Steering Committee shall oversee the establishment of an Athletes' Commission within VFI.

The Athletes' Commission must be established in accordance with:

- the FIVB requirements
- the joint FIVB–IOA communication dated 5 July 2025
- applicable Indian law

The Steering Committee shall review and confirm that the composition, eligibility criteria, and independence of the Athletes' Commission comply with these requirements.

5. Selection Committee (National Teams)

5.1 Establishment

The Steering Committee shall establish a Selection Committee composed of national team coaches and technical experts responsible for recommending athletes for national team participation in international competitions. The Selection Committee shall operate independently and without any interference either from the VFI interim leadership or any other third parties appointed by VFI interim leadership.

5.2 Responsibilities

The Selection Committee shall:

- evaluate athlete performance based on objective technical criteria
- prepare the long list of athletes for international competitions
- prepare the final national team squad list
- ensure that athlete selection is based on technical merit, performance data, and international standards

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5.3 Submission of Athlete Lists

The Selection Committee shall submit its recommended athlete lists to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall then formally communicate the final approved athlete list to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for entry into international competition systems.

5.4 Non-Interference Principle

The VFI interim leadership shall not interfere in the athlete selection process. All national team selections for FIVB-recognised competitions shall be made exclusively by the Selection Committee and national team coaching staff, under the supervision of the Steering Committee.

6. Electoral Governance

The Steering Committee shall supervise the process of restoring full governance within the VFI. In particular, the Steering Committee shall:

- designate a Returning Officer responsible for preparing and validating the electoral college
- review the list of State Member Associations eligible to participate in elections
- ensure that elections are conducted in a fair, transparent, and legally compliant manner

7. Meetings and Reporting

The Steering Committee shall meet regularly as required to review progress on governance and operational matters.

The Steering Committee shall maintain communication with:

- the VFI interim leadership
- the FIVB
- the Indian Olympic Association
- relevant government authorities where appropriate.

8. Duration

The Steering Committee shall operate for the duration of the provisional recognition period of eight (8) months from the date of this letter, or until otherwise determined by the FIVB in consultation with the IOA.

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