



ATHLETES COMMISSION RULES

INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

RATIFIED ON 08.09.2026

Table of Contents

1.	ATHLETES COMMISSION PREAMBLE.....	3
2.	TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.....	3
3.	OBJECTIVES OF THESE RULES.....	3
4.	MISSION, ROLE AND OBJECTIVES	4
5.	RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION	4
6.	NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION.....	6
7.	REPRESENTATION WITHIN IOA	6
8.	COMPOSITION OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION.....	6
9.	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	7
10.	CONSTITUTION OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION	8
11.	ELECTION PROCESS.....	9
12.	TERM OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION	12
13.	VACANCIES AND REMOVAL	12
14.	MEETINGS AND PROCEDURE	13
15.	GENERAL	14

1. ATHLETES COMMISSION PREAMBLE

- 1.1. Pursuant to the recommendation of the IOC 2000 Reform Commission that “*athletes should be well represented at all levels of the sports movement: IOC, IFs, NOCs and NFs*” and the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement, and in view of Rules 2.7 and 28.1.3 of the Olympic Charter, an Athletes Commission was established by, and within the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in 2022.
- 1.2. The IOA’s mission is to place athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement, and thus the IOA Athletes Commission was established to support, represent, advocate for and communicate with athletes within the Olympic fraternity and to strengthen athlete participation in the governance and development of matters relating to the Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and other Games or competitions within the purview of IOA.
- 1.3. These present amendments to the erstwhile Athletes’ Committee Regulations are derived and developed in line with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

2. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them under this section.
 - 2.1.1. “**IOA Election Bye-Laws**” shall mean the bye-laws principally governing the conduct of elections of the Executive Council, while its principles also applying to the elections of the Athletes Commission and the SOMs (where applicable) of the IOA, as amended from time to time.
 - 2.1.2. “**OCA**” shall mean the Olympic Council of Asia.
 - 2.1.3. “**Rules**” shall mean these IOA Athletes Commission Rules, as amended from time to time.
- 2.2. Any word or expression used but not defined hereinabove shall have the meaning prescribed to it in the IOA Constitution and, where such word or expression is not defined therein, under the National Sports Governance Act 2025 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder or, where applicable, the International Charters and Statutes.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THESE RULES

- 3.1. These Rules establish the framework for the constitution, composition, election, functioning and representation of the Athletes Commission within the IOA.
- 3.2. The objectives of these Rules are as follows:
 - 3.2.1. to provide a clear and transparent framework for the establishment and

- functioning of the IOA Athletes Commission;
- 3.2.2. to ensure meaningful athlete representation within the governance structure of IOA;
- 3.2.3. to provide for the composition, eligibility, selection, election, tenure, vacancies, removal and meetings of the IOA Athletes Commission;
- 3.2.4. to enable the IOA Athletes Commission to represent athlete views and support athlete-centred governance within IOA; and
- 3.2.5. to ensure that the functioning of the IOA Athletes Commission remains consistent with the Olympic Charter, the IOA Constitution, the Act, and the NSGB Rules.

4. MISSION, ROLE AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. The mission, role and objectives of the IOA's Athletes Commission are to:
 - 4.1.1. represent the views of the athletes and ensure their voices are heard within the IOA;
 - 4.1.2. consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the IOA;
 - 4.1.3. make recommendations to the IOA on matters concerning athlete rights and interests;
 - 4.1.4. provide a forum for structured communication between IOA and athletes on IOA programmes, policies and athlete-related matters;
 - 4.1.5. support the IOA's mission to develop and promote the principles of Olympic Movement in accordance with the IOA Constitution;
 - 4.1.6. engage with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes, both on and off the field of play;
 - 4.1.7. support the development of an effective communication strategy to disseminate information to athletes and to educate and advise them on matters relating to their sport;
 - 4.1.8. act as a link between athletes and the IOA for communicating athlete needs, concerns and views
 - 4.1.9. perform such other functions as may be assigned to it under the IOA Constitution or by the Executive Committee of the IOA;
 - 4.1.10. maintain appropriate engagement with the IOC Athletes Commission, the OCA Athletes' Committee, the Athletes Committee of the National Sports Federation and the Athletes Committee of the States Olympic Committee.

