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Paris 2024 Paves the Way for Gender Equality

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Key Developments April 2023

Welcome to the April 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

Paris 2024 Paves the Way for Gender Equality

The 2024 Summer Olympics, which is more commonly known as Paris 2024, would be the first Olympics games in the history of the Olympics movement to attain gender equality. An equal number of female and male athletes would be taking part in the games, and this milestone was achieved by and large due to the initiatives taken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).



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Updates

BCCI comes out with New Rules for IPL 2023

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 began on March 31, 2023, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has modified the rules applicable to the same. As per the new rules, the teams need not choose the playing XIs before the toss (as followed till last season) and can do so after the toss.

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Aggrieved Parents write to BAI over the Issue of Age Fraud in Badminton

The Swacch Badminton of India, an organization of badminton players' parents, has addressed a letter to the Badminton Association of India (BAI) raising concerns over the age fraud prevalent in Indian Badminton tournaments. The aggrieved parents call attention to the practices of bribery and document forging followed to misrepresent a player's age and gain an unfair advantage in the tournaments.

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NADA and NCERT enter into MoU to Promote Sports Education among Students

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a value-based sports education system focussing on sports values and ethics. In the press release dated March 3, 2023, it is specified that the curriculum will be primarily based on the UNESCO Value-Based Sports Education Toolkit, which will be promoted in classrooms.

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Tamil Nadu Assembly Passes Bill to Ban Online Gaming Again

On March 23, 2023, the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022. The Bill, which seeks to ban online gambling and regulate online gaming, was earlier returned by the state Governor, Shri. RN Ravi.

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Uttar Pradesh cabinet comes out with New Sports Policy 2023

In a cabinet meeting held on March 10, 2023, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved the new Sports Policy, 2023. The policy envisages the promotion of sports infrastructure development by entering into Public Private Partnerships, setting up a state sports authority, state sports development fund and 14 centres of excellence and extending support to sports athletes, associations, etc.

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Sportradar's Report Reveals 34% Increase in Suspicious Matches in 2022

On March 23, 2023, Sportradar Integrity Services issued a report on "Betting, Corruption and Match-fixing in 2022" revealing a 34% increase in suspicious matches in 2022. After scrutinizing more than 8 lakh matches within 12 sports from 92 countries, , it was discovered that as many as 1,212 suspicious matches took place in 2022, including 775 suspicious soccer matches and 220 suspicious basketball matches.

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World Athletics Approves New Regulations for Transgender Athletes

The World Athletics Council has made specific changes to the regulations applicable to transgender athletes and athletes with Differences of Sexual Development (DSD) for participating in the female classification at a World Rankings competition. The council has decided to disallow male-to-female transgender athletes who have undergone male puberty from competing in the female category.

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Former Rugby Players File Concussion Lawsuit Against Sports Governing Bodies

A lawsuit has been filed by former rugby union, rugby league and football players affected by neurological impairments against sports governing bodies, World Rugby, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU). London-based sports law firm Rylands Garth which represents the players stated that repetitive concussive and sub-concussive blows to the head lead to serious health complications such as post-concussion syndrome, Parkinson's disease, chronic depression, drug addiction, etc.

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FIFA Releases Guidelines for Mediation Proceedings

The Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA) has released guidelines for FIFA mediation proceedings after conducting a consultation in this regard. As per the guidelines, only matters covered within the Football Tribunal's jurisdiction can be resolved through mediation. To ascertain whether the parties can opt for mediation and whether the matter falls within the tribunal's jurisdiction (and hence, can be decided through mediation), the relevant procedural rules and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) have to be referred to.

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NADA Disciplinary Panel Imposes 4-Year Ban on Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu

In an order dated March 31, 2023, the Disciplinary Panel of the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) imposed a 4-year ban upon Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu, the two-time Commonwealth Games weightlifting champion after failing a dope test. In the previous year, her dope sample was taken during the 36th edition of the National Games of India held in Gujarat. Later, she tested positive for Drostanolone Metabolite, an anabolic steroid.

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Case Laws

Delhi HC Dismisses Plea of Women Boxers, Upholds Rejection of their Candidature

In an order dated March 14, 2023, the Delhi High Court in Manju Rani & Ors v. Boxing Federation of India and Others [WP(C) 2860/2023] dismissed the application for interim relief filed by the women boxers. It held that there was no basis for it to interfere with the selection of boxers for the Women's World Boxing Championship, 2023.

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Madras HC Restrains Police from Taking Coercive Action Against Online Gaming Firm

In an order dated March 28, 2023, the Madras High Court in Play Games24 x 7 Private Limited & Anr. v. State of Tamil Nadu & Ors. (WP No.7696 of 2023 and others) granted interim relief to the petitioner, Play Games24 x 7 Private Limited, by restraining the police from taking any coercive action against it.

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Delhi HC orders EFI to select more Equestrians as Asian Games Probables

In a common order dated March 7, 2023, the Delhi High Court allowed the writ petitions filed by horse riders and directed the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) to permit all the riders who participated in either the V-3 or V-5 selection processes to attend the coaching camps and participate in the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) events in Europe.

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