

SCHEME FOR THE RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD
(Amended as on 23.2.2015)

1. DEFINITION OF RULES

The Scheme may be called the “Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games”.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the award is to recognize the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which the award is to be given. .

3. DEFINITIONS

In this Scheme , unless the context otherwise requires,

(a) “Scheme” means the scheme for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games.

(b) “Committee” means the Selection Committee constituted under the Scheme.

(c) “Award” means the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

(d) “Chairperson” means chairperson of the Selection Committee under the Scheme.

(e) “Government” means the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

(f) "Sports Administrator" means a person who is engaged in management/ administration of national/international sports events, sports organizations including private sports academies, sports programmes and delivery of sports services.

(g) "Sports journalist/expert/commentator" means a person who is associated with sports journalism including freelancing in print or electronic media, or a person who writes extensively on sports issues or has written books on sports, or a person who gives live commentary during sports events

(h) "Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee" means a person who has been conferred with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna by the Government of India.

(i) “Arjuna Awardee” means a person who has been awarded an Arjuna Award by the Government of India

(j) “Olympian” means a sports person who participated in the Olympic Games as a member of the Indian contingent approved by the Government of India.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 The spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given shall be honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for excellence in

Sports & Games at international level i.e. Olympic/Asian/ Commonwealth/World Games/Championships/World Cup and equivalent recognized international tournaments.

4.2 Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing for use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, will not be eligible for the Award.

5. NOMINATIONS

5.1 The nominations for the Award will be invited by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from all recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) recognized by the Government of India, Indian Olympic Association, Sports Promotion and Control Boards and State/UT Government in the month of January/February each year. Last date for the receipt of nominations will be 30th April or last working day of April. The National Sports Federations recognized by the Government of India, the Indian Olympic Association, Sports Promotion and Control Boards and the State/ UT Governments may nominate upto two names in a particular discipline/ sport in a particular year. In case of cricket, for which no National Sports Federation has been recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, nominations from the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) will be invited. For the NSFs de-recognized or under suspension, Sports Authority of India (SAI) will exercise the quota of nominations and make nominations upto a maximum of two eligible sportspersons for each sports discipline with the approval of Director General, SAI. Nominations beyond maximum two will not be considered. Only the first two nominations sent by NSFs will be considered.

5.2 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardees of the previous years can also nominate one eligible sportsperson each for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the sports discipline for which they themselves were awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. Further, Director General, Sports Authority of India can also nominate upto two eligible sportspersons for this award, in addition to the quota to be exercised by it in respect of de-recognized/suspended NSFs.

5.3 Notwithstanding the above, Government reserves the right to nominate upto two sportspersons in deserving cases where no such nominations have been received from the agencies mentioned under the Scheme.

5.4 The authorized signatory for sending nominations will be as follows:-

- (i) Indian Olympic Association – President/Secretary General
- (ii) National Sports Federations – President/Secretary General [In the case of

Cricket, there is no federation recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Nominations for cricket will need to be sent by President/ Secretary General of the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI)].

(iii) State/UT Governments/ Sports Control/Promotion Boards – An officer of not less than the rank of Secretary or Director (Sports) of the organization after taking due approval of the competent authority.

5.5 Nominations forwarded by any office bearer other than those mentioned in para 5.4 above will not be considered.

5.6 The Award will be made in respect of the calendar year for which the applications are invited.

5.7 The nominations will be sent to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in the prescribed proforma giving the past performance of the nominated sportspersons in International competitions.

5.8 Nomination agencies are expected to send nominations of most deserving sportsperson(s) irrespective of whether sportspersons have applied to them for awards.