5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 5.1. The Athletes Commission shall work with the IOA, including the Executive

Council, to support the adoption and implementation of the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, adopted by the 133rd IOC Session in Buenos Aires in October 2018, into the IOA's policies and procedures.

- 5.2. The Athletes Commission shall support the IOA in developing appropriate mechanisms for effective remedies in relation to athlete rights and responsibilities and shall encourage athletes to use such mechanisms, where applicable.
- 5.3. In performing its functions, the Athletes Commission shall promote and support the following athlete rights and interests:
 - 5.3.1. Practice sport and compete without being subject to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other immutable status.
 - 5.3.2. Participate in a transparent, fair and clean sporting environment, particularly one that fights against doping and competition manipulation.
 - 5.3.3. Have access to transparent judging/refereeing, selection and qualification processes, and appropriate competition schedules, including training schedules.
 - 5.3.4. Access general information on athlete and competition-related matters in a timely and clear manner.
 - 5.3.5. Access education on sports-related matters and, where practicable, pursue work or study while actively training and competing.
 - 5.3.6. Access opportunities to generate income in relation to their sporting career, name and likeness, while recognising the intellectual property rights and other rights, the regulations of the respective events, the rights of the IOA and the Olympic Charter.
 - 5.3.7. Promote fair and equal gender representation in athlete representation and related processes;
 - 5.3.8. Promote the protection of athletes' mental and physical health, including a safe competition and training environment and protection from abuse and harassment.
 - 5.3.9. Support the ability of athletes to report unethical behaviour without fear of retaliation.
 - 5.3.10. Promote the protection athletes' privacy, including personal information.
 - 5.3.11. Support athletes' freedom of expression.
 - 5.3.12. Support due process, including access to a fair hearing within a reasonable time before an independent and impartial panel, and the right to request a public hearing and an effective remedy, as the case may be.

5.3.13. In performing their functions under these Rules, the members of the Athletes Commission shall comply with the IOA Statutes.

6. NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 6.1. The Athletes Commission has been established within IOA as an athlete-representative body of the IOA's Members. It shall function in accordance with these Rules, the IOA Constitution and the applicable IOA Statutes.
- 6.2. The Athletes Commission shall not be a separate legal entity from the IOA and shall not act on behalf of the IOA, represent the IOA before any third party, or bind or commit the IOA in any manner, except where expressly authorised to do so in accordance with the IOA Constitution and the applicable IOA Statutes.

7. REPRESENTATION WITHIN IOA

- 7.1. The representation of the Athletes Commission in the General Assembly and the Executive Council of the IOA shall be in accordance with the IOA Constitution, these Rules and the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 7.2. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Athletes Commission shall be voting members of the IOA Executive Council, in accordance with the IOA Constitution.
- 7.3. The Athletes Commission shall elect from amongst its elected members, two (2) representatives, comprising one (1) male and one (1) female, to serve as voting members of the General Body in accordance with the IOA Constitution, these Rules and the IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 7.4. The representatives elected under Rule 7.3 shall have participated in at least one of the last three (3) editions of the Olympic Games, and/or shall satisfy such other eligibility requirements as may be prescribed under these Rules and the IOA Constitution.

8. COMPOSITION OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 8.1. The Athletes Commission shall comprise the following members:
 - 8.1.1. Representative(s) from India if any, who is/are members of the IOC's or OCA's Athletes Commission, as ex-officio members with voting rights; and
 - 8.1.2. Ten (10) athletes (five (5) male and five (5) female) elected by their peers, composition of the same shall be as follows:
- 8.2. Out of the ten (10) elected members, six (6) members shall be athletes who, at the time of election, have participated in at least one of the last three (3) editions of the Olympic Games.
- 8.3. The six (6) members under Rule 8.2 shall comprise three (3) male athletes and three (3) female athletes.

- 8.4. The composition under Rule 8.3 shall include, as far as practicable:
 - 8.4.1. at least one (1) from an individual sport;
 - 8.4.2. at least one (1) from a team sport.
- 8.5. The remaining four (4) elected members shall comprise two (2) male athletes and two (2) female athletes, who, at the time of their election, have won at least one (1) medal in any of the last three (3) editions of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship/Cup or of the National Games.
- 8.6. As far as practicable, the composition of the Athletes Commission, shall seek maximum representation from all sports affiliated with IOA, and as a guiding principle, an endeavour shall be made to ensure that there is not more than one Athlete from any one particular sport.

9. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 9.1. To be eligible for election as a member of the Athletes Commission, a candidate shall satisfy the eligibility criteria set out under this Rule.
- 9.2. A candidate shall:
 - 9.2.1. Be an Indian citizen;
 - 9.2.2. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the date of nomination;
 - 9.2.3. Be of sound mind and capable of discharging responsibilities connected with the Athletes Commission;
 - 9.2.4. Have never been sanctioned for violation under the World Anti-Doping Code, the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 or breach of any applicable integrity regulation(s);
 - 9.2.5. Have never been sanctioned for a breach of the IOA Constitution and its bye-laws, rules and regulations.
- 9.3. For the purposes of Rule 9.2.5, a sanction shall not render a candidate ineligible where the breach was minor, unrelated to sports administration, or occurred without fault or with insignificant fault, subject to verification under the applicable IOA rules and regulations.
- 9.4. Where a person elected as a member of the Athletes Commission to the IOA General Assembly or the IOA Executive Council is also elected as a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit to the IOA General Assembly, such person shall, within three (3) days of being elected to both positions, recuse himself/herself from one of such positions. The vacancy arising from such recusal shall be filled in accordance with the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws, and the election to fill such vacancy shall be conducted concurrently with the elections to the IOA Executive Council.

10. CONSTITUTION OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 10.1. Members of the Athletes Commission shall be elected by, and from amongst, a pool of eligible athlete representatives which shall constitute the electoral college for such election, constituted in accordance with this Rule.
- 10.2. Each NSF Member affiliated to the IOA shall nominate the two (2) athletes' representatives, who satisfy the eligibility criteria mentioned in Rule 9.2.
- 10.3. The nomination under Rule 10.2 shall be made through the Athletes Commission of the NSF Member, from among athletes representing the sport, in respect of which such NSF Member is affiliated with the IOA. Only those NSF Members which have established an Athletes Commission shall be allowed to appoint their athletes' representatives through their respective Athletes Commissions.¹
- 10.4. Any eligible athlete representative from among this pool seeking election as a member of the Athletes Commission shall submit an application through the concerned NSF Member in the format prescribed by the Electoral Officer.
- 10.5. The election of the members of the Athletes Commission shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 11 of these Rules, the IOA Constitution, applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws and any election notice issued for this purpose.
- 10.6. The election shall be conducted within this pool of athletes from among the candidates who have submitted their application as provided herein above, until five (5) male athletes and five (5) female athletes are elected and fill the categories as per Rule 8.1.2.
- 10.7. Upon the election of the ten (10) members constituting the elected members of the Athletes Commission, the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and such other office(s), if any, of the Athletes Commission, and the election of the two (2) representatives to the General Assembly under Rule 7.3, shall be conducted from amongst the elected members in accordance with these Rules and the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 10.8. The Chairperson of the Athletes' Committee shall be elected from amongst the six (6) Olympic category members, referred to in Rule 8.2.
- 10.9. Where the person so appointed as Chairperson is a male, then the Vice Chairperson must be elected from among the remaining female members of the Athletes Commission. If the person so elected as Chairperson is female, then the Vice Chairperson must be elected from among the remaining male members of the

¹ IOA Athletes' Commission 2022 provided for an exception as under:

2 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION, ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS

II d ii. Such appointment should be made through the athletes' commission of the Member Federation. If the athletes' commission has not yet been established within a Member Federation, the appointment shall exceptionally be made by decision of the executive body of the Member Federation. This exception shall be valid only for the 2022 elections of the IOA Athletes' Commission, after which only those Member Federations which have established an athletes' commission will be allowed to appoint their athletes' representatives through their respective athletes' commissions.

Athletes Commission.

10.10. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, no person shall be elected as the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson of the Athletes Commission unless such person-

10.10.1. has attained at least twenty-five (25) years of age on the date of nomination; and

10.10.2. satisfies the other eligibility criteria prescribed under the Act, the NSGB Rules, the IOA Constitution and the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws for election as a member of the Executive Council.

