$~63 to 68

* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\+ W.P.(C) 1938/2024

MAHARASHTRA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTED BY ITS AUTHORISED SIGNATORY VIRAL SHAH .....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Dhaval Deshpande, Advocate

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Jayant Mehta, Sr. Advocate alongwith Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, Mukul Singh, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Rajat Sinha, Mr. Kushagra Kumar, Mr. Abhinav Bhardwaj, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Mr. Subham Sharma, Mr. Urja Pandey and Mr. Devvrat Yadav, Advocates for UOI
Mr. R. A. Iyer, Advocate for R-4 &5
Mr. Vikash Singh and Mr. Ujjwal Chaudhary, Advocates for IOA
M:8802464546
Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Agarwal, Advocate for respondent/VFI
M:9674544319
E-mail:sudarshani.gra@gmail.com

64

\+ W.P.(C) 2100/2024

MAHARASHTRA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION .....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Dhaval Deshpande, Advocate

versus

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Jayant Mehta, Sr. Advocate alongwith Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, Mukul Singh, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Rajat Sinha, Mr. Kushagra Kumar, Mr. Abhinav Bhardwaj, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Mr. Subham Sharma, Mr. Urja Pandey and Mr. Devvrat Yadav, Advocates for UOI
Mr. R. A. Iyer, Advocate for R-4 &5
Mr. Vikash Singh and Mr. Ujjwal Chaudhary, Advocates for IOA
M:8802464546
Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Agarwal, Advocate for respondent/VFI
M:9674544319
E-mail:sudarshani.gra@gmail.com

65

\+ W.P.(C) 2103/2024

MAHARASHTRA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION .....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Dhaval Deshpande, Advocate

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Jayant Mehta, Sr. Advocate alongwith Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, Mukul Singh, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Rajat Sinha, Mr. Kushagra Kumar, Mr. Abhinav Bhardwaj, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Mr. Subham Sharma, Mr. Urja Pandey and Mr. Devvrat Yadav, Advocates for UOI
Mr. Vikash Singh and Mr. Ujjwal

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

Chaudhary, Advocates for IOA
M:8802464546
Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Agarwal, Advocate for respondent/VFI
M:9674544319
E-mail:sudarshani.gra@gmail.com

66

\+ W.P.(C) 2136/2024, CM APPL. 8885/2024, CM APPL. 11223/2024, CM APPL. 14653/2024, CM APPL. 21623/2024, CM APPL. 4093/2025, CM APPL. 9627/2025

AMIR SINGH .....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Hemant Phaipher, Advocate

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Jayant Mehta, Sr. Advocate alongwith Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, Mukul Singh, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Rajat Sinha, Mr. Kushagra Kumar, Mr. Abhinav Bhardwaj, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Mr. Subham Sharma, Mr. Urja Pandey and Mr. Devvrat Yadav, Advocates for UOI
Mr. Vikash Singh and Mr. Ujjwal Chaudhary, Advocates for IOA
M:8802464546
Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Agarwal, Advocate for respondent/VFI
M:9674544319
E-mail:sudarshani.gra@gmail.com
Mr. Siddharath Sikri and Mr. Nishit Kush, Advocates for applicant Prem Singh (in CM APPL. 14653/2024)

67

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

+ W.P.(C) 2174/2024, CM APPL. 9062/2024

SEBASTIAN GEORGE .....Petitioner

Through: Petitioner in person

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Jayant Mehta, Sr. Advocate alongwith Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, Mukul Singh, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Rajat Sinha, Mr. Kushagra Kumar, Mr. Abhinav Bhardwaj, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Mr. Subham Sharma, Mr. Urja Pandey, Ms. Ira Singh and Mr. Aryan Dhaka and Mr. Devvrat Yadav, Advocates for UOI
M:9971359512
Mr. Vikash Singh and Mr. Ujjwal Chaudhary, Advocates for IOA
M:8802464546
Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Agarwal, Advocate for respondent/VFI
M:9674544319
E-mail:sudarshani.gra@gmail.com

68

+ W.P.(C) 3365/2024, CM APPL. 13847/2024

VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION OF UTTRANCHAL UTTARAKHAND VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION .....Petitioner

Through: Advocate (appearance not given)

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Jayant Mehta, Sr. Advocate alongwith

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, Mukul Singh, CGSC with Mr. Amit Gupta, Mr. Rajat Sinha, Mr. Kushagra Kumar, Mr. Abhinav Bhardwaj, Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Mr. Subham Sharma, Mr. Urja Pandey and Mr. Devvrat Yadav, Advocates for UOI
Mr. Hemant Phaipher, Advocate for R-3
M:9810870982
Mr. Vikash Singh and Mr. Ujjwal Chaudhary, Advocates for IOA
M:8802464546
Mr. Sudarshan Kumar Agarwal, Advocate for respondent/VFI
M:9674544319
E-mail:sudarshani.gra@gmail.com

CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA

O R D E R

% 09.05.2025

1. The present petitions essentially involve the issue of elections to be held by the Volleyball Federation of India ("VFI").