5.9 The nominating authorities are required to certify in the nomination form itself that the nominees are clear from vigilance/disciplinary angles and are not involved in acts of criminal and moral turpitude nature. In case of sportspersons employed with Central Government/State Governments/PSUs or in private organizations, nominating authorities should obtain a requisite report from the concerned employers before certifying that the sportsperson being nominated is clear from vigilance/disciplinary angle and is not involved in any act of criminal or moral turpitude nature. While seeking report from the employer, details of charge sheet/disciplinary action taken/pending, if any, should also be obtained. Copy of the report/certificate obtained from the employer of the sportsperson should be enclosed with the application of the sportsperson being nominated.

5.10 Copies of the nominations received from organizations other than the National Sports Federations (NSFs) will be sent to the concerned NSF for verification of the details and the achievements and for checking if the nominated sportsperson has ever been warned/penalized for any unfair practice like age fraud/sexual harassment, doping etc. All details in this regard, if any, alongwith verification report should be sent by the concerned NSF within a week of the receipt of letter from the Ministry.

6. RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS:

6.1 The applications for nomination should be addressed to Director (Sports)/Deputy Secretary (Sports)/Under Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports only and date of receipt in his/her office will be the date of receipt of nomination by the government.

6.2 Received applications are to be duly stamped and recorded in a register. In addition, all application received within time will be duly acknowledged to the recommending authority.

7. SCRUTINY OF NOMINATIONS

7.1 All nominations received from the organizations mentioned in para 5.1 and 5.2 will be sent to the Executive Director (Teams)/Director (TEAMS), Sports Authority of India who will verify and confirm from official records the achievements/performance of all nominated sportspersons within a maximum period of one month of the receipt of the nominations from the Ministry.

7.2 The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will seek a report from NADA about each of the sportspersons, who has been short listed, for verifying if any one of them has ever been found positive for doping.

8. SCREENING COMMITTEE TO SCRUTINIZE ALL THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

A Screening Committee consisting of Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports, Secretary, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Director (Sports)/Deputy Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports and Executive Director (TEAMS)/Director (TEAMS), SAI will meet for the scrutiny of the nominations. Applications of the nominated sportspersons and reports of NSFs/SAI will be placed before the screening committee. Valid nominations, which are clear from vigilance, disciplinary and doping angles, will be placed before the Selection Committee as per the prescribed eligibility criteria.

9 PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

9.1 The Award will be decided by a Selection Committee constituted by the Government of India as under:-

1.	Chairperson	To be nominated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
2.	Sportspersons of eminence (Olympians or previous Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna or Arjuna Awardees)	4 members
3.	Sports Journalists/Experts/Commentators	3 members
4.	A sportsperson of eminence/sports administrator/sports expert belonging to para sports	1 member
5	Sports Administrator	1 member
6.	Director General, Sports Authority of India	Ex-officio member
7.	Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports	Member Secretary

9.2 There should be a minimum two years gap before a member other than ex-officio is re-nominated as chairperson or member in the Selection Committee.

9.3 Not more than one sportsperson of eminence from a particular sports discipline shall be a member of the Selection Committee to avoid any bias in favour of a particular discipline.

9.4 A statement of achievements of all those sportspersons, who fulfil eligibility criteria and whose nominations have been received before last date, will be sent to the members of the Selection Committee at least a week in advance before the meeting of the Selection Committee.

9.5 The Chairperson, in consultation with Member Secretary, may constitute panels from amongst the members of the Committee to assist the Committee.

9.6 The Chairperson may seek advice of experts in specific sports disciplines wherever necessary.

9.7 Shortlisted nominations from team games may be sent to experts at least a week in advance for their views. The experts may also be asked to attend Selection Committee meetings to clarify the doubts of members. The evaluation criteria may include international recognition, goals scored, player of the match/player of the tournament award, etc.

9.8 Any person directly or indirectly related to a sportsperson nominated for the Awards shall not be eligible to participate in deliberations of the Selection Committee, concerning that sportsperson.

9.9 The Committee will determine its own work procedure and will keep in view the guidelines/criteria, if any, framed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Members of the Selection Committee will give their recommendations as per the provisions of the scheme and the marks criteria of the scheme.