11. ELECTION PROCESS

11.1. The election to constitute the elected members of the Athletes Commission shall be conducted by the Electoral Officer in accordance with these Rules, the IOA Constitution and the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws. Such Electoral Officer shall be appointed by the Executive Council of the IOA. Save as otherwise provided in these Rules, the procedure prescribed under the IOA Election Bye-Laws relating to the issuance of the election notice, nominations, scrutiny of nominations, withdrawal of candidature, polling, counting of votes and declaration of results shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such election.

11.2. Each athlete representative forming part of the electoral college shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

11.3. The declaration of the election results shall give effect to the composition requirements prescribed under Rule 8 of these Rules.

11.4. Subject to the IOA Constitution, these Rules, the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws and any directions issued by the Electoral Officer, the elections relating to the constitution of the Athletes Commission and the election of its representatives to the Executive Council and the General Assembly shall ordinarily be conducted in accordance with the following model calendar:

Stage	Event	Timeline from the date of election to the Executive Council of the IOA
I. Constitution of the Athletes Commission	Appointment of Electoral Officer	T-150 days
	Notification of Athletes Commission Election Date by the Electoral Officer	T-90
	Publication of draft electoral roll	T-85

	Receipt and disposal of objections to the draft electoral roll	T-78
	Call for Elections, invitation for nominations and publication of the final electoral roll to all eligible voters	T-75
	Filing of nominations by eligible candidates	T-68 to T-66
	Publication of draft list of nominations received by the Electoral Officer	T-66
	Period for objections to the draft list of nominated candidates	T-65 to T-62
	Scrutiny of nominations and disposal of objections by the Electoral Officer	T-61 to T-60
	Publication of final list of valid nominated candidates	T-59
	Period for withdrawal of nominations	T-58
	Publication of final list of contesting candidates	T-57
	Polling, counting of votes and declaration of results by the Electoral Officer	T-55
	<i>Athletes Commission constituted.</i>	
II-A. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Athletes Commission (IOA Executive Council Representatives)	Notification of election and invitation for nominations by the Electoral Officer	T-55
	Filing of nominations by eligible candidates	T-54 to T-53
	Scrutiny of nominations and publication of final list of eligible contesting candidates	T-52
	Polling, counting of votes and declaration of results by the Electoral Officer <i>Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Athletes Commission to be a part the IOA Executive Council elected.</i>	T-50

II-B. Election of Two (2) Representatives of the Athletes Commission to the IOA General Assembly	Notification of election and invitation for nominations by the Electoral Officer	T-55
	Filing of nominations by eligible candidates	T-54 to T-53
	Scrutiny of nominations and publication of final list of eligible contesting candidates	T-52
	Polling, counting of votes and declaration of results by the Electoral Officer <i>Two (2) representatives of the Athletes Commission to the IOA General Assembly elected.</i>	T-50

- 11.5. The election process shall be as prescribed under the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws. Should the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws not be in force, the election shall be conducted in accordance with Schedule II to the NSGB Rules, as applicable, *mutatis mutandis*.
- 11.6. Any dispute, complaint or grievance relating to the conduct of the election to the Athletes Commission, including the eligibility of any candidate, shall be dealt with by the concerned Electoral Officer in accordance with the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 11.6.1. The Electoral Officer shall decide all administrative matters relating to such election which are not expressly provided for under the Act, the NSGB Rules, the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws or these Rules.
- 11.6.2. Where the Electoral Officer is of the opinion that there has been a breach of the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws, the Electoral Officer may refer the matter to the IOA Ethics Commission, which may-
- make such observations as it considers appropriate, which may be made public; or
 - issue a warning, which shall be published on the official website of the IOA.
- 11.6.3. Any decision of the Electoral Officer under these Rules shall be final and binding, subject only to such remedy as may be available before the National Sports Tribunal.

