



SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT RULES

INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

RATIFIED ON 08.09.2026

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1. Preamble

- 1.1. These Rules are derived and developed in line with the IOA Constitution.
- 1.2. These Rules provide a clear, transparent and merit-based framework for the identification, verification, roster creation and election or, as applicable, nomination of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) within the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The inclusion of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit in IOA governance recognises the value of athlete experience in institutional decision-making. It also seeks to ensure that such representation is meaningful, gender-balanced and aligned with the broader interests of the Olympic Movement in India.

2. Terms and Definitions

- 2.1. **“Applicant”** shall mean a person who submits an application for consideration as a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit under these Rules.
- 2.2. **“Application Form”** shall mean the form prescribed in ANNEXURE 2 for submission of an application for inclusion in the SOM Roster.
- 2.3. **“Application Window”** shall mean the period of sixty (60) days from the date of opening of applications, or such extended period as may be permitted under these Rules.
- 2.4. **“Electoral Officer”** shall mean the Electoral Officer appointed by the IOA Executive Council in accordance with the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws under the IOA Statutes, who shall be responsible for the preparation of the SOM Roster and the conduct of elections of the SOMs in accordance with these Rules and the Election Bye-Laws as applicable.
- 2.5. **“IOA Statutes”** shall mean the Constitution, Election Bye-Laws, codes, rules, bye-laws and regulations governing IOA, as applicable from time to time.
- 2.6. **“Olympic Sport”** shall mean a sport included in the Olympic programme (Summer or Winter) and for which the concerned National Sports Federation/ national sports body is a member of the IOA.
- 2.7. **“Rules”** shall mean these IOA Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Rules, as amended from time to time.
- 2.8. **“Schedule”** shall mean any schedule forming part of the Application Form or any annexure to these Rules, as the context may require.
- 2.9. **“SOM Roster”** shall mean the roster of eligible Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit prepared under these Rules from which Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit shall be elected, to the IOA General Assembly.
- 2.10. **“Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit”** or **“SOM”** shall mean a person who satisfies the eligibility criteria under these Rules and is elected, in accordance with the relevant stage of these Rules.
- 2.11. **“Tiered Eligibility Criteria”** shall mean the ten-tier eligibility criteria specified under Rule 6.2.1 and ANNEXURE 1 for determining eligibility and priority for inclusion in the SOM Roster.

Any word or expression used but not defined in these Bye-Laws shall have the meaning assigned to it under 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. Objective of the Rules

- 3.1. These Rules set out the framework for the identification and inclusion of SOM within the governance structure of IOA.
- 3.2. The objectives are as follows:
 - 3.2.1. To set out the process for identification, verification, SOM Roster creation and election of SOM within the governance structure of IOA.
 - 3.2.2. To ensure that representation of SOM within IOA is based on clear eligibility criteria and a transparent application process.
 - 3.2.3. To ensure equal representation of male and female SOMs.

4. Role and Responsibilities of SOMs

- 4.1. The SOMs shall discharge the following responsibilities:
 - 4.1.1. contribute athlete experience and sportsperson-led perspective to support fair, transparent and athlete-centred governance within IOA;
 - 4.1.2. act in the broader interest of the Olympic Movement in India and not merely as representatives of any one sport, federation, academy, region or private interest.
 - 4.1.3. participate responsibly in the meetings and processes of the body to which they are elected;
 - 4.1.4. comply with the IOA Statutes;
 - 4.1.5. maintain confidentiality of documents, deliberations and information received in their official capacity;
 - 4.1.6. disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest; and
 - 4.1.7. not misuse their position for personal, commercial, political or institutional advantage.

5. Representation of SOMs within IOA

5.1. Composition

- 5.1.1. There shall be eight (8) SOMs in the IOA General Assembly, comprising four (4) male SOMs and four (4) female SOMs.
- 5.1.2. From amongst the eight (8) elected SOMs, two (2) SOMs, comprising one (1) male SOM and one (1) female SOM, shall be elected to the IOA Executive Council.

5.2. Basis of Representation

- 5.2.1. Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit forming part of the IOA General Assembly shall be elected only from amongst the persons included in the SOM Roster created and published on the IOA website.

