

No. 48-09/2025-GOV-2
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(Department of Sports)

7420, 7th Floor, Zone-04,
GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, Africa Avenue Road,
New Delhi – 110023
Date:- 22.04.2026

ORDER

Subject:- Suspension of conditional recognition granted to Volleyball Federation of India (interim body) as a National Sports Federation with immediate effect - Reg.

Whereas, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, vide its order dated 09th May, 2025 passed in W.P (c) No. 1938/2024 titled as "Maharashtra Volleyball Federation of India Vs. UoI & Ors." and other connected matters, directed that elections to the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) be completed within four weeks. The Court clearly recorded that the newly elected body shall function as an interim body.

2. Whereas, the elections to the Executive Committee of Volleyball Federation of India (interim body) were accordingly held on 07.06.2025 by the Returning Officer appointed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Pursuant to conduct of the election, this Ministry vide letter dated 29.10.2025 granted conditional recognition to Volleyball Federation of India (interim body) as a National Sports Federation for the sport discipline of Volleyball subject to outcome of pending court cases and adherence to certain conditions.

3. Whereas, this Ministry while granting conditional recognition to the Volleyball Federation of India (interim body) specifically emphasized that it shall work in close co-ordination with the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), world governing body for the sport discipline of Volleyball and IOA to protect the interest of the Indian sportspersons as, constructive engagement with international governing bodies is a *sine qua non* for good governance and relations.

4. Whereas, it was also emphasized that the interim body, VFI shall also adhere to the mechanism prescribed by the FIVB and shall follow all instructions of FIVB and actively support its developmental programmes for Volleyball in India. The same was also re-iterated by this Ministry vide its letter dated 20.02.2026.

5. Whereas, the FIVB vide its letter dated 21.04.2026 has revoked the provisional recognition granted to interim body, VFI by asserting that the decision was taken after repeated instances of non-compliance with the conditions outlined in FIVB's letter dated 20.03.2026



(grant of provisional recognition) including a lack of cooperation with the FIVB-appointed Steering Committee, deviation from agreed governance and high-performance frameworks, and actions that have adversely impacted athlete preparation and the overall stability of the sport in India.

6. Whereas, it has been apprised by FIVB vide its letter dated 21.04.2026 (copy enclosed) that a Steering Committee has been constituted by the FIVB Board of Administration established in accordance with the FIVB General Regulations on 20.03.2026. The Steering Committee has been assigned with the temporary administrative competence in order to ensure continuity, stability, and proper governance of volleyball activities in India.

7. Whereas, there is a defined hierarchical framework under the Olympic charter as per which an NSF must fully comply with the Olympic Charter and the rules of its respective international federation (IF). Similarly, the FIVB Statutes also require each of its member federation to be legally constituted and recognized by its national authorities as the sole body competent to administer volleyball at the national level. Further, it has been the considered view of this Ministry that constructive engagement with international governing bodies is a *sine qua non* for good governance and relations since, the sports governance framework requires that the NSF remain in good standing with the international federation.

8. Whereas, under the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, recognition of a National Sports Federation is subject to continued affiliation with the concerned International Federation and adherence to its statutes and governance framework, failing which such recognition is liable to be reviewed or withdrawn in the interest of sportspersons and orderly administration of the discipline.

9. Whereas, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has already held that the elected Executive Committee of VFI shall function only as an interim body mandated to undertake constitutional and governance reforms in alignment with applicable legal and regulatory frameworks.

10. Whereas, the conditional recognition granted by this Ministry vide letter dated 29.10.2025 was subject, inter alia, to compliance with directions of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and continued coordination with the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), which conditions have not been fulfilled, and, continuation of recognition of an NSF without subsisting recognition from its concerned International Federation adversely affects participation of Indian athletes in international competitions and is contrary to the principles governing recognition of National Sports Federations under the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011;

11. Now therefore, taking into consideration the revocation of provisional recognition of interim body, VFI by FIVB vide its letter dated 21.04.2026, it has been decided to suspend the conditional recognition granted to said interim body, VFI by this Ministry vide letter dated 29.10.2025 with immediate effect. Consequently, in order to ensure continuity of governance, protection of athletes' interests, and uninterrupted participation of Indian teams in international events, the responsibilities relating to selection of national teams, submission of entries for



international competitions, coordination with international bodies, and conduct of essential federation activities shall, until further orders, be undertaken by the Steering Committee constituted by the FIVB Board of Administration, in coordination with the Indian Olympic Association and this Ministry. This arrangement shall remain operative as an interim ad-hoc administrative measure pending restoration of full compliance with the extant applicable provisions and guidelines, directions of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, and requirements of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



(Joginder Singh)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To,

President/Secretary General
Volleyball Federation of India (Interim Body)
Room No. 72, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium,
Chennai- 600003
Email:- vfi2005@gmail.com

