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**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT: YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION
Imphal, the 29th August, 2024

No. MSC- 1/92/2023-YAS/S-YAS: The Governor of Manipur is pleased to notify The Manipur Sports Development Code, 2024 at the State level in line with the National Sports Development code to promote active lifestyle, child and youth development, social inclusiveness, employment opportunities, peace and development and a sense of belongingness and national pride. The Manipur Sports Development Code, 2024 as enclosed in Annexure, shall come into effect from the date of publication in the State Gazette.

2. The State Cabinet in its sitting held on 04.12.2023 has approved the Manipur Sports Development Code, 2024.

3. This is issued with the concurrence of Finance Department, Government of Manipur vide their U.O. No. 4/2023-24/FD (25-P/5), dated 14.02.2024.

NAMOIJAM KHEDA VARTA SINGH,
Secretary (Youth Affairs & Sports),
Government of Manipur.

MANIPUR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CODE, 2024

1. Statement of Purpose:

1.1 Sport development is a national priority, as it promotes active lifestyle, child and youth development, social inclusiveness, employment opportunities, peace and development, and above all a sense of belongingness and national pride. Sports development comes within the purview of the States up to the state level; at the national and international level, (including meeting international treaty obligations, it falls within the realm and remit of the Union Government.

1.2 The need to regulate sports arises out of several considerations such as the need to prevent racism in sports, eradicate doping in sports, prevent age fraud in sports, protect athletes' rights, prevent child abuse and sexual harassment in sports, protect gender equality in sports, promote professional management and managerial and financial accountability in sports, address anti-trust and competition policy issues related to sports, regulate sports broadcasting rights, regulate the price and entry to sports events, etc.

1.3 In the recent past Government has taken various steps to further improve the management of State Sports Association (SSA) and sports in the country such as notification of the Anti-Doping code; introduction of annual recognition of SSAs to ensure transparency and accountability of SSAs; enforcement of age and tenure limit in respect of office bearers of SSAs, including the Manipur Olympic Association; bringing SSAs under the purview of Right to Information Act; measures to ensure free, fair and transparent elections by the SSAs; and measures to combat age fraud in sports; and guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment of women in sports.

1.4 Guidelines of 2001 laid down the following principles, which now stand subsumed in the National Sports Development Code of India (NSCI) 2011:

- i. A clear role delineation between NSFs, SAI and the Government.
- ii. Grouping of sport disciplines into "priority", "general" and "other" for

- the purpose of determining the entitlement for government assistance.
- iii. Detailed guidelines for preparation of Long-Term Development Plans (4year cycle). Provision made for annual sanction budgets of development plans.
 - iv. Binding tripartite agreement between NSFs, the Department and the SAI to be drawn up.
 - v. An emphasis on system to handle players' grievance.
 - vi. The appointment of registered chartered accountants to ensure maintenance of proper and transparent accounts.
 - vii. Recognition of the role of sports promoters, particularly in event management.

1.5 Gist of new initiatives taken by Government in the recent past:

- Restoring the limits on duration of tenure of office bearers of Manipur Olympic Association (MOA) and all recognized State Sports Association (SSA).
- Guidelines for Good governance in the context of 'Basic Universal Principle of Good Governance of Olympic and Sports Movement'.
- Annual recognition of State Sports Association.
- Measures to combat fraud in age of players.
- Prevention of sexual harassment of women in sports, etc.
- Notifying MOA and SSAs as Public Authority under Right to Information Act.
- Drawl of advance calendar of sporting events both national and international.
- National Anti-Doping Rules notified vide gazette notification no 21-4/2008-ID dated 5th February, 2010
- Guidelines for efficient management of Coaching camps, Selection of Coaches, Selection of Athlete, etc.
- Representation of Bonafide Citizens of Manipur only, in StateTeams

1.6 The State Sports Association (SSA) who have the recognition including the annual recognition of Government of India in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports enjoy various facilities/ concessions provided by the Government of India. However, failure to comply with the Government Guidelines issued from time to time could result in one or more of the

following consequences for the NSF concerned:

