


BEFORE THE RETURNING OFFICER
ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WRESTLING
FEDERATION OF INDIA (2023)

Olympic Bhawan, B-29, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi 110016

I have received a letter from the Adhoc Committee WFI duly signed by Shri Bhupnder Singh Bajwa (Member), with a request that in order to facilitate the resolution of disputes between various sections, a further time of 4-5 days be granted by rescheduling the elections. The Indian Olympic Association has also forwarded a letter duly signed by Shri Kalyan Choubey, wherein a similar request has been made stating that State Associations of WFI have their internal issues to be sorted out so that democratic representation is made on their behalf in the ensuing elections. The WFI is a body representing India in the world scenario and the elections must reflect the true representation of all its constituents. It is stated that efforts are being made to streamline the democratic representation which might take 5-6 days. It has further been highlighted that in the absence of resolution of disputes, an embarrassing situation may arise when the country may suffer setback when the WFI is required to interact/participate with the international bodies for international wrestling events. Accordingly, it is requested that the elections be rescheduled by a period of 5-6 days as onetime exception.

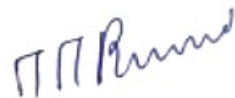


It is also appropriate to mention that parties from both the sides from the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Telengana have been heard. The hearing reveals disputes and various issues. The orders are reserved.

Having heard the parties and perusing the requests made by the WFI Adhoc Committee and the Indian Olympic Association, it appears that that there are serious disputes similar to the one which have come before me in the hearing held today. It is true that once the election process is issued then ordinarily the elections must be held as per the schedule issued. However, there are exceptions which permit rescheduling. The IOA, in its request letter, has stated that the WFI, being a representative body represents India in the world scenario. It is of utmost importance that the election to be conducted in pursuance to the Notification dated 13.6.2023 reflects the true representation of its constituents. In view of some disputes concerning some state level association, efforts are on to streamline the democratic representation which might take 5-6 days. It has been further stated that with regard to some of the Associations, the hearing is being held today i.e 21.6.2023. In the aforesaid facts, unless a democratic representation of all constituents of WFI is ensured, the election may not be free and fair and may not reflect the democratic representation of all constituents. This position may create some avoidable and embarrassing situation particularly when

the Federation is required to interact and participate with international bodies for international events. Another good reason highlighted by IOA is the national interest, as it would avoid any embarrassment at international level. It is pertinent to note that in the sport of wrestling, India has earned big name. In the present scenario, the Indian Olympic Association has pointed out that these disputes might reflect the need and participation in the international events and the national interest has been cited as reason for onetime extension.

As a sequel to the above discussion and the reasons stated by WFI and IOA, the elections of WFI are rescheduled by a few more days. (For reschedule see website).



(M.M. KUMAR)
Returning Officer Election of WFI
(2023) & Chief Justice (Retd.),
J&K High Court