

National Sports Governance and Anti-Doping Bills Passed by Lok Sabha

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Sports Governance Latest News

- The Lok Sabha has passed the National Sports Governance Bill 2025 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill 2025.

Introduction

- The Lok Sabha has passed two landmark legislations, the **National Sports Governance Bill 2025** and the **National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill 2025**, marking a major overhaul of India's sports governance and anti-doping framework.
- Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya described the reforms as the *"single biggest sports reform since independence"*, underscoring their role in building a transparent, accountable, and high-performance sports ecosystem as India prepares to bid for the 2036 Summer Olympics.

About the National Sports Governance Bill 2025

- The National Sports Governance Bill seeks to transform India's sports administration through the establishment of New Bodies:
 - National Olympic Committee
 - National Paralympic Committee
 - National and Regional Sports Federations for designated sports
- **Creation of the National Sports Board (NSB):**
 - The NSB will grant recognition to national sports bodies, register affiliated units, and monitor compliance. It will have power to **de-recognise** federations that fail to conduct fair elections, mismanage funds, or commit gross irregularities.
- **National Sports Tribunal:**
 - A judicial body with civil court powers to resolve disputes involving selection, elections, or governance of federations. Tribunal decisions can only be challenged in the Supreme Court.
- **Accountability and Transparency Measures:**
 - All recognised national sports bodies receiving government funding will fall under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**, with some exceptions, such as the BCCI, which remains outside RTI unless substantially funded by the government.
- **Leadership Provisions:**
 - Administrators aged between 70 and 75 can contest elections if permitted under international federation rules, a relaxation from the earlier age cap of 70 years.

About the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill 2025

- This amendment aligns India's anti-doping laws with **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** requirements:
- **Operational Independence for NADA:** The National Anti-Doping Agency will function without direct government oversight to address WADA's concerns over autonomy.
- **Changes in the National Anti-Doping Board:** The Board remains but without powers to oversee NADA or influence its operations, ensuring compliance with global anti-doping norms.
- **Alignment with UNESCO Convention:** Strengthens India's commitment to international anti-doping standards while protecting athlete rights and ensuring fair play.

Significance of the Reforms

- **Olympics 2036 Preparation:** The legislation is part of India's roadmap to bid for the Summer Olympics, requiring compliance with the Olympic Charter and international best practices.
- **Addressing Long-standing Gaps:** Efforts to create a robust sports governance law date back to 1975, with multiple failed attempts due to political hurdles. This Bill finally delivers on decades of unfinished reforms.
- **Promoting Gender Inclusion:** Provisions ensure greater participation of women in sports federations and leadership roles.
- **Enhancing Performance:** By enforcing accountability and reducing political interference, the Bills aim to improve India's performance in global sports events.

Future Outlook

- The reforms are expected to:
 - Streamline governance in sports federations
 - Build stronger anti-doping mechanisms
 - Boost India's medal prospects in international competitions
 - Lay the institutional foundation for India's Olympic bid
- However, successful implementation will depend on effective enforcement, autonomy for sports bodies, and sustained investment in athlete development.

Source: IE | TOI

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