- 1) Shall not be able to select the State teams and represent Manipur in any national event or international forum
- 2) Shall not be allowed to use the word “Manipur” in its name since inclusion of the word “Manipur” suggests the patronage of Government of Manipur
- 3) Shall lose its All Manipur character and may not be able to regulate and control the concerned sports discipline in the state.
- 4) Shall not be able to avail itself of Custom Duty Exemption for import of sports goods, sports equipment, sports requisites.
- 5) Shall not be able to avail itself of Income Tax exemptions under relevant provisions of the Act (e.g. as per the Section 80(G) (2) (viii) (c) any sum paid by the assessee, being a company, in the previous year as donations to the Manipur Olympic Association or to any other association or institutions established in the State, as the State Government may, having regard to the prescribed guidelines, by notification in the official gazette specify in this behalf for (i) the development of infrastructure for sports and games; (ii) the sponsorship of sports and games; is exempted from tax).
- 6) Shall not be able to avail itself of the special dispensation available to SSAs to remit funds towards sponsorship, prize money for activities abroad.
- 7) Participation in National and International events organized by NSFs’ that are not recognized by Government of India in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports shall not be considered for appointment to government jobs under sports quota.
- 8) The sportspersons of the unrecognized SSAs may not be able to get admissions under sports quota in schools and colleges.
- 9) The sportsperson participating in State championships organized by SSAs not recognized by Government of Manipur in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports shall not be entitled for railway concession or other concessions granted for this purpose.

1.7 Categorizations of Sports

- In July, 2005 Government adopted dynamic criteria for categorization of sports disciplines which was based on the performance of disciplines in recognized international events like Olympic / Asian and Commonwealth Games, etc. so as to motivate recognized NSFs for better preparedness. In 2008 the mass

base/participation was also kept in view for upgrading various disciplines. The orders issued vide No.F.6-6/94-SP-III dated 28.07.2005, 06.10.2005 and No.8-22/2006-SP-III dated 07.05.2007 & 22.04.2008.

- The Long-Term Development Plan (LTDP) should be for a period of four years and categorization of sport disciplines shall be reviewed at the end of each cycle. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports shall issue suitable guidelines and set procedures for categorization of various sports from time to time to ensure objectivity and transparency.

1.8 Recognition of State Sports Association.

- The purpose of this is to ensure that SSA maintain certain basic standards, norms and procedures with regard to their internal functioning, which conform to the high principles and objectives laid down by the concerned National Federation, and which are also in complete consonance with the principles laid down in the Olympic Association while being compliant with Government guidelines applicable to SSA.
- From the year December, 2009, a new system of annual recognition was notified under which NSF's are required to submit detailed documentation for grant of recognition, which would get automatically renewed in the subsequent years subject to submission of prescribed documents such as annual report, audited accounts, details of national championships held, utilization certificate in respect of Government grants. The same may be adopted for our state as well. Federations not availing of grants from the Government will receive permanent recognition instead of annual recognition.
- SSA seeking recognition will have to apply as per Guidelines. While considering the proposals for recognition, the Ministry, inter alia, will be guided by the following:
 - i. The current legal status of the Organization.
 - ii. Recognition by the Manipur Olympic Association and Indian Olympic Association
 - iii. Recognition by the MOA in respect of Olympic Sports.
 - iv. Undisputed status as an Apex Body in Manipur.
 - v. All Manipur spread.
 - vi. The role and contribution of the organization in promoting and developing Sports in Manipur.

- vii. Conduct of state championships across age groups and gender.
- viii. Financial and managerial accountability.
- ix. Fair, transparent and democratic elections.
- For determining the eligibility for recognition of SSA dealing with disciplines which are not included in Olympics, Commonwealth Games or Asian Games, the Government has further notified additional conditions. Now while considering the proposal of such disciplines following criteria will be taken into consideration: -
 - i. Popular Indigenous Games with All Manipur spread
 - ii. Popular School, College or University Sports.
 - iii. Likelihood of inclusion in major international games like Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, etc.
 - iv. Availability of required infrastructure
 - v. Affordability of the game
 - vi. Availability of coaches
- The Ministry reserves the right to suspend or withdraw the recognition of SSA, in the event of serious irregularities being detected in their internal functioning.

