

**No. 51-2/2023 SP III**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports  
Department of Sports

...

Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium,  
Hall No. 103, Lodhi Road, New Delhi  
Dated: 10.03.2025

**Sub: Revocation of suspension of Wrestling Federation of India – reg.**

Whereas considering the unprecedented situation necessitating immediate action to uphold good governance in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), the Ministry, by its order dated 24.12.2023, instructed the newly elected Executive Committee of the WFI to abstain from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the Federation with immediate effect until further orders. This decision was made in the wake of lapses regarding governance and procedural integrity by the newly elected body, which apparently was in control of former office bearers in complete disregard to the provisions of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 ("Sports Code"); cancellation of all decisions taken by the previously IOA-appointed Ad-hoc Committee; deviation from the established protocols of collective decision-making and transparent communication; and in consonance with the Sports Code, and in compliance with principles of the International Olympic Committee policy on safeguarding athletes from harassment and abuse in sports, principles of good governance and the principles of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Act, 2013.

2. Whereas the Ministry vide its letter dated 24.12.2023 requested the IOA to constitute the Ad-hoc Committee again to manage and control the affairs of WFI, as per the defined role of NSF's in the Sports Code, including the selection of athletes, making entries for the participation of sportspersons in international events, holding of sporting activities, etc. with immediate effect, until further orders.

3. Whereas the IOA constituted an Ad-hoc Committee vide its office order dated 27.12.2023 which was tasked with overseeing and supervising WFI's operations, which include athlete selection submitting entries for athletes to participate in international events, organizing sports activities, handling bank accounts, managing the website, and other related responsibilities.

4. Whereas the Ministry, through its order dated 07.01.2024, decided not to take cognizance of any National Championships or other sports competitions conducted by the suspended Executive Committee of the Wrestling Federation of India. The Ministry further directed that only National Wrestling Championships for various age categories, organized under the supervision of the IOA-appointed Ad hoc Committee for Wrestling, will be considered sanctioned and recognized under the Sports Code. Accordingly, all government

benefits will be granted exclusively to sportspersons participating in such National Championships organized by the Ad hoc Committee.

5. Whereas the United World Wrestling (UWW), through its official statement dated 13.02.2024, lifted the suspension on the WFI with immediate effect, with the following conditions:

- (i) The WFI must re-convene elections for its Athletes' Commission, ensuring that candidates are either active athletes or retired for no more than four years. The voting process shall be exclusively conducted by athletes. These elections must take place during trials or any senior national championship where feasible, but no later than July 1, 2024.
- (ii) The WFI must provide UWW with immediate written guarantees that all wrestlers will be considered for participation in WFI events without any discrimination. This includes trials for the Olympic Games and other major national and international events. The principle of non-discrimination extends to the three athletes who previously protested against alleged misconduct by the former President.

6. Whereas IOA, in light of the lifting of the ban on the WFI by the UWW, dissolved the Ad hoc Committee vide its order dated 18.03.2024.

7. Whereas the UWW vide its letter dated 25.04.2024, reiterated that independence of the National Federation cannot be allowed to be interfered in accordance with the UWW Statutes and the Olympic Charter and if a third party be designated to run the daily affairs of the sports of wrestling in India in violation of the UWW Statutes, they would have no other option than to re-impose a temporary suspension of the Federation until further notice, and which, this time, could may be include their athletes.

8. Whereas the Hon'ble Delhi High Court pronounced its judgment dated 16.08.2024 passed in CM Application No. 18267 of 2024 in W. P (C) 3164 of 2024, restoring the mandate of Ad hoc Committee for Wrestling as also observed under para 44 of the judgment "... *It shall be open to the Respondent No. 1 to withdraw/review the said order, if circumstances so warrant. This order shall not be construed as imposing any limitations or constraints in this regard.*"

9. Whereas the WFI vide it's letter dated 23.10.2024 requested the Ministry to withdraw the suspension letter dated 24.12.2023.

10. Whereas the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 07.01.2025 sought report from WFI outlining the corrective measures undertaken by the WFI to address the concerns raised in the order dated 24.12.2023.

11. Whereas WFI has submitted its reply vide letter dated 08.01.2025 informing, inter alia, about steps taken by it, pursuant to order of suspension, about formation of the Athletes Commission with voting rights, Ethics Commission, shifting of the registered office of the WFI at 101, Hari Nagar Ashram, and establishment of Prevention of Sexual Harassment Committee / Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) of Federation. The WFI has further stated that the ICC



is present at all competitions and events of the WFI and continues to take inputs from the athletes regarding their well-being and safety.

