

Dr. P. T. Usha
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
President, Indian Olympic Association



IOA/VI-55/3009

01 June 2026

To
The President / General Secretary
Karate India Organisation (KIO)
New Delhi

**UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE WORD "INDIA" IN THE NOMENCLATURE OF KARATE
INDIA ORGANISATION (KIO) AND CONDUCT OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY**

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) wishes to draw your attention to the provisions of the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025 (NSGA)**, which has been enacted by the Government of India to regulate sports governance in the country. The Act seeks to promote the development of sports, safeguard the welfare of sportspersons, ensure adherence to principles of good governance, ethics and fair play in line with the Olympic Charter and international best practices, and provide an effective framework for the resolution of sports-related disputes and grievances.

2. Section 27 of the NSGA, titled "Use of National Names and Insignia," provides, inter alia, that:

(a) Any sports organisation intending to use the words "India," "Indian," or "National", or any national insignia or symbols in its registered name, operating name, logo, or otherwise, must obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Central Government.

(b) A sports organisation that is not a recognised sports organisation must additionally obtain the written consent of the Sports Regulatory Board.

(c) No sports organisation shall use the name "India" or conduct sports trials, tournaments, or events upon suspension or cancellation of its recognition.

(d) No individual or group shall represent India in any designated sport without authorisation from the relevant National Sports Body or its affiliate.

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3. The NSGA defines the terms "National Sports Body," "National Sports Federation," and "Recognised Sports Organisation." The Karate India Organisation (KIO) does not fall within any of these categories, as it does not fulfil the statutory requirements prescribed under the Act.
4. It is further noted that KIO has never been recognised by the Government of India as a National Sports Federation for karate under the provisions of the National Sports Development Code of India.
5. The provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 have come into force with effect from 1 June 2026. KIO does not possess recognition as a National Sports Federation or any other recognised sports organisation under the Act. Consequently, KIO is not entitled to use the word "India" in its nomenclature, nor can it claim any status or authority associated with such usage, except in accordance with the requirements stipulated under Section 27 of the Act.
6. The Olympic Charter places significant emphasis on integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in sports governance. Organisations involved in the administration of sport are expected to adhere to these principles and conduct their affairs in a manner that serves the interests of athletes and the sporting community.
7. As the National Olympic Committee (NOC) for India, the Indian Olympic Association attaches the highest importance to the welfare and protection of athletes.
8. It is also pertinent to note that KIO has never been recognised as a member of the Indian Olympic Association.
9. It has been brought to the notice of the IOA that KIO continues to use the word "India" in its nomenclature and is conducting or proposing to conduct National Championships in various categories. We understand that a bulletin has recently been issued by KIO announcing a National Championship scheduled to commence on 4 June 2026 at Uttarakhand, India.
10. KIO is fully aware that it is neither authorised to conduct National Championships nor empowered to select or field teams for participation in international events, as it is not a recognised sports body under the applicable legal framework. The provisions of the NSGA expressly prohibit unauthorised bodies from conducting national-level championships or representing India in international competitions.

11. It is equally relevant that certificates, medals and achievements obtained through competitions conducted by unrecognised bodies may not be eligible for recognition by governmental authorities or other institutions for the purpose of availing benefits under sports-related schemes and policies. Conducting such events despite this position amounts to misleading athletes and stakeholders and is inconsistent with the principles of ethical sports governance.

12. In light of the foregoing, KIO is hereby called upon to:

(e) Immediately cease the unauthorised use of the word "India" in its nomenclature unless and until the requisite approvals under the NSGA are obtained;

(f) Refrain from conducting or organising any National Championship or similar event for which it lacks statutory authority;

(g) Refrain from selecting, fielding, nominating or purporting to represent Indian teams or athletes in any international competition without lawful authorisation.

13. You are requested to take immediate corrective action and ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. P. T. Usha)

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

Copy to:

- The Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India