9.10 The quorum for the meeting of the Committee shall be 75% of the members of the Committee and the Chairperson.

9.11 The Committee shall select the Award winners by consensus failing which by a majority decision and give its report to the Government of India within 15 days of reference.

9.12 The Executive Director (TEAMS)/Director (TEAMS), Sports Authority of India will be present at the time of deliberations of the Committee in order to provide information/clarifications, if any, required by the Committee.

9.13 All the selection proceedings will be treated as “Confidential”. The Chairperson may take necessary steps in consultation with the Member Secretary to maintain strict confidentiality of the deliberations and selection made by the Committee.

10. NUMBER OF RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD TO BE GIVEN IN A YEAR

10.1 There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson. This condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances.

11. GENERAL

11.1 The award will consist of the following:

(a) A cash amount of Rs. 7.5 lakh exempt from Income Tax and Wealth Tax in the year in which it is disbursed. The Award will be presented to the winners at the function for the presentation of the Award to be held at a place and on a date to be determined by the Government.

(ii) A Certificate of honour to each sportsperson.

(iii) One medal to each sportsperson.

11.2 This Award will be in addition to any other award of the Department or otherwise, which may be available to sportspersons for the same achievements.

11.3. No Award will be made for a second time to the same person.

11.4 The award may be given posthumously if such an occasion arises.

11.5 In order to ensure due diligence in the selection of awardees, the Ministry will make necessary character verification prior to finalizing the names of the awardees. Ministry may ask Sports Authority of India to carry out verification of character and antecedents of the recommended awardees through its regional centres, if need be, by taking help of concerned police authorities.

11.6. At the time of the presentation ceremony, the awards will be conferred upon the selected awardees, who are present. No person other than the awardees will collect the award and prize money at the ceremony. The awardees who are not able to come to receive the award during the presentation ceremony may later receive the same from the Minister-in-Charge for Youth Affairs and Sports.

11.7 The Government of India may cancel, annul the Award of any recipient for specific reasons including doping and thereupon the recipient shall be required to surrender the medal and the certificate of honour, but it shall be competent for the Government of India to restore the Award once the cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.

11.8 The decision of the Government of India in respect of matters covered by the scheme and of the interpretation of the provisions of the scheme shall be final and no appeal shall lie against such decision.

11.9 A person who is nominated for the Award shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of the scheme.

11.10 Canvassing in any form in respect of any nominee will render that nominee liable to disqualification.

11.11 Minister-in-charge for Youth Affairs & Sports will be competent authority for relaxation of any clause, provided there are sufficient reasons (to be recorded in writing) for doing so.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD

Affix a recent
passport
size photograph

1. Name of the State/UT Government/National Sports Federation/Association/Sports Control Board making recommendation:
2. Name of the person recommended (in block letter) in English and Hindi:
3. Particulars of the sportsperson in brief
 - (a) Date of Birth
 - (b) Father's Name
 - (c) Permanent Address (with pin code)
 - (d) Tele. No. and Fax No, Mobile No. and e-mail.
4. Name, Address, Telephone No/and Fax No. of Employer

5. Details of achievements at the international level for the previous four years:-

Name	Discipline	Achievements in international events during previous four years	Remarks, if any
1	2	4	5

Supporting documents in respect of sports achievements duly attested may be enclosed.

6. Special justification for the recommendation made, if any.
7. Qualities of sportsmanship and leadership exhibited by the persons recommended, on and off the field.
8. Sense of discipline
9. Any other information relevant to the proposal.

10. Overall assessment of the persons recommended
11. Remarks, if any

Undertaking by the sportsperson nominated for the Award:-

That I have carefully read the provisions of the Scheme for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games and hereby accept all its provisions. I have never been penalized for any unfair practice like age fraud/doping etc.

(Signature of the Sportspersons)
Name and Discipline

Note:- In case any enquiry has been initiated or warning give, details should be given by sportsperson.

