



ALL INDIA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION[®]

Sports For Life

ATHLETE COMMISSION POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) recognizes that athletes are the central stakeholders of the sport and must have a **meaningful, independent, and democratic role in governance**.

This Athlete Commission Policy is adopted in compliance with:

- National Sports Development Code of India, 2011
 - Principles of good governance in sport
 - Athlete representation requirements (minimum 25%)
 - Emerging requirements under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025
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2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Athlete Commission ("Commission") are:

1. To ensure **representation of athletes in governance** of AIPA
 2. To protect and promote **athlete rights, welfare, and interests**
 3. To provide an **independent athlete voice** in decision-making
 4. To ensure **fair selection, transparency, and accountability**
 5. To act as a bridge between athletes and AIPA governance bodies
-


3. STATUS & INDEPENDENCE

1. The Athlete Commission shall be an **independent statutory body within AIPA**



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(Affiliated to International Federation of Pickleball, USA)

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2. It shall function **autonomously**, free from undue influence of:

- Board of Directors
- Executive Committee
- Office Bearers

3. Administrative support may be provided by AIPA, but:

- Decision-making remains independent
- Elections shall be athlete-driven

4. COMPOSITION

4.1 Size

The Athlete Commission shall consist of:

- **Minimum 7 members**
- **Maximum 11 members (recommended for scalability)**

4.2 Mandatory Representation

The Commission must include:

- **At least 40% women athletes**
- Representation across:
 - Senior athletes
 - Junior/Development athletes
 - Para-athletes (if applicable)

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4.3 Eligibility Criteria

An athlete is eligible if:

1. Has represented India OR
2. Has participated in:
 - National Championships
 - Recognized AIPA tournaments
3. Has been **active within last 8 years**
4. Is not currently:
 - Serving in conflicting administrative roles (unless disclosed)

5. DEFINITION: SPORTSPERSON OF OUTSTANDING MERIT

For the purposes of representation:

A "Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit" shall include:

- National medalists
- International participants/medalists
- Top-ranked national players
- Athletes with demonstrated contribution to sport development



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6. ELECTION OF ATHLETE COMMISSION

6.1 Electoral College

Eligible voters:

- Registered athletes of AIPA
- Athletes who participated in:
 - National Championships (last 3 years)
 - Official ranking events

6.2 Election Process

1. Elections shall be:
 - By **secret ballot**
 - Conducted independently
2. Election supervision:
 - Preferably by **independent Returning Officer**
 - In line with Sports Code election guidelines
3. Tenure:
 - **4 years**
4. Term limit:
 - Maximum **2 consecutive terms**



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6.3 Leadership

The Commission shall elect:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson

From among its members.

7. REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNANCE

7.1 Mandatory Representation

Athlete Commission shall nominate:

- **Minimum 2 representatives (1 male + 1 female)**
To the Executive Committee / Board
-

7.2 Voting Rights

Athlete representatives:

- Shall have **full voting rights**
 - Shall not be symbolic members
-

7.3 25% Athlete Requirement

AIPA shall ensure:

- **Minimum 25% of Executive Committee are sportspersons of outstanding merit**
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8. POWERS & FUNCTIONS

The Athlete Commission shall:

8.1 Governance Role

- Provide input on:
 - Policy decisions
 - Strategic direction
 - Athlete development programs

8.2 Selection Oversight

- Review selection criteria
- Ensure:
 - Transparency
 - Merit-based selection
 - No bias

8.3 Athlete Welfare

- Address:
 - Training conditions
 - Financial support
 - Travel & logistics
 - Insurance & medical support
-

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8.4 Safeguarding

- Act as first point of escalation for:
 - Harassment
 - Abuse
 - Discrimination
- Coordinate with:
 - POSH Committee
 - Safeguarding Officer

8.5 Dispute Resolution

- Provide representation in:
 - Athlete grievances
 - Selection disputes
 - Disciplinary matters

8.6 Anti-Doping Awareness

- Promote awareness of:
 - NADA/WADA rules
- Assist in compliance programs



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9. MEETINGS

- Minimum **2 meetings per year**
- Emergency meetings allowed

Quorum:

- Minimum **50% of members**

Decisions:

- By majority vote

10. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members must:

- Declare conflicts annually
- Recuse themselves where conflict exists

Examples:

- Coaching own athlete in selection
- Financial interest in tournaments

11. ETHICS & CODE OF CONDUCT

Members shall:

- Act in good faith
- Maintain confidentiality
- Avoid misuse of position



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Violation may lead to:

- Suspension
- Removal

12. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

A member may be removed for:

- Misconduct
- Conflict of interest violations
- Non-participation

Process must include:

- Notice
- Opportunity to be heard
- Reasoned decision

13. FUNDING & SUPPORT

AIPA shall:

- Provide administrative support
- Ensure reasonable operational funding

But:

- No control over decisions



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14. REPORTING

The Commission shall:

- Submit annual report to AIPA
- Publish key recommendations

15. AMENDMENT

This policy may be amended:

- By AIPA General Body
- With consultation of Athlete Commission



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