1.9 Conditions of eligibility

- For SSA to be eligible for financial assistance and sponsorship, organizations must maintain their recognized status with the Department and should obtain the Annual recognition on year-to-year basis.
- Further in order to be eligible for assistance and continuing the recognition of Government the State Sports Association must meet the following criteria/ provisions:
 - i. Follow proper, democratic and healthy management practices which provide for greater accountability and transparency at all levels.
 - ii. Maintain the recognition of the National Federation, Asian Federation, and MOA/ IOA wherever applicable.
 - iii. Adhere to Limits on duration of tenure of office bearers of Manipur Olympic Association and all recognized State Sports Association
 - iv. Follow Guidelines on good Governance in the context of 'Basic Universal Principle of Good Governance of Olympic and Sports Movement'.

- v. Adopt proper accounting procedures at all levels and produce annual financial statements.
- vi. Adopt impartial and transparent selection procedures.
- vii. Provide a positive exposure to the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports as a major sponsor of sports in India.
- viii. Ensure that the dope tests of all its players are conducted regularly as per norms/ standards laid by the National Federations of the concerned discipline, National Anti-Doping Code notified vide gazette notification no. 21-4/2008-ID dated 5th Feb, 2010 and detailed guidelines issued in this regard vide No.F.49-3-/2008-SP-II dated 18.09.2009 and letter No.9.19/2009-SP-II dated 30.10.2009.
- ix. Take measures against age fraud in Sports.
- x. Comply with provisions of Right to Information Act and Orders.
- xi. Hold of regular State championships in all categories both for men and women.
- xii. Include of sportspersons (say 25%) with voting rights in the management of SSAs.
- xiii. Hold the elections as per the Model election guidelines 1.10.

1.10. Selection Procedure

- SSAs are primarily responsible for judicious selection of State teams for participation in major national events bases on merit and with the objective of enhancing national prestige and bringing glory to the state. As such the best sportspersons/team has to be chosen for representing the State.
- The Selection Committee will be constituted by the Federation comprising of the President, the State Coach and eminent ex-sportspersons. The Government will appoint an Observer for priority and general category disciplines receiving financial grant, who will be associated with all the activities of the State Federation. It will be mandatory for the Federation to inform him or her about Selection Committee Meetings, important State and National competitions. The Government Observer will have to oversee the selection process in order to ensure that it is fair and transparent.

- The State Coach and Assistant Coaches will be jointly selected by a Committee with President of the concerned SSAs as its Chairman, representative from YAS, one ex-international (preferably an Arjuna Awardee or an international medal winner) to be nominated by the Government and a nominee of MOA as its member from a panel to be prepared by YAS. The State Coach and Assistant Coaches will be appointed by YAS after careful consideration of the name recommended by the Selection Committee. The support staff will be selected and appointed by YAS in consultation with the SSAs concerned.
- The Selection Committee, in consultation with the Coach will choose other members of the Coaching Team.
- The Team of Coaches, sports sciences experts etc. shall not normally be changed or modified once chosen until the championship for which they are selected over.
- The National Coach will evaluate the progress and performance of the sportspersons in the coaching camps and make recommendations to the Selection Committee regarding elimination of sportspersons who show unsatisfactory performance. He may also recommend inclusion of new probable. The Selection Committee will decide the elimination/inclusion of sportspersons as recommended by the State Coach.

1.11. Miscellaneous:

While drawing up the LTDPs, SSAs, may also keep in mind Ministry's broad approach on the views mentioned below:-

(a) PROMOTION OF SPORTSPERSONS' INTEREST AND MEASURES FOR THEIR WELFARE:

The MYAS recognizes that all the measures contained in the Guidelines, though they may pertain to plans and programmes of SSAs, are essentially meant to provide the right sort of environment in which a sportsperson or an athlete is able to perform to his maximum capability. Hence, an essential feature of the conditionalities included in the Guidelines will relate to the protection of sportspersons' interests and their welfare, and for the quick and impartial redressal of their grievances.