- 5.2.2. SOMs who are part of the IOA General Assembly or the IOA Executive Council shall have the same voting rights, duties and obligations as other members of the IOA General Assembly or the IOA Executive Council, respectively, subject to IOA Statutes and other applicable IOA rules, policies and directives.
- 5.2.3. The SOM Roster shall be prepared at ten times the number of SOMs to be elected to the IOA General Assembly.
- 5.2.4. The SOM Roster shall have equal representation of male and female SOM.

6. Eligibility

6.1. General Eligibility Criteria

- 6.1.1. A person seeking to be considered as a SOM shall satisfy the following general eligibility criteria:
 - a. be an Indian citizen;
 - b. be of sound mind;
 - c. be not less than twenty-five (25) years and not more than seventy (70) of age, on the date of application;
 - d. be retired from active sport i.e, have not participated in any competitive sport event leading to selection to represent a district, State or India for at least one (1) year before the date of application; and
 - e. have represented India in an Olympic Sport for which the concerned National Sports Federation/ national sports body is a member of IOA.
- 6.1.2. For the purposes of these Rules, the relevant sporting achievement shall be in an Olympic Sport and shall have been achieved while representing India.

6.2. Tiered Eligibility Criteria

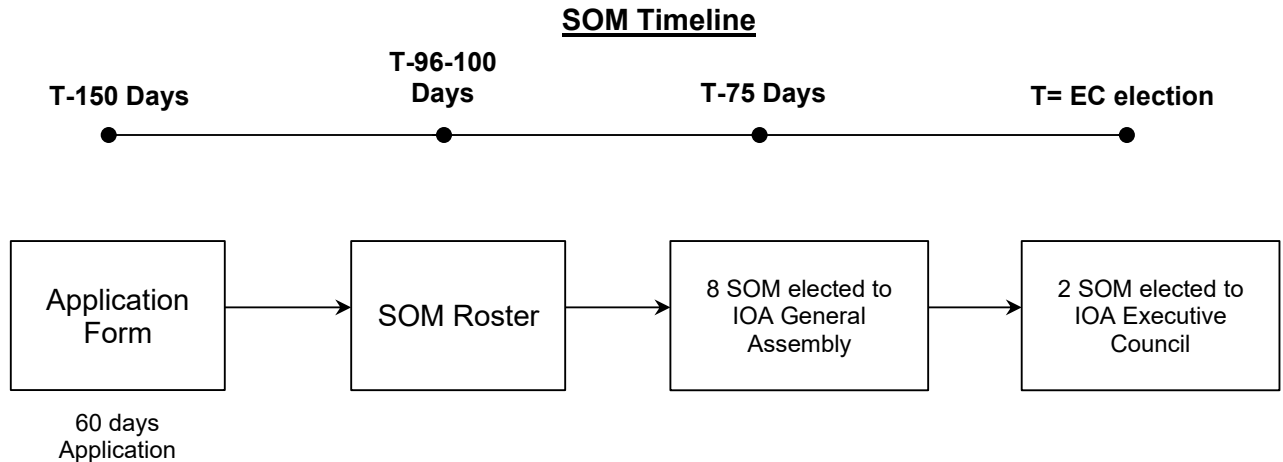
- 6.2.1. Applicants shall be considered for inclusion in the SOM Roster on the basis of the 10-tiered eligibility criteria attached in ANNEXURE 1.

6.3. Application exclusion

- 6.3.1. Any medal that has been rescinded shall not be considered for the purpose of determining eligibility under these Rules.
- 6.3.2. Any award that has been rescinded or returned shall not be considered for the purpose of determining eligibility under these Rules.
- 6.3.3. An applicant who submits false, misleading or incomplete information, or any forged, incorrect or misleading document, may be rejected from consideration or removed from the SOM Roster, as applicable.