Recommendation from the nominating agency (i.e., State Government/National Sports Federation/India Olympic Association etc)

1. I recommend that Shri/Km/Smt. _____ son/daughter/wife of Shri _____ for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the year _____.
2. I have carefully read the provisions of the schemes for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and confirm that the sportsperson is eligible for being considered for the Award.
3. It is certified that the particulars mentioned above are correct.
4. It is certified that the nominee is clear from vigilance/disciplinary angles and is not involved in acts of criminal and moral turpitude nature. In case of sportspersons employed with Central Government/State Governments/PSUs or in private organizations, a requisite report has been obtained from the concerned employer before certifying that the sportsperson being nominated is clear from vigilance/disciplinary angle and is not involved in any act of criminal or moral turpitude nature. Copy of the report obtained from the employer is enclosed.

Signature of recommending authority
(Giving name and designation of the signing authority)

Official Seal

Note:

1. Report of the employer should include details of charge-sheet/disciplinary action taken/pending, if any.

2. Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing for use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, will not be eligible for the Award

Date _____

Place _____

Criteria for giving Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna to Sportspersons

1. 80 % weightage will be given for the medals won in various International championships and sports events of the disciplines covered in Olympic Games (Summer, Winter and Paralympics), Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Points for winning medals will be given to each eligible sportsperson for his/her performance during the last 4 years as per marks given in the table below:

S. No.	Event	Medal		
		Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	Olympic Games/ Paralympics	80	70	55
2	World Championship/World Cup (once in 4 years)*	40	30	20
3	Asian Games	30	25	20
4	Commonwealth Games	25	20	15

* For World Championship/World Cup of different periodicities, proportionate marks will be given

2. Equivalence of any other sports discipline/tournament, not listed above, will be decided by the Selection Committee with reference to above-mentioned categories of sports tournaments and the points will be allotted accordingly.

3. For team events, marks will be computed taking into consideration strength of the team. If prescribed marks for an individual event are 'A', in the case of team event, the marks will be computed as follows:

- (i) A team of 2 persons: $1.5 \times 'A'$ /number of persons in the team
- (ii) A team of 3 or 4 persons: $2 \times 'A'$ /number of persons in the team
- (iii) A team of 5 to 10 persons: $3 \times 'A'$ /number of persons in the team
- (iv) A team of more than 10 persons: $5 \times 'A'$ /number of persons in the team

4. 80 marks will be given to the sportsperson getting maximum points as computed in the table above. Rest of the sportspersons will be given marks proportionately to the said

sportsperson. For example, if a sportsperson 'A' has got highest points, say 85 points as per the table above and another sportsperson 'B' has got 80 points as per the table above, then 'A' will get 80 marks and 'B' will get $(80 \times 80 / 85) = 75.30$ marks.

5. 20 % weightage will be given to the marks given by the Selection Committee for assessment of the eligible sportsperson keeping in view factors like profile and standard of the sports events in which he or she has won medals.

6. For cricket and indigenous games, not included in Olympic / Asian Games / Commonwealth Games disciplines, the Selection Committee will take into consideration their individuals performances.

7. There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson. This condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing.

8. In a particular sports discipline, names of not more than 2 sportspersons (1 male and 1 female) with the highest marks as per the criteria brought out in the table above will be considered by the Selection Committee.

9. Sometimes, the Selection Committee may feel that as per the given criteria, a very deserving sportsperson in a team game may not get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. In such a situation, it may recommend such name giving full justification in writing.

10. Selection Committee will recommend the final list of sportsperson(s) for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna as per the marks obtained in terms of the criteria indicated above.

11. Selection Committee may not mechanically recommend Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna to the recipient of the highest marks across disciplines. But in a particular sports discipline, award will be recommended only for the recipient of the highest aggregate marks.

12. The recommendations of Selection Committee will be placed before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision.