The major issues involved have been identified as follows: -

- i. Introduction of transparent selection procedures at all levels. Where possible and practical, SSAs will be required to introduce seeding and ranking systems which will provide an automatic and transparent system of selection. The selection criteria as notified by the SSAs, shall be circulated and explained to all the athletes concerned at least two to three years in advances as far as major competitions such as National Championship Games is concerned and in respect of other important championships, this shall be done at least six months in advance.
- ii. Each SSAs will be required to introduce machinery for the redressal of players' grievances. This machinery will be required to be vested with the authority to redress grievances speedily. Appeal and other procedures are therefore to be codified and circulated.
- iii. SSAs will be required to evolve a system by which players on the verge of retirement may opt for any specialized training required to become coaches, referees, umpires, technical officials, judges etc. as the case may be financial assistance to assist in this programme will be provided by the Ministry.

(b) HOLDING OF NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS IN MANIPUR:

The Ministry recognizes the importance of attracting national tournaments to Manipur. The impact of such events on the spread, popularity and general development of a sport can be considerable, and far outweighs any direct expenditure involved.

However, it is equally important to ensure that these events are properly and professionally managed, so that Manipur develops a credible image abroad as a reliable venue to host and hold such tournaments.

From the state of bidding, upto the actual conduct of the tournament itself, it is important for all the agencies involved to work in the closest possible coordination, especially considering the large number of clearances and approvals required both at the State and Central levels.

On being informed of an SSAs interest in hosting any major national tournament in Manipur a Special Task Force to be constituted by the State Sports Association in each case to coordinate all follow-up action to be taken.

Separately, the Ministry will consider in detail, requests for financial assistance against specific items of expenditure for equipment or infrastructure development. In doing so, the Ministry will be guided by the following points:-

- i. The importance of the event.
- ii. Profile of the sport in Manipur
- iii. Total budget of the event
- iv. Extent to which the tournament is compatible with the objectives stated in the LTDP.
- v. Potential for TV coverage, and hence sponsorship.
- vi. Whether it involves the construction of anational level facility.
- vii. Whether the management and organization of the tournament is in professional hands.

The Ministry also recognizes the vital role of reputed sports sponsors play in assisting SSAs in hosting and conducting such tournaments, especially as bigger and more prestigious tournaments are allotted to Manipur in the years to come.

The Ministry also recognizes the crucial importance of commercial TV coverage, both as a source of income for the organizers, and also as a means of spreading the popularity of a sport, and will, therefore, pursue all related matters with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES:

The Ministry realizes that a strong domestic tournament schedule, with the widest possible spread throughout the State, if properly organized and managed is the best way to popularize a sport, while simultaneously raising standards.

While preparing their Long Term Development programmes, SSAs will be required to commit themselves to developing a properly coordinated and comprehensive domestic Tournament Schedule, identifying clearly the organizers at each level, costs involved.

The SSAs organizing the tournaments should take care to make good arrangements for the boarding and lodging of players so that the players are able to perform in a congenial environment.

(d) UPGRADING AND PROFESSIONALISING MANAGING PRACTICES:

One of the most striking and debilitating elements of sports management in Manipur is the lack of professional skills available to SSAs to plan and implement detailed programmes for the long term improvement of sports.

The Ministry of Sports also recognizes the importance of introducing professional practices in State Sports Association, and would like State Sports Association to upgrade their administrative and technical set up by appointment of qualified personnel in Finance, Administration and Coaching. MYAS may consider partially reimbursing the SSAs for meeting the cost of qualified personnel provided the norms laid down by the department are followed. Normally Federations will be advised to employ persons only on contract basis.

(e) REGISTERED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS TO BE APPOINTED:

One of the conditions which the Ministry will insist upon before committing themselves to providing extensive financial assistance to a SSAs against agreed items of expenditure will be the appointment of a registered chartered accountant and submission of annual audited statement of account for all Federations receiving grants. These accounts will have to be submitted

to the Government along-with the annual plan.