7. Application Process

7.1. Timelines



7.2. Application Form

- 7.2.1. IOA shall issue a public call for applications for the preparation of the SOM Roster.
- 7.2.2. The IOA Athletes Commission shall encourage eligible athletes to participate in the application process for election as SOMs.
- 7.2.3. Each application shall be submitted online. Offline submission shall not be entertained.
- 7.2.4. The application shall be submitted in the form prescribed in ANNEXURE 2.
- 7.2.5. The Application Form shall include the general eligibility criteria, Tiered Eligibility Criteria and the list of documents required to be submitted by the applicant.
- 7.2.6. IOA may seek clarification or additional documents from an applicant where the defect in the application is curable.
- 7.2.7. Failure to submit such clarification or additional documents within the prescribed time may result in rejection of the application.
- 7.2.8. The application window shall remain open for sixty (60) days from the date of opening of applications.

7.3. SOM Roster Creation

- 7.3.1. The SOM Roster shall be created from the applications received within the application window.
- 7.3.2. The scrutiny of applications and creation of the SOM Roster of eighty (80) persons shall be undertaken by the Electoral Officer on the basis of the Tiered Eligibility Criteria specified under Rule 6.2.1 and ANNEXURE 1.
- 7.3.3. The Electoral Officer shall be responsible for:
 - a. scrutinising applications received under these Rules;

- b. verifying eligibility and supporting documents submitted by applicants;
 - c. applying the Tiered Eligibility Criteria specified under Rule 6.2.1 and ANNEXURE 1;
 - d. creating the SOM Roster;
 - e. ensuring separate male and female SOM Rosters are prepared;
 - f. ensuring publication of the male and female SOM Rosters on the IOA website in accordance with the prescribed timelines in Rule 7.1; and
 - g. Recording the basis for inclusion or exclusion of applicants from the SOM Roster.
- 7.3.4. Each SOM Roster shall be populated according to the Tiered Eligibility Criteria in sequential order. Applicants satisfying Tier 1 shall be considered first.
- 7.3.5. If the SOM Roster is not complete after considering applicants satisfying Tier 1, applicants satisfying Tier 2 shall be considered, followed by Tier 3 and each subsequent tier in sequential order.
- 7.3.6. No lower tier shall be considered before completion of consideration of the higher tier.
- 7.3.7. Where the number of applicants in a tier exceeds the required roster threshold, selection shall be made in accordance with the applicable tie-break criteria specified in ANNEXURE 1.
- 7.3.8. Where the IOA is unable to populate the SOM Roster of eighty (80) eligible applicants upon completion of the scrutiny process, IOA may issue another call for applications in accordance with Rule 7.2 or frame and adopt additional Tiered Eligibility Criteria for the SOM Roster, provided that such additional criteria are based on the principles specified in ANNEXURE 1, at its sole discretion.
- 7.3.9. The Electoral Officer shall ensure that adequate and eligible replacements are identified for the eight (8) Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit forming part of the IOA General Assembly. Such replacements shall be drawn from amongst the persons included in the SOM Roster and may be considered in the event of any removal, vacancy or inability of an elected SOM to continue.

7.4. **Election for SOMs to the General Assembly**

- 7.4.1. The Electoral Officer shall conduct the SOM elections in accordance with the following calendar:

Event	Day
Call for Elections, invitation for nominations and release of final electoral roll	Day 1
Filing of nominations	Day 8 to Day 10

Announcement of draft list of nominations received	Day 10
Objections to draft list of nominated candidates	Day 11 to Day 14
Scrutiny and disposal of objections to Draft list of nominated candidates	Day 15 to Day 16
Final list of nominated candidates	Day 17
Withdrawal of nominations	Day 18
Final list of contesting candidates	Day 19
Polling and announcement of results	Day 21

- 7.4.2. The Electoral Officer shall ensure that at the very least, the polling and announcement of results take place at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent IOA Executive Council elections.
- 7.4.3. The election process shall be as described in detail in the IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 7.4.4. Each person elected as a SOM to the IOA General Assembly shall be below the age of seventy (70) years as on the last date of nomination for the election of SOMs to the General Assembly.

