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Enhanced Games: Sports Event that Encourages Doping

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Key Developments
July 2023

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

Highlight Story

Enhanced Games: Sports Event that Encourages Doping

The first Enhanced Games is scheduled to be held in the year 2024, where athletes will not be tested for performance enhancements. The time and venue haven't been announced yet; however, it is disclosed that there will be five categories of games in the event – track and field, swimming, weightlifting, gymnastics and combat sports. According to its website, Enhanced Games is an alternative to the Olympic Games and seeks to be the "most efficient international sports event".



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Updates

Anti-Doping Education Provided to Gamers during Olympic Esports Week

During the Olympic Esports Week, elite gamers gained first-hand insight into the potential implications of including Esports in the international sports doping standards. This occurred shortly after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) revealed that Esports may eventually fall under its code. WADA made an announcement that the Global Esports Federation (GEF) had approached them to collaborate on an educational initiative as an initial step toward embracing the international anti-doping code.

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Technical Regulations for Electric Sport Vehicles Released by FIA

The Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) has recently released a new set of technical regulations for Electric Sport Vehicles (FIA ESV). These regulations specifically focus on developing racing cars derived from road-going electric vehicles (EVs), particularly GT-type cars. It is emphasised that these rules have been formulated to support entry-level and reasonably priced electric racing while also maintaining strict adherence to high-voltage safety standards.

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BCCI to Formulate Policy for Retired Cricketers' Participation in Overseas Leagues

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is formulating a policy for retired Indian cricketers concerning their participation in overseas T20 leagues. Currently, there is no such policy, and it is stated that upon retirement, the cricketers would have to adhere to a cooling-off period during which they wouldn't be allowed to participate in other leagues.

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IOC Asks Indian Olympic Association to Appoint CEO Without Any Delay

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has directed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) without any further delay. Further, the Association has been asked to coordinate with international sports federations to deal with the challenges faced by the country's sports federations, specifically emphasising the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

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Dream 11 Selected as Lead Sponsor for Indian Cricket Team Days After BCCI Released Prohibited Brand Categories

Recently, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that the fantasy sports platform Dream 11 would be the lead sponsor for the Indian cricket team for a period of three years. Team India jerseys will sport Dream 11, beginning with the Test series against the West Indies.

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IOC Withdraws Recognition of International Boxing Association

In a remote meeting held on June 22, 2023, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session decided to withdraw the International Boxing Association (IBA) recognition. This step was taken based on the recommendation of the Committee's Executive Board. The IBA was formerly the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (AIBA).

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Case Laws

Gauhati High Court Stays WFI Elections

In an order dated June 25, 2023, the Gauhati High Court stayed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election. In its plea, petitioner no. 1, Assam Wrestling Association, submitted that it was entitled to be affiliated as a member of the WFI as per the federation's constitution.

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SC Refers to the Lack of Sexual Harassment Committees in Sports Federations in POSH Case

In an order dated May 12, 2023, the Supreme Court took note of the "serious lapses" in the enforcement of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and issued directions for its implementation.

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