Copy to:-

1. Director General, Sports Authority of India
2. Director, Passenger Marketing, Traffic Commercial, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi
3. Director (Khelo India Directorate), Department of Sports
4. Deputy Secretary (CDN), Department of Sports
5. US (CDN), US (GOV-I), US (OIC), US (Welfare), US (Autonomous bodies), US (Capacity Building), US (Khelo India Directorate)
6. Technical Director, NIC with the request to upload the letter on the website of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
7. CEO (TOPS), SAI/DDG (TEAMS), SAI

Copy for information to:
PPS to Secretary (Sports)
PS to JS (Gov/KI/Policy)

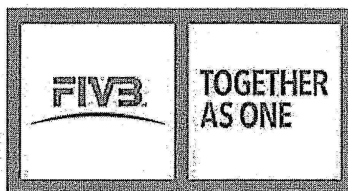
Also to:-

1. Steering Committee, Volleyball Federation of India

Olympic Bhawan, B-29, Qutab Institutional Area,
New Delhi-110016
Email:- vfisteeringcommittee@gmail.com

2. Shri. Raghuram Iyer, CEO, Indian Olympic Association,
Olympic Bhawan, B-29, Qutab Institutional Area,
New Delhi-110016
Email:- raghuram.iyer@olympic.ind.in
3. Shri. Stephen Bock, Head of Legal and General Counsel
Fédération Internationale de Volleyball
Château Les Tourelles” Ch. Edouard-Sandoz 2-4 1006 Lausanne Switzerland
Email:- stephen.bock@fivb.com,

Handwritten signature



Honorable Dr Mansukh Mandaviya
Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
Government of India
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Lausanne, 21 April 2026

Subject: Revocation of Provisional Recognition of VFI Interim Leadership and Next Step

Dear Hon'ble Minister,

The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) has taken the decision to revoke the provisional recognition granted to the Interim Leadership of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) with immediate effect.

This decision has been taken after repeated instances of non-compliance with the conditions outlined in our letter dated 20 March 2026, including a lack of cooperation with the FIVB-appointed Steering Committee, deviation from agreed governance and high-performance frameworks, and actions that have adversely impacted athlete preparation and the overall stability of the sport in India.

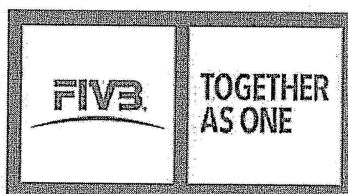
To ensure continuity, stability, and proper governance of volleyball activities in India, the FIVB Board of Administration has assigned temporary administrative competence to the "Steering Committee", established in accordance with the FIVB General Regulations.

The composition of the Steering Committee is as follows:

- Mr Rohit Rajpal — Chairman (Indian Olympic Association — Executive Council Member)
- Mr Raghuram Iyer — Member (Indian Olympic Association — CEO)
- Mr Steve Tutton — Member (FIVB — General Sports Director)
- Mr Stephen Bock — Member (FIVB — Head of Legal and General Counsel)
- Mr Hitesh Malhotra — Member (FIVB — Head of Empowerment and NF Relations)

During this transitional phase, the Steering Committee will oversee the following areas:

- The three key court-mandated areas, namely:
 - Establishment of the Athletes' Commission
 - Conduct of State Association elections
 - Alignment of the VFI Constitution with applicable legal and governance frameworks
- National team selection, ensuring that the best athletes are identified through a transparent, merit-based process led by qualified technical staff
- Events management, including coordination and delivery of upcoming international and national competitions in India
- Technical and high-performance support, including the implementation of the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment Programme and the deployment of international coaching expertise



Given the importance of the upcoming international calendar, including key events being hosted in India, this phase is both critical and time-sensitive. It is essential that athlete preparation, team stability, and operational execution are safeguarded without delay.

In this context, we seek the continued support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to:

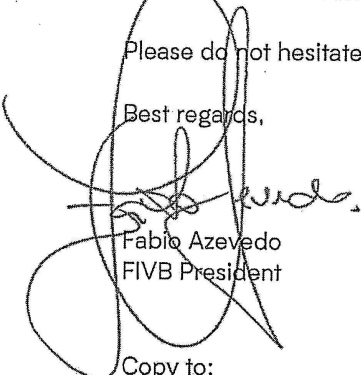
- Facilitate the organisation of national team training camps and selection trials
- Support logistical and operational requirements for athletes and coaching staff
- Enable smooth coordination for upcoming international events
- Assist in ensuring a stable and structured transition aligned with governance principles


The FIVB remains fully committed to supporting India during this period. Through our Volleyball Empowerment Programme and continued engagement, we will work closely with the Ministry, SAI, and IOA to ensure that this transition results in a stronger, more transparent, and high-performing system for Indian volleyball.

We are confident that, with your guidance and support, this phase can be effectively managed in the best interest of Indian athletes and the long-term development of the sport.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further clarification or coordination.

Best regards,


Fabio Azevedo
FIVB President


Hugh McCutcheon
FIVB Secretary General

Copy to:

Dr. P.T. Usha, President, Indian Olympic Association
Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Director General, Sports Authority of India
Joint Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India