7.5. **Election of SOMs to the Executive Council**

- 7.5.1. From amongst the eight (8) elected SOMs, two (2) SOMs (one male, one female) shall be elected as members of the IOA Executive Council.
- 7.5.2. The election of such SOMs to the IOA Executive Council shall be conducted in accordance with the IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 7.6. 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

8. **Term and tenure of SOM**

- 8.1. The eight (8) SOMs shall be elected from the SOM Roster at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent IOA Executive Council. Their Term of office shall be four (4) years and shall commence from the date of announcement of their election.
- 8.2. The Term of office of a SOM shall not exceed four (4) years. No person shall be eligible to serve as a SOM for more than three (3) terms.
- 8.3. Cooling-off Period: A person who has served as a SOM for three (3) consecutive terms shall be eligible for election as a SOM only after a mandatory cooling-off period of one (1) term.

9. Removal, Vacancy and Appeal

9.1. Removal

- 9.1.1. All rules relating to removal or disqualification of members of the IOA General Assembly or the IOA Executive Council, as provided in the IOA Constitution, shall apply to SOM.
- 9.1.2. An SOM may also be removed on any of the following grounds:
 - a. false declaration;
 - b. submission of forged or misleading documents;
 - c. rescission, withdrawal or cancellation of the medal, award, participation record or achievement on the basis of which SOM status was claimed;
 - d. breach of the IOA Code of Ethics;
 - e. designation;
 - f. death; or
 - g. unsound mind or incapacity.
- 9.1.3. No SOM shall be removed without notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond and be heard, except in cases of resignation, death or automatic legal disqualification.

9.2. Vacancy

- 9.2.1. Any vacancy shall be filled from the same gender category.
- 9.2.2. In case of a vacancy, the next eligible person from the SOM Roster shall be appointed by the Electoral Officer.
- 9.2.3. A replacement SOM shall hold office for the remainder of the Term.

9.3. Dispute

9.3.1. Election of SOMs-

- 9.3.1.1. Any dispute relating to the conduct of
 - a. the election of the eight (8) Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the IOA General Assembly; or
 - b. the election of two (2) Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit from amongst the eight (8) Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the Executive Council,shall be raised before the concerned Electoral Officer in accordance with the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws.
- 9.3.1.2. The Electoral Officer shall decide all administrative matters relating to such elections which are not expressly provided for under the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws or these Rules.
- 9.3.1.3. 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-

- a. make such observations as it considers appropriate, which may be made public; or
- b. issue a warning, which shall be published on the official website of the IOA.

9.3.1.4. Any applicant for election as a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit having any complaint or grievance relating to the conduct of the election of the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the IOA General Assembly or the Executive Council (where applicable) may bring the same to the notice of the concerned Electoral Officer.

9.3.1.5. Any decision of the Electoral Officer under these Rules shall be final and binding. Any petition before the National Sports Tribunal relating to the conduct or outcome of the elections referred to in Rule 9.3.1.1 shall be limited only to any alleged violation of the provisions governing the conduct of the election process under the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws.

Provided that no such petition shall be filed after the expiry of thirty (30) days from the declaration of the election results.

10. Transitional Mechanism

- 10.1. These Rules shall apply to the first constitution of the SOM Roster and the first election of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit following the adoption of these SOM Rules.
- 10.2. In the event that the National Sports Election Panel is not notified prior to the date of appointment of the Electoral Officer in accordance with these Rules and/or the IOA Election Bye-Laws, then the IOA Executive Council shall appoint one (1) Electoral Officer for conduct of elections of the SOMs in accordance with these Rules..
- 10.3. In the event the Government of India relaxes or reduces any timelines pertaining to the SOM application and/or elections, the same relaxation will be deemed to be incorporated in these Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Rules. Accordingly, the timelines as relaxed/reduced, shall be basis of the SOM application(s)/elections.

ANNEXURE 1: TEN (10) TIERED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Note: An achievement, medal or award shall not be considered where such achievement, medal or award has been rescinded, withdrawn, cancelled or returned, as applicable.