12. TERM OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 12.1. The term of office of the members of the Athletes Commission shall be four (4) years.
- 12.2. The term of office of the representatives elected to the General Assembly under these Rules shall be co-terminus with their term as members of the Athletes Commission, unless otherwise provided under the IOA Constitution.
- 12.3. A person may continuously hold office as a member, Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Athletes Commission for up to three (3) consecutive Terms, separately or in combination thereof, and shall thereafter be eligible for re-election to any such office only after a mandatory cooling-off period of one (1) Term.
- 12.4. The term of office shall commence from the date of declaration of election results, unless otherwise provided under the IOA Constitution, applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws or the election notice.

13. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

- 13.1. In the event of any vacancy occurring on the Athletes Commission through death, removal or resignation, the person(s) who received the next highest number of votes in the last election corresponding to each category mentioned in Rule 8 of these Rules shall be appointed by the Athletes Commission to fill the vacant position(s) for the remainder of the initial term.
- 13.2. A member of the Athletes Commission may be removed where such member:
 - 13.2.1. fails to perform the duties assigned under these Rules or applicable IOA rules;
 - 13.2.2. ceases to satisfy the eligibility criteria prescribed under Rule 9;
- 13.3. Any athlete found to have committed serious violation(s) of the IOA Statutes; or is otherwise disqualified under the IOA Statutes including these Rules, shall be referred to the IOA's Dispute Resolution Committee. If the IOA's Dispute Resolution Committee finds that such a person is in breach, such a member may be removed from the Athletes Commission.
- 13.4. No member shall be removed under Rule 13.2 unless the member has been given notice of the grounds for proposed removal and a reasonable opportunity to respond.
- 13.5. Any dispute or issue relating to the continuing eligibility of a member of the Athletes Commission shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee, or such other competent authority as may be prescribed under the IOA Statutes.
- 13.6. Where the competent authority finds that a member is in breach or is no longer eligible to continue as a member of the Athletes Commission, such member may be removed from the Athletes Commission.

- 13.7. The removal shall take effect from the date of the decision of the competent authority, unless such decision specifies a later date.
- 13.8. Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the person who received the next highest number of votes in the last election, corresponding to the same category under Rule 8.

14. MEETINGS AND PROCEDURE

- 14.1. The Athletes Commission must meet at least four (4) times in each calendar year. Meetings may be held in person, in hybrid mode or through virtual means;
- 14.2. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the Vice Chairperson shall determine the schedule and agenda for meetings in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the IOA;
- 14.3. Members of the Athletes Commission shall be given at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the date and venue of meetings to be held in person and at least 7 days' notice for meetings using technology, unless exceptional circumstances and/or an urgent matter arise;
- 14.4. The IOA is responsible for ensuring, within its means, that the Athletes Commission is able to meet and for providing secretariat/technical support upon request from the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission;
- 14.5. The Chairperson or any person designated by the Chairperson in his absence will chair all meetings;
- 14.6. The quorum for meetings and decisions of the Athletes Commission will be a majority of the total number of members of the Athletes Commission;
- 14.7. The decisions of the Athletes Commission should be made by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached and a vote is required, each member of the Athletes Commission will have one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted. A majority of the votes in favour of an action by those members of the Athletes Commission present at the meeting, is required to be passed. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson will have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
- 14.8. A rapporteur may be appointed by the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission who shall be responsible for taking the minutes for each meeting of the Athletes Commission. The minutes shall be finalised in consultation with the Chairperson and sent to the members of the Athletes Commission within a maximum of one (1) month from the date of meeting. Any amendments to the minutes will be agreed at the next meeting of the Athletes Commission and will be noted accordingly.

All meetings and work of the Athletes Commission are confidential unless specified otherwise. No documents, information, discussion and decisions made at an Athletes Commission meeting or otherwise exchanged or agreed in connection with the work of the Athletes Commission, shall be disclosed to any person before

it is disclosed to the CEO and the Executive Council of the IOA. The Athletes Commission should then be given an opportunity by the IOA to publish its report and regular communications on the IOA Website and through other communication channels for the benefit of the athlete community.

15. GENERAL

- 15.1. In the event the Government of India relaxes or reduces any timelines pertaining to the elections and/or SOM applications, the same relaxation will be deemed to be incorporated in these Athletes Commission Rules. Accordingly, the timelines as relaxed/reduced, shall be basis of the elections being conducted in accordance with these Rules.