

6. National Sports Governance Act- Polity

National Sports Governance Act comes into effect partially The Central Government has notified provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, a landmark legislation aimed at restructuring sports administration through the establishment of a National Sports Board for regulation and funding, and a National Sports Tribunal for dispute resolution, ensuring alignment with the Olympic Charter. National Sports Governance Act, 2025

1. Context and Overview

Notification- The Central Government has notified that select provisions of the Act will come into force, following its original notification in August 2025.

Nature of Legislation- It is a landmark law designed to completely restructure the governance framework of sports bodies in India.

Core Philosophy- The Act seeks to align Indian sports administration with global standards, prioritizing transparency and athlete welfare while allowing for a phased implementation of different provisions.

2. Key Features of the Act

Establishment of Governing Bodies- The Act mandates the establishment of specific authoritative bodies for each sport and category

1. National Olympic Committee
2. National Paralympic Committee
3. National and Regional Sports Federations (for each designated sport)

International Affiliation- These national bodies are required to maintain affiliation with their respective international governing organizations.

National Sports Board (NSB)

Authority- The Act empowers the Central Government to establish the National Sports Board (NSB).

Functions

Recognition- It is the sole authority responsible for granting recognition to national sports bodies and registering their affiliate units.

Funding Control- Only bodies recognized by the NSB will be eligible to receive funds from the Central Government.

Regulation- The Board holds the power to suspend or cancel recognition or registration if specific conditions are not met.

National Sports Tribunal

Purpose- A specialized tribunal will be constituted to adjudicate sports-related disputes to ensure timely justice.

Jurisdiction Limitations- The tribunal will **not** have jurisdiction over Disputes related to games organized by international bodies. Internal disputes within national sports bodies.

Oversight of Elections

To ensure fair play in administration, a dual-layer oversight mechanism is introduced-

Feature	National Panel of Electoral Officers	Internal Electoral Panel
Established By	Central Government	National Sports Body
Responsibility	Oversee elections of the National Sports Bodies.	Oversee elections of the Affiliate Units.

3. Key Objectives

Good Governance- To promote transparency, accountability, and ethical practices within sports administration.

Dispute Resolution- To provide effective and timely resolution of disputes, strictly in consonance with the Olympic Charter, the Paralympic Charter, and international best practices.

Athlete Centricity- Ensure the welfare of sportspersons. Ensure representation of sportspersons in decision-making processes.

Standardization- To create a uniform governance structure across all diverse federations.

Growth- To promote inclusivity and enhance grassroots participation.

4. Major Concerns and Criticisms

Autonomy Issues- Critics argue that the Act may reduce the independence of certain sports federations.

Bureaucratic Delays- The concentration of significant powers within the National Sports Board (NSB) could lead to bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Transition Challenges- The shift to new structures may disrupt ongoing sporting activities and administration during the transition phase.

Tokenism- While athlete representation is mandated, there are fears it may remain "tokenism" rather than resulting in genuine empowerment.

Jurisdictional Overlap- There is potential for conflict or overlap between the new Tribunal's jurisdiction and existing arbitration mechanisms.

5. Conclusion and Way Forward

Transformative Step- The Act represents a necessary modernization of India's sports administration.

Balanced Implementation- The phased implementation strategy aims to balance the need for change with the necessity of continuity.

Collaborative Approach- Ongoing collaboration between the government, federations, and athletes is essential to strengthen governance while preserving competitiveness and autonomy.

Source- [https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/national-sports-governance-act-comes-into-effect-partially/article70459495.ece#~~~](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/national-sports-governance-act-comes-into-effect-partially/article70459495.ece#~~~text=The%20National%20Sports%20Governance%20Act,enforced%20by%20the%20Central%20government.)

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