2. Learned counsels for various parties are *ad-idem* that elections are to be held first, and thereafter, once the interim body is in place after the elections, various reforms to the Volleyball Federation of India, including, the amendment to the constitution of Volleyball Federation of India, shall be carried out.

3. The Indian Olympic Association ("IOA") *vide* office order dated 13th June, 2023, constituted an *ad-hoc* body in consultation with the *Federation Internationale de Volleyball* ("FIVB"). The FIVB is the world governing body for the sport discipline of Volleyball for administering the affairs of

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

the Volleyball Federation of India, including, but not limited to participation of the athletes for international events, and conducting election in accordance with the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.

4. *Vide* order dated 25th September, 2023, the Returning Officer ("RO") who is a former judge of High Court of Karnataka, was appointed by the IOA for conducting the Election of the Volleyball Federation of India.

5. The elections were notified by the RO on 19th January, 2024, pursuant to which further election process was undertaken by the RO, and the elections were scheduled to be held on 17th February, 2024.

6. It is to be noted that the election process had progressed significantly, and the final list of contesting candidates had also been published, and just before the date of the polling, the present set of petitions came to be filed.

7. Thus, *vide* order dated 16th February, 2024, in *W.P.(C) 2136/2024, Amir Singh Versus Union of India and Others,* this Court stayed the elections of the Volleyball Federation of India. It is to be noted that the said stay, is continuing, till date.

8. All the parties have now jointly submitted that the elections to the Volleyball Federation of India ought to proceed further. It is submitted that on account of the stay to the elections of the Volleyball Federation of India, the same has resulted in an administration *impasse*, risking de-recognition of the Volleyball Federation of India by the FIVB, and of India's participation in the international events.

9. Learned ASG as well as the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the UOI, i.e., Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, jointly submit that a communication dated 29th January, 2025, has been received by the IOA from the FIVB expressing the concerns regarding delay in conduct of elections for

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

the Volleyball Federation of India, and requesting that the same be conducted, expeditiously.

10. It is further submitted that VIFB has also stressed that the newly elected body shall work under the supervision of FIVB and the IOA.

11. It is further submitted that India is seeking to hold the Olympics in the year 2036 and the National Sports Federation has to be ready, and be enable to carry out their share of responsibilities in developing the sport and the sports persons to meet the country's candidature, and holding of such a reputed event.

12. Thus, various suggestions have been given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, as well as by the learned counsels representing the other parties, before this Court.

13. This Court specifically notes the submissions of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, which are reproduced as under:-

> *"xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *6.1. Elections of the VFI may be directed to be conducted from the stage where it was stayed, i.e., polling ought to be conducted. However, the same ought to be conducted in a time bound manner, subject to further directions of this Hon'ble Court as well as subject to final outcome of the present Petition.*
>
> *6.2. Once the elected body is in place, a reasonable period of time may be given to the elected body to make necessary amendments in the Constitution of the VFI and their affiliated State/UT associations constitution so as to bring it in consonance with the Sports Code and the extant provisions of law and other orders and directions as may be passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (C) No. 307 48-9/201 7 titled as "All India Football Federation Vs. UOI & Ors." and SLP (C) No. 14533/2022 tilted as "Indian Olympic Association Vs. Union of India". In the interim, the elected body shall file periodic status report informing this Hon'ble Court of efforts being undertaken by the VFI to amend its Constitution and for their affiliated State/UT associations*

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

so as to bring it in line with the aforesaid and the progress made thereto.

6.3. The above process may be made to further orders of this Hon'ble Court, as well as any directions that the Hon'ble Supreme Court may pass in SLP (C) NO. 30748-9/2017 titled as "All India Football Federation Vs. UOI & Ors." and SLP (C) NO. 14533/2022 titled as "Indian Olympic Association Vs. Union of India" or any other matter.

6.4. In respect of ensuring representation of 25% of sportspersons in the Executive Committee of VFI, it is proposed that within a reasonable time, preferably within four weeks from the elections, an interim athletes commission should be established as per the statutes of FIVB. The Athletes Commission shall elect 4 (sic) persons who shall be athlete representatives in the Executive Committee.

xxx xxx xxx"

14. This Court also takes notes of the submission of the IOA in *W.P.(C) 2136/2024*, titled as *"Amir Singh Versus Union of India and Others"* with regard to the sports persons, who shall be members of the Interim Athletes Commission. The submission of the IOA, in this regard, is as under:-

"xxx xxx xxx

6.5. Simultaneously on the same date, another election, an interim Athletes Commission (to fill up the 4 additional posts of the EC totalling to 16) must be established comprising of prominent sportspersons of outstanding merit (National Arjuna Awardee, Medal in Olympic and Asian games). The Athletes Commission shall elect three persons who shall be athletes' representatives in the Executive Committee. This meets the 25% representation requirement under the Sports Code, and addresses the Petitioner's other primary prayers. Hence the elected body of the VFI shall Consist of 16 people, i.e. 12 from the already existing EC and 4 more from the athletes Commission.

xxx xxx xxx "

15. Learned ASG as well as learned Senior Counsel appearing for the UOI, have also drawn the attention of this Court to the orders dated 1st

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

September, 2023 and 1st February, 2024 passed by the learned Division Bench of this Court in *W.P.(C) 8691/2020*, titled as *"Rahul Mehra Versus Union of India"*.

