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P.T. Usha to Become the First Woman President of IOA

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Key Developments
December 2022

Welcome to the December edition of '**Inform: Sports Law'** publication. We endeavour to provide a synopsis of key developments in sports, esports, and gaming laws in India, as well as to engage with stakeholders in these fields.

Highlight Story

P. T. Usha to Become the First Woman President of IOA

Ahead of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) elections scheduled for December 10, 2022, PT Usha has emerged as the lone candidate for the post of President. If elected, she will become the first Olympian and first international medalist to head the IOA in its 95-year history. The IOA elections are being held under the supervision of a retired apex court judge, Hon'ble Justice retd. Sri L. Nageswara Rao, appointed by the Supreme Court.

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Updates

NADA Imposes First Ever Sanction on Athlete Support Personnel

For the first time in its history, the National Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP), has imposed a four-year ban on an athlete support personnel, coach Mickey Menezes, for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation. The coach had injected a prohibited substance, Drostanolone, into his trainee, Kirti Bhoite, who is now serving a two-year ban.

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NADA Issues Notices to Athletes for Whereabout Filing Failure

NADA India issued notices to athletes for not filing their whereabouts within the stipulated time. Article 5.5. of the NADA Anti-Doping Rules requires athletes who are part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) to share their whereabout information in the Anti-Doping Administration Management System (ADAMS) online portal managed by WADA.

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IOA Amends its Constitution to Meet IOC Criteria

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was recently compelled to make radical changes to its constitution following warnings of disbandment by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the subsequent interference by the Supreme Court (SC) to right the wrong.

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India Fails to Secure Seats to WADA Committees

India's Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur and the Director General of the National Anti-Doping Agency, Ritu Sain, failed to garner sufficient votes to win seats in two influential committees of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

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BCCI to Revamp its National Selectors Team

The Board of Control for Cricket has invited applications for the position of National Selectors and laid down criteria for the same. Applicants must have a minimum of 7 test matches or 30 first-class matches or 10 ODIs and 20 first-class matches under their belt.

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E-gaming Federation Appoints Two New Members to its Advisory Panel

E-gaming federation (EGF), a not-for-profit organisation that represents gaming operators in India, has appointed Aruna Sharma, former secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and IT, and Satish Mathur, former Director General of Police, Maharashtra to its advisory panel.

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FIFA Re-Elects Gianni Infantino as President

Gianni Infantino was elected FIFA president for four years after running unopposed in the election. Gianni will be in charge of soccer's governing body. He has been re-elected after winning the election in 2016 and again in 2019.

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Singapore to Host Esports Olympics

The International Olympic Committee confirmed that Singapore will host the inaugural Olympic Esports week between June 22 and June 25, 2023. The Olympic Esports Week is a four-day festival that showcases the newest technologies through panel discussions, educational sessions, and show matches.

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Case Laws



Apex Court Disposes Contempt Proceedings Instituted Against Indian Olympic Association

In the case of Rahul Mehra v Rajeev Mehta & Ors., the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India disposed of the contempt petition post clarification by the Solicitor General that the directions issued by the Apex Court on October 10 pertaining to the new constitution of the Indian Olympic Association ("IOA") have been complied with.

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Calcutta High Court Dismissed PIL Challenging Saurav Ganguly's Removal from BCCI

The Calcutta High Court has dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging Saurav Ganguly's removal as president of the Board of Control for Cricket India (BCCI). The Court further imposed costs amounting to Rs. 25,000 on the Petitioner for "groundless public interest litigation".

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