OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER

IOA ELECTIONS 2026

Date: 30.10.2026

Model code of conduct for the guidance of Electors/Contesting Candidates for the Election of Athletes' Commission 2026 and Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit 2026

1. General Conduct

1.1 No NSF or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.

1.2 Electoral campaigns shall be carried out by the candidates in a fair manner and, in a spirit of respect for fundamental ethical principles.

1.3 Candidates shall conduct all campaigns with dignity and moderation and with respect for any other candidates, the National Sports Body and its members.

1.4 A Candidate shall not produce any spoken word, written text or representation of any nature likely to harm the image of another candidate or cause him prejudice, and criticism of other candidates, if made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work.

1.5 NSF and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the athletes.

1.6 No Candidate shall engage in criticism based on unverified allegations or distortion against any other Candidate, and there shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.

1.7 Every Candidate may present to the members in the electoral roll, his plans and views for the Elected Post, in the form of a written document, which shall be published by the Electoral Officer in accordance with clause 4 (i) (g) of these Election Rules.

1.8 Candidates shall avoid excessive expenditure in campaigning, recognising that it could become a factor of inequality amongst the candidates.

1.9 The promotion of a candidate shall exclude any form of publicity, including the use of new media or social networks, and no public meeting or gathering of any kind may be organised in the process of promoting a candidature, and no use, free of charge or in return for payment, of the services of a journalist or the media may be made in order to place a candidate at an advantage or a disadvantage.

1.10 All candidates shall scrupulously avoid all activities that are "corrupt practices", including bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters.

1.11 Candidates may, in no case and under no pretext, give presents, offer donations, gifts or grant advantages of whatever nature, directly or indirectly, to voting members.

1.12 Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of sports news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the NSFs and IOA office bearer in power shall be scrupulously avoided.

2. NSF and IOA Office Bearer in Power

2.1 The office bearer of NSF and IOA shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work.

2.2 The incumbent Executive Committee member, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that they have used their official position for the purposes of their election campaign and in particular shall not -

(a) use official transport including, vehicles, machinery and personnel for furtherance of their campaign;

(b) issue any advertisement at the cost of the National Sports Body or its members in the newspapers and other media or misuse the National Sports Body's official media channels during the elections;

(c) sanction grants or payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced; and

(d) enter into any promise or undertaking to be performed, whatever the timing of such performance, for the direct or indirect benefit of any of the National Sports Body's members or its partners.

2.3 From the time elections are announced by IOA, office bearer and other authorities shall not make any ad-hoc appointments which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favour of IOA office bearer.

3. Neutrality and Independence

3.1 As the voting is secret, voting members are prohibited individually or collectively, from announcing publicly, in any form whatsoever, their intention to vote or not vote for a candidate.

3.2 Incumbent Executive Committee members shall refrain from making any public declaration and may in no way support a candidate.

3.3 Candidates shall not -

(a) accept instructions from any person;

(b) accept direct or indirect assistance, be it financial, material or in kind, by any third party, or

(c) enter into any form of undertaking with any person likely to affect the freedom of decision or action of the Elected Post.

3.4 The National Sports Body's executive team and administration shall maintain a strict duty of neutrality at all times, and no support or service in relation to a candidature may be requested from any member of the National Sports Body's administration or staff.

4. Sanctions and Complaints

4.1 All administrative matters relating to any election not covered by the Act, these rules or the National Sports Body's bye-laws shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Officer.

4.2 Any decision by the Electoral Officer under these rules shall be final and binding, and any petition to the National Sports Tribunal relating to conduct or outcome of election shall be limited to only any violation of the provisions relating to the process of conduct of election under this Schedule:

Provided that no such petition may be filed after a period of thirty days from the declaration of results of any election.

5. Election to the Athletes' Commission and Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) shall be held online for which separate instructions are being issued.

6. All the above instructions and guidelines be read with Athletes' Commission Rules 2026, Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) Rules 2026, IOA Election Bye-Laws, wherever applicable.

Copy to:-

1. Indian Olympic Association
2. All National Sports Federations
3. All Contesting Candidates/ Voters