(f) TOWARDS FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY:

Should any SSAs wish to become completely self-financing, and therefore autonomous in the true sense of the word, they may be considered for partial one-time assistance to meet the cost of any consultant or professional agency, selected to help them achieve this objective. The only condition in these cases is that the prior approval of the Ministry would be required to the terms and conditions of the consultancy.

(g) PLANS FOR BROADBASING:

The lack of an extensive and organized playing base has been rightly identified as one of the main reasons for Manipur's poor sporting standards.

While preparing their Long-Term Development Plans, State Associations will be expected to identify the specific measures they propose to initiate to broaden the playing base.

This exercise is to be done with specific reference to the following: -

- (i) Schools and Colleges
- (ii) Network of clubs
- (iii) System of extensive local competitions.

Although the requirements and plans for each Association will differ substantially, specific and achievable targets are to be projected by each Federation.

(h) SPECIAL TRAINING OF ATHLETES:

The requirements of the Associations in this sector would need to be distinctly and separately worked out for seniors, juniors and Sub-Juniors. Depending on the current standard, and other factors, due priority would be given at the appropriate level. For example, where current domestic standards are far below international standards, emphasis would be placed on the Junior and Sub-Junior programs.

In order that the SAI can also develop and build its expertise in specific disciplines, it would be necessary to identify a specific training center for each discipline so as to ensure that the best in coaching, equipment support, and scientific and medical support is available for that discipline at that venue. This would not mean that athletes cannot be trained at other venues (for altitude, winter training and other purposes) but that one center alone will maintain all their records.

(i) IMPROVEMENT IN COACHING STANDARDS:

The standards, utilization and development of coaches in respect of each discipline, is basic to any long term plan to improve sports. The specific requirements of each Association in respect of each aspect of coaching would therefore need to be worked out in detail. While undertaking this exercise, Associations are advised to consider the following:

- (i) Making better use of ex-Olympians and senior players, who have the potential for becoming a coach, by giving them the added responsibility of coaching.
- (ii) Using the various facilities offered by National Federations and the OC to significantly improve coaching standards.
- (iii) Suggesting different coaching grades on the international pattern to make the best use of coaching skills.
- (iv) Introducing a system of accountability for the performance of coaches at every level.

It is acknowledged that the management of coaching is a complex problem requiring a detailed exercise in respect of each Associations. It is for this reason that proposals to enable Associations to make use of professional advice have been included in the section on improving management standards.

(j) PLANS FOR UPGRADING OFFICIATING STANDARDS:

Officiating standards in Manipur with a few exceptions, have yet to

come up to internationally accepted levels.

A concerted effort now needs to be made to upgrade the standards of all categories of officials in each discipline. The objective, at the highest levels, should be to create a cadre of internationally accredited and recognized officials, who would be available for international duty.

The specific plans of each Association, in this important area would need to be worked out in detail.

Where Necessary and required, the assistance of the concerned National Federation itself should be taken.

(k) SPORTS AS BUSINESS-PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

The Ministry recognizes the significant commercial potential in organized sports, particularly at the senior level, and would like to see Associations develop making full use of this potential. To do so will require promotional and marketing skills of a high order.

The Ministry would therefore consider endorsing projects, which are basically commercial and self-financing, which are implanted through reputed sports promoters or other commercial agencies.

In this endeavor, the Ministry would give particular priority to the hosting and holding of National tournaments which are recognized by the concerned International or National Federations.

(l) TRANSPARENCY IN ITS FUNCTIONING

The Ministry recognizes the need for introducing more transparency in the functioning of SSAs. All SSAs receiving funding of Rupees Ten Lakhs or more in a financial year have been declared as Public Authority under RTI act 2005. All SSAs getting covered by this provision are required to designate Central Public Information Officers and Appellate Authorities as per **Section 5** of the Right to Information Act, 2005. They are further requested to fulfill their obligations of being a Public Authority, as per **Section 4** of the Right to Information Act, 2005.