Tier 1	<u>Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal in the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be given to the applicant who has secured a higher number of medals, evaluated in the order of precedence of Gold, followed by Silver, and thereafter Bronze, among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 2	<u>Applicants who have participated in two or more editions of the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie, or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be accorded to the applicant who has participated in a greater number of Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 3	<u>Applicants who have participated in at least one edition of the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie, or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be accorded to the applicant who has participated in a greater number of Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 4	<u>Applicants who have been awarded a Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or an Arjuna Award by the Central Government.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age

	among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie, or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be accorded first to applicants who are recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, and thereafter to applicants who are recipients of the Arjuna Award, among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be given to the applicant who has secured a higher number of medals, evaluated in the order of precedence of Gold, followed by Silver, and thereafter Bronze, among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 5	<u>Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing, in a World Championship or equivalent competition.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be given to the applicant who has secured a higher number of medals, evaluated in the order of precedence of Gold, followed by Silver, and thereafter Bronze, among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 6	<u>Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing, in the Commonwealth Games or Asian Games or Asian Winter Games.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be given to the applicant who has secured a higher number of medals, evaluated in the order of precedence of Gold, followed by Silver, and thereafter Bronze, among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 7	<u>Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing, in an Asian Championship or equivalent competition.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed

	threshold, preference and priority shall be given to the applicant who has secured a higher number of medals, evaluated in the order of precedence of Gold, followed by Silver, and thereafter Bronze, among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 8	<u>Applicants who have participated in at least five sanctioned international events (if individual sport) or five sanctioned international matches (if team sport).</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie, or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be accorded to the applicant who has participated in a greater number of international events (in the case of individual sports) or sanctioned international matches (in the case of team sports), among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 9	<u>Applicants who have participated in at least one sanctioned international event (if individual sport) or one sanctioned international match (if team sport).</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie, or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be accorded to the applicant who has participated in a greater number of international events (in the case of individual sports) or sanctioned international matches (in the case of team sports), among the qualifying candidates.
Tier 10	<u>Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal or equivalent placing in the National Games or a National Championship or equivalent competition.</u> In the event of a tie or where the number of candidates meeting the prescribed threshold exceeds the available vacancies, preference and priority shall be accorded to the eldest applicant by age among the qualifying candidates. In the event of a further tie or where the number of candidates continues to exceed the prescribed threshold, preference and priority shall be given to the applicant who has secured a higher number of medals, evaluated in the order of precedence of Gold, followed by Silver, and thereafter Bronze, among the qualifying candidates.

ANNEXURE 2

Application for inclusion in the Roster of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Under Rule 5 read with Schedule I of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

1. All sections must be completed in BLOCK LETTERS or typed electronically.
2. Any incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
3. Applicants may append additional sheets where necessary.
4. Submission of this Application Form does not, of itself, guarantee inclusion in the Rosters of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit.
5. The Indian Olympic Association reserves the right to verify all information and supporting documents submitted and seek additional information or documentation.

PART I

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND DECLARATIONS

1. Acknowledgment of Declarations and Annexures

I hereby confirm that I have carefully read, understood and accepted all declarations, undertakings and annexures forming part of this Application Form. I further confirm that the said annexures shall be treated as an integral part of this Application Form and shall be binding upon me.

2. Right to Modify or Cancel Process

The Indian Olympic Association reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to amend, modify, supplement, extend, defer, suspend, cancel or withdraw the present process or any part thereof, including this Application Form, at any stage. The Indian Olympic Association may also call for fresh applications or initiate a fresh process, in line with Article 7.3.10 of the IOA - Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Rules 2026.

3. Incomplete, Incorrect or False Applications

Any Application Form which is incomplete, unsigned, unsupported by the required documents, submitted after the prescribed time, or found at any stage to contain false, incorrect, misleading information or any material suppression of facts, may be rejected without any further notice. Where any election, appointment or inclusion has already been made on the basis of such application, declaration or document, the Indian Olympic Association shall be entitled to cancel the same forthwith, without prejudice to any other action available under applicable law.

4. Mode of Submission

The duly completed Application Form, along with all required annexures and supporting documents, shall be submitted to the IOA on elections@olympic.ind.in.

