

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

IOA COMMENCES 2026 ELECTORAL PROCESS; APPOINTS FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER AS RETURNING OFFICER

SOM process and Athletes' Commission elections underway; Executive Council election scheduled for 5 December 2026

New Delhi, 10 October 2026: The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has commenced its 2026 electoral process in accordance with the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**, the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, the amended IOA Constitution and the applicable IOA Election Bye-Laws and Rules.

The IOA has appointed **Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, IAS (Retd.), former Election Commissioner, Delhi and Chandigarh**, as the **Electoral Officer/Returning Officer** for the 2026 elections. He will conduct, monitor and supervise the elections relating to the **Athletes' Commission, Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs), and the IOA Executive Council**.

The appointment provides for an **independent and impartial electoral process**, with the Electoral Officer responsible for electoral rolls, nominations, scrutiny, polling, counting, declaration of results and related notifications.

Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Process Underway

The first stage commenced on **18 September 2026** with the publication of the application form for inclusion in the **Roster of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit**. Eligible applicants have been invited to submit their applications and supporting documents by **18 October 2026**. The roster will subsequently be prepared in accordance with the eligibility and tier criteria prescribed under the National Sports Governance framework.

Athletes' Commission Election Notified

The Electoral Officer has formally notified the election of the **IOA Athletes' Commission for the 2026–2030 term**, with polling, counting and declaration of results scheduled for **3 November 2026**. Eligible NSF Members are required to nominate two athlete representatives through their duly constituted Athletes' Commissions, with nominations due by **2:00 PM on 11 October 2026**.

The Commission will comprise **10 elected athletes — five men and five women**, with the Rules providing for specific representation of Olympic-category athletes and athletes with achievements at major competitions.

Executive Council Election on 05 December

The election of the **IOA Executive Council is scheduled for 05 December 2026**, ahead of the completion of the term of the present Executive Council on **10 December 2026**. The election will be conducted by the Electoral Officer/Returning Officer in accordance with the IOA Constitution, Election Bye-Laws and applicable statutory framework.



Commenting on the elections, Dr. P.T. Usha, President, IOA, said: “The 2026 elections mark an important milestone in strengthening **good governance, transparency and accountability** within the Indian Olympic Movement. Our objective is to build strong, credible and athlete-centric institutions, fully aligned with the Olympic Charter and the national sports governance framework.

The appointment of an experienced former Election Commissioner as Electoral Officer/Returning Officer underlines our commitment to an **independent, transparent and credible electoral process**. The IOA will provide all necessary support while fully respecting the independence of the electoral process.

Athletes remain at the heart of the Olympic Movement, and their meaningful participation in governance is central to the future of Indian sport. As India continues its Continuous Dialogue with the IOC as one of seven nations for hosting the 2036 Olympic Games in Ahmedabad, strong governance and an athlete-centric approach will remain fundamental to our Olympic journey.”

India is currently one of **seven Interested Parties in Continuous Dialogue with the IOC regarding the 2036 Olympic Games**, alongside Germany, Hungary, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Türkiye. The IOC has identified Ahmedabad as the proposed host city for India's project.

The IOA will publish all election-related notifications, forms, electoral rolls and other relevant information through its official website and designated election communication channels.
