

F.No.32-14/2013-SP-III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

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Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

To

The Secretary General,  
Hockey India,  
B1/E3, Ground Floor,  
Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate,  
New Delhi-110044.

Sub: Grant of recognition by Govt. of India to Hockey India as National Sports Federation (NSF) for the sport of Hockey.

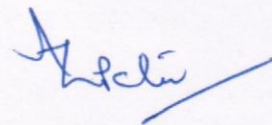
Sir,

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India recognizes the importance of the sport of Hockey in India, its popularity among the masses and medal prospects of India in various international events, etc. Keeping these factors in view, the Ministry realizes the need to quickly resolve the long-pending issue of granting recognition to a federation as NSF for the sport of hockey.

2. Prior to May, 2008, Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and Indian Women Hockey Federation (IWHF) were controlling the sport of Hockey for men and women respectively. In May, 2008, IHF was suspended by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and an ad-hoc Committee was formed by IOA to look after the affairs of the discipline of hockey. On the basis of the same, the Ministry also suspended IHF in May, 2008. In March, 2009, the President of the International Federation for Hockey (FIH) met the then Minister for Sports and expressed his concern on the delay in forming a unified body for Men & Women Hockey in India and insisted that the same be formed within 6 months. Otherwise, holding of the World Cup-2010 in India would be withdrawn. Accordingly, the Government of India also supported the efforts of IOA for formation of a unified body.

3. In August, 2009, the Government granted conditional recognition to Hockey India till 31-12-2010. On 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, taking into account the judgement of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 21.05.2010 and violation of Government guidelines by Hockey India as well as its open declaration that it is a private body beyond the writ jurisdiction and the Government's regulatory powers, Government withdrew recognition granted to Hockey India.

4. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble High Court of Delhi have made the following important orders/judgments on the issue.



- i) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition No.270 of 2010 and SPL (C) 24470 of 2010

Sl. No	Date	Interim orders
1.	17.08.2010	HI and IOA to finalize the Women Hockey Team and take all necessary steps for sending the teams so that participation of Indian Team in the World Cup is assured
2.	27.08.2010	IOA and HI will field the men's and Women's Hockey Team in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. If the Indian Olympic Association wants to make any addition to the National Selection Committee, it may do so
3.	22.10.2010	The arrangement made by this court by interim order dated 27.8.2010 shall apply in regard to participation of the hockey team in Asian Games to be held in China in November, 2011. In the meanwhile, the representative of Hockey India, Indian Hockey Federation and I.O.A. may attempt to hold discussions with the Sports Ministry and sort out the matter.
4.	07.01.2011	On request of the learned counsel for the parties, the matters are adjourned by eight weeks to enable the parties to arrive at amicable settlement.
5.	11.03.2011	The arrangement made by this court by interim order dated August 27, 2010 shall apply in regard to participation of Hockey Team in future games.  It will be open to the Union of India to take appropriate decisions in the matter and place it before the court.
6.	08.04.2011	Leave granted Hearing expedited. The ad-interim reliefs granted earlier by orders dated 11.03.2011, 27.08.2010, and 22.10.2010 are directed to continue till further orders.

- ii) Hon'ble Delhi High Court in WP (C) 3713/2008 vide its judgement dated 21.5.2010 while quashing the suspension orders of IHF issued by UOI and IOA observed as under:-

“This court believes that even now it is not too late for the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to get its act together and set things in order with the cooperation of both the IHF and the IOA and any other body that may have been set up. Instead of again panicking about of the revival of IHF, it requires to be seen how the interest of Hockey in India can be best served. Sports bodies have to have a degree of autonomy with the government playing the role of an effective regulator. They must be allowed to function in a democratic manner with persons really interested in developing the game participating in its affairs.”

5. Government after examining the matter decided to take the following action:-

- i) To settle the matter amicably.