Signature of the Applicant: _____

PART II
PARTICULARS OF THE APPLICANT

A. Applicant Details



Full Name of Applicant (As per Government ID):	
Date of Birth [DD/MM/YYYY]:	
Age as on date of application:	
Gender:	
Father's Name:	
Mother's Name:	
Gender: Male / Female	
Nationality:	
Permanent Address:	
Correspondence Address:	
Mobile Number:	
Email ID:	
Government-issued photo ID proof submitted: Passport / Voter ID / PAN / Other:	
Sport:	
Discipline:	

Note: The date of birth must match the details mentioned in the Government ID, failing which the same application will not be taken into consideration.

Part III
SPORTING CAREER DETAILS

B. Achievements

For the purpose of this section, the term “sanctioned” shall mean:

- a. a competitive international event or match conducted under the aegis, approval or sanction of the relevant International Sports Body.*
- b. a competitive national event or match conducted under the aegis, approval or sanction of the relevant National Sports Federation/ national sports body.*

Details of Achievements (Insert all applicable achievements for all tiers, highest achievement to lowest)

S. No.	Event / Competition	Year & Date	Discipline	Country / State Represented	Medal / Position / Participation	Organising / Sanctioning Body	Proof Attached
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

C. Please select the eligibility tier based on your achievements

The applicant shall tick the highest applicable tier and provide documentary proof, for each claim separately

Tier	Eligibility Claimed	Tick
Tier 1	Won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal in the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.	
Tier 2	Participated in two or more editions of the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.	
Tier 3	Participated in at least one edition of the Summer Olympic Games or Winter Olympic Games.	
Tier 4	Awarded a Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or Arjuna Award by the Central Government.	

Tier 5	Won at least one gold, silver or bronze medal, or equivalent placing, in a World Championship or equivalent competition.
Tier 6	Won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal, or equivalent placing, in the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games or Asian Winter Games.
Tier 7	Won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal, or equivalent placing, in an Asian Championship or equivalent competition.
Tier 8	Participated in at least five sanctioned international events, in case of an individual sport, or five sanctioned international matches, in case of a team sport.
Tier 9	Participated in at least one sanctioned international event, in case of an individual sport, or one sanctioned international match, in case of a team sport.
Tier 10	Won at least one gold, silver or bronze medal, or equivalent position, in the National Games, National Championship or equivalent competition.

NOTE: Please attach

- ☐ Award Certificate, where Tier 4 is claimed
- ☐ Proof that the event was sanctioned by the relevant International Sports Body, where Tier 5,7,8, 9 and/or 10 is claimed.

D. Retirement and Last Participation Details

- 1.** Date of retirement from active sport:
- 2.** Whether any formal retirement communication was issued: Yes / No
- 3.** Details of last competitive event participated in:

(a) Name of the Competition:

(b) Venue of the Competition:

(c) Date:

(d) Position Secured, if any:

(e) Organised By:

4. Confirmation that you have not participated in any competitive sporting event leading to selection to represent a district, state or India for at least one year before the date of application: Yes / No

Details:

E. Documents to be Attached

The applicant shall attach self-attested copies of the following:

- ☐ Proof of date of birth

(Aadhar Card/ Voter ID/ Passport/ Others): _____

- ☐ Proof of Citizenship*

(birth certificate/ certificate of registration/ certification of naturalisation):

- ☐ Proof of retirement from active sport, if available.

- ☐ Certificates / official results / participation records for the achievement claimed.

- ☐ Additional supporting documents

Document details: _____

*Note: *For Applicants born after 01 July 1987, the registered birth certificate MUST be accompanied by the parents' birth certificate. Should the parents not have a registered birth certificate, only then, the following documents may be submitted for each of the parent of the Applicant:*

- ✓ Any identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to a regular employee/pensioner of any Central Government/State Government/Public Sector Undertaking (PSU); or
- ✓ Any identity card/certificate/document issued in India by the Government/local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987; or
- ✓ Passport; or
- ✓ Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognized Boards/Universities; or
- ✓ Permanent Residence certificate issued by the competent State authority; or
- ✓ Forest Right Certificate; or