16. The order dated 1st February, 2024 passed in *W.P.(C) 8691/2020*, titled as *Rahul Mehra Versus Union of India*, is reproduced as under:-

> *"xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *2. Mr Hrishikesh Barua, who appears on behalf of the applicant/GFI, is essentially aggrieved by the following directions contained in the order dated 01.09.2023 passed by a coordinate Bench:*
>
> > *"...It is further made clear that in respect of all future elections, the respondent Union of India shall ensure strict compliance of the judgement delivered in W.P.(C) No. 195/2010 dated 16.08.2022…"*
>
> *3. To be noted, this direction was issued to progress the directions contained in the judgment dated 16.08.2022 passed in W.P.(C) No.195/2010.*
>
> *3.1 We have specifically asked Mr Anil Soni, learned CGSC, who represents the Union of India (UOI), as to whether according to UOI, the judgment dated 16.08.2022 is applicable to the National Sports Federation (NSF), apart from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).*
>
> *3.2 Mr Soni, in no uncertain terms, says that the directions contained in the judgment dated 16.08.2022 would apply to the NSF as well.*
>
> *4. We tend to agree with Mr Soni. In our view, the judgment dated 16.08.2022 is a judgment in rem and therefore the directions contained therein will apply mutatis mutandis to the NSF, including the applicant/federation.*
>
> *5. At this stage, Mr Barua says that since the judgment dated 16.08.2022 was stayed by the Supreme Court via order dated 18.08.2022, the directions contained therein cannot be progressed any further.*
>
> *5.1 It is not disputed by Mr Barua or by Mr Soni that the Supreme Court via a subsequent order dated 17.07.2023 has, interalia, observed as follows:*

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

> *"3. The pendency of these proceedings shall not stay any proceedings which may be pending before the High Courts in relation to other sports federations."*
>
> *6. Therefore, respectfully stated, our understanding is that the Supreme Court has permitted the continuation of proceedings in the pending writ petitions, including the above-captioned writ petition.*
>
> *7. The other contention articulated by Mr Barua is that since the judgment dated 16.08.2022 was tendered keping in mind the structure of the IOA, it cannot possibly apply to NSFs, including the applicant-federation.*
>
> *8. As indicated hereinabove, the directions contained in the judgment can apply only mutatis mutandis. Thus, if any direction is peculiar to only the parties who stand arrayed in WP(c) 195/2020, in which the judgment dated 16.08.2022 was rendered, as and when such issue is brought to the notice of the Court, appropriate orders will be passed. Short of this, there will be strict compliance with the directions contained in the judgment dated 16.08.2022.*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx "*

17. By referring to the aforesaid order, it is the submission on behalf of UOI, that since by way of the elections in the present matter, only an interim body is to be constituted, therefore, strict compliance with regard to the order dated 1st September, 2023, passed in *W.P.(C) 8691/2020*, will not be an impediment, at this stage. It is further submitted that, even otherwise, the process of elections, including, the process of amendment to the constitution of the Volleyball Federation of India, as well as State and District Body, is being supervised by this Court.

18. Learned counsel appearing for the respective parties submit that they do not have any objection, if the aforesaid submissions, as made on behalf of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, are implemented.

19. Accordingly, with the consent of the parties, it is directed as follows:-

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10

(i) The elections for the constitution of a newly elected body of the Volleyball Federation of India, shall be completed within a period of four weeks, from today.

(ii) The elections shall be conducted from the stage, from where the election process was stopped, in view of the order dated 16th February, 2024, passed by this Court.

(iii) The newly elected body shall operate as an interim body.

(iv) The newly elected body, after taking over the office, which shall be in the nature of an interim arrangement, shall move a proposal for amendment for the constitution of the Volleyball Federation of India, as well as, State and District Associations, to bring it in consonance with the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 ("National Sports Code").

(v) The newly elected body, which shall be an interim body, shall file a report before this Court with regard to its proposal, as regards the time line, within which the amendment process shall be carried out by the newly elected body.

(vi) Within a period of four weeks from the election of the new elected body, an Interim Athletes Commission shall be established as per the existing statutes of FIVB. The Athletes Commission shall elect 4 persons, who shall be athlete representatives in the Executive Committee, for ensuring representation of 25% of sports persons in the Executive Committee of Volleyball Federation of India.

20. Re-notify on 24th September, 2025.

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

MAY 9, 2025/akr

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 10/10/2026 at 11:49:10