12. Whereas the Indian Olympic Association has vide its affidavit dated 3.10.2024 in WP No. 3164/2024 in the matter of Bajrang Punia & others versus UOI & others stated that provisions of Olympic Charter and its own constitution do not permit to intermeddle in affairs of NSF, which has the affiliation of international federation. IOA has further stated that it would not serve any purpose to make any Ad hoc Committee or any One Man Committee to govern WFI as their decisions would not be accepted by the UWW or the IOC; and any Ad hoc Committee would jeopardize the participation of the WFI in UWW mandatory events.

13. Whereas as per the affidavit dated 19.02.2025 filed by the WFI in the LPA 1184/2024, there is a communication dated 23.01.2025 of the UWW addressed to President, WFI reiterating that the Wrestling Federation of India, duly affiliated to United World Wrestling (UWW) is the only interlocutor for UWW on all matters concerning the sport of wrestling in India and its representation on the international level and that UWW does not accept any interference by the public and political authorities with the internal affairs of UWW's member federations, except for what concerns the control of the use of public grants to the national federations. UWW has further stated that suspension measures will be considered should the autonomy of WFI not be upheld fully and for the long term.

14. Whereas there have been media reports about WFI not functioning from the address, which it claims to function, therefore, in the public interest to check the veracity of the claims made by the WFI, a Committee was formed to have an in camera, on the spot inspection of the premises as claimed by WFI. The WFI informed by email that it has shifted its office to a new premise at E-81, Street No.1, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092. The report of the Committee has been received. The Committee has in its report stated that WFI is functioning from E-81, Street No.1, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092, where it has recently shifted its office.

15. Whereas the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, in its order dated 06.03.2025 in LPA 1184/2024, observed that in the absence of a competent body, the selection of wrestlers for the Senior Asian Championships scheduled from 25.03.2025 in Amman, Jordan, was at risk. The Hon'ble Court further observed that-

*"On account of non-restoration of the Ad-hoc Committee in terms of the order passed by the learned Single Judge and also on account of the suspension order dated 24.12.2023, as on today, there does not appear to be a competent body which can be entrusted with the task of selecting the team and to make other arrangements so that the participation of the wrestlers in the aforesaid international event, which is to commence from 25.03.2025, can be ensured.*

*As far as the interest of the sports and athletes are concerned, there cannot be more unhappy a situation."*

Hon'ble Court also made the following remarks-

*"Learned Single Judge has further observed in the order under challenge herein that it shall be open to respondent no.1 to withdraw/review the*

*said order if the circumstances so warrant and that the said order passed by the learned Single Judge shall not be construed as imposing any limitation or constraints in this regard."*

16. Whereas the Ministry has duly considered the findings of the Spot Verification Committee and the observations of the Hon'ble High Court, as well as the critical need to ensure the uninterrupted participation of Indian wrestlers in international events. The Ministry has placed "Wrestling" in the "High Priority" category as Indian wrestlers have been consistently performing well at the international events, Asian Games and Olympics and continued governance void will affect their training and competition exposure and may affect the medal prospects in the upcoming Asian Games 2026 and Olympics 2028. Therefore, in the larger interest of Indian sports and athletes, it is imperative to ensure stability in the administration of wrestling.

17. Now, therefore, in view of the findings of the Spot Verification Committee, the compliance measures undertaken by the WFI, and in the larger interest of Indian sports and athletes, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports hereby revokes the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) issued vide order of even number dated 24.12.2023 and restores its recognition as the National Sports Federation (NSF) for wrestling with immediate effect with following directions-

i. The WFI must revert the amendments carried out during the suspension period and have a balance of power among the designated office bearers and provide checks and balance in the decision making process and this process should be completed in 4 weeks.

ii. Any person who is not elected as an office bearer, as also the suspended/terminated salaried officials of the WFI must remain completely disassociated from the Federation and its affiliate units. The EC of WFI must give an undertaking in this regard within 4 weeks. Any violation of the undertaking will invite appropriate legal action, including the action under the Sports Code.

iii. The WFI must ensure that selection for all international events should be done in a free, fair and transparent manner as per the extant provisions of the Sports Code and the other latest instructions issued in this regard along with regulations issued from time-to-time by the UWW.

18. The WFI shall ensure adherence to the Sports Code, principles of good governance, and athlete welfare policies.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



(Bangararaju V.V.K.K.T)  
Director (Sports)

To,  
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**Copy to:**

1. President, Indian Olympic Association
2. Director General, Sports Authority of India
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister (YA&S)
4. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (YA&S)
5. PPS to Secretary (Sports)