- ✓ *OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the competent authority; or*
- ✓ *National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists); or*
- ✓ *Family Register, prepared by State/local authorities; or*
- ✓ *Any land/house allotment certificate by the Government.*

SCHEDULE A - GENERAL ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION

I hereby declare that:

- (i) I am an Indian citizen.
- (ii) I am of sound mind and capable of discharging responsibilities connected with sports governance.
- (iii) I am not less than 25 years of age on the date of this application.
- (iv) I have not participated, for at least one (1) year prior to the date of this application, in any competitive sporting event for which selection is made to represent a district, State or India.
- (v) I confirm that I satisfy the Tier Eligibility Criteria under Tier(s) _____ and have furnished relevant details and documents in proof of the same.
- (vi) My last competitive sporting event was:
 - (a) Name of event:
 - (b) Date:
 - (c) Level: District / State / National / International
 - (d) Organising body:
- (vii) The information provided in this Application Form, and in all accompanying documents, is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place: _____

Date: (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Name: _____

SCHEDULE B - DISQUALIFICATION AND INTEGRITY DISCLOSURE

I hereby declare that:

- (i) I have not been adjudged insolvent under any applicable law.
- (ii) I have not been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction in India for an offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment, or, where such conviction existed, the period of disqualification as per Rule 11 (c) (ii) of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 has expired.
- (iii) I have not been barred from holding office by an order of the Ethics Committee of the concerned National Sports Federation/ national sports body, or, where such a bar existed, the period of such a bar has expired.
- (iv) No medal, position or award relied upon by me for this application has been withdrawn, cancelled or returned.
- (v) I am not otherwise disqualified under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, or the bye-laws of the concerned National Sports Federation/ national sports body or Indian Olympic Association.
- (vi) I shall inform the Indian Olympic Association of any change in the information provided with this application, within a period of three (3) days from such change.
- (vii) I have not been declared ineligible, suspended, or disqualified under the applicable anti-doping rules of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and /or National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

Additional disclosure:

- ☐ Whether presently a member of the General Body or any committee of respective National Sports Federation/ national sports body: Yes / No

Details:

- ☐ Whether presently holding or previously held the office of President / Secretary General / Treasurer in any National Sports Federation/ national sports body: Yes / No

Details:

- ☐ Whether the applicant is presently a member of the General Body or any committee of the Indian Olympic Association, or is presently holding / has previously held the office of President, Secretary General or Treasurer in the Indian Olympic Association: Yes / No

If yes, provide details including date of election/appointment and tenure of the term thereof:

Details:

Place:

Date:

Signature of Applicant:

Name:

SCHEDULE C- APPLICANT'S SELF DECLARATION

- (i) I, _____, understand that submission of this application does not automatically confer the status of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, nor does it create any automatic right to be elected to the General Body or Executive Committee of the Indian Olympic Association.
- (ii) I further understand that the Indian Olympic Association may verify the information submitted by me from the relevant authorities, including Government departments, the concerned National Sports Federation/ national sports body, State associations, International Sports Bodies, event organisers, or any other competent body, as deemed fit and appropriate.
- (iii) I hereby declare and confirm that all information, documents, records, certificates and particulars furnished by me to the Indian Olympic Association are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that no information, document, record or certificate submitted by me is forged, fabricated, false, misleading or fraudulent.
- (iv) I understand and agree that if any information, document, record or certificate furnished by me is found to be false, incorrect, forged, fabricated, misleading or fraudulent at any stage, my inclusion in the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit roster and/or any election to the General Body or Executive Committee of the Indian Olympic Association shall be liable to be cancelled forthwith, without assigning any further reasons.
- (v) I further understand that in such circumstances, the Indian Olympic Association shall be at liberty to initiate appropriate legal action, including filing of a First Information Report and/or criminal complaint under applicable laws. I also understand that I may be debarred from future participation, election conducted by the Indian Olympic Association as applicable under these Rules and applicable law.
- (vi) I consent to the use of my information for the purpose of verification, preparation of the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit roster, and publication of the final roster on the

official website of the Indian Olympic Association, as required under the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

Place:

Date:

Signature of Applicant:

Name: