



International
Olympic
Committee

NOC Relations Department

Lt. Gen. Syed Arif HASAN
President
Mr Muhammad Khalid MAHMOOD
Secretary General
Pakistan Olympic Association

Lausanne, 17 September 2021

Situation of the Olympic Movement in Pakistan

Dear President,

Dear Secretary General,

We acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your recent communications relating to the situation currently prevailing between the government authorities and the Olympic and sports movement in Pakistan.

As you know, the IOC/OCA position has been clearly expressed on numerous occasions and in many communications with your NOC and the government authorities over the past decade, and mutual understanding was eventually reached with the government authorities and all concerned parties to resolve the situation. It is therefore highly unfortunate to note that similar issues seem to have resurfaced.

As a first step, we urge you to continue your efforts to meet all government authorities concerned as soon as possible in order to recall this background and find an appropriate solution with a view to ensuring full respect for the fundamental principle of autonomy of the Olympic Movement in Pakistan, while developing harmonious relations and constructive partnerships between the government authorities, your NOC and the National Sports Federation, in the interest of sport and the athletes.

As you know, the IOC's position was summarised in a document (attached for reference) that was produced in the framework of Olympic Agenda 2020 and circulated to all constituents of the Olympic Movement in 2016, on the basis of the Olympic Charter, in particular Paragraph 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, which states:

*Recognising that sport occurs within the framework of society, sports organisations within the Olympic Movement shall apply political neutrality. They have the rights and obligations of autonomy, which include **freely establishing and controlling the rules of sport, determining the structure and governance of their organisations, enjoying the right of elections free from any outside influence** and the responsibility for ensuring that principles of good governance be applied. [Emphasis added].*

The concept of the autonomy of sport was also formally established in a Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in October 2014 ([A/RES/69/6](#)) that recognises sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and also “*supports the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic Movement*”.

Furthermore, we understand that a ruling was issued in 2019 by the Supreme Court in Pakistan to confirm, once and for all, that your NOC was a legally independent and non-governmental entity. This was a decisive milestone for the recognition and protection of the autonomy of your NOC and the whole Olympic Movement in your country, in accordance with the principles and rules of the Olympic Charter.

Unfortunately, we note that the process that seems to have been initiated recently by the Pakistan Sports Board to establish government-controlled “electoral commissions” to conduct the elections of National Sports Federations and government-controlled “dispute-resolution commissions” to adjudicate disputes relating to the National Sports Federations, and to empower the Pakistan Sports Board to appoint ad-hoc committees within the National Sports Federations, is not in line with the principle of responsible autonomy of the Olympic Movement and the above-mentioned elements. Therefore, we can only support the resolution taken by your NOC General Assembly on 3 May 2021 to refuse any such proposals and any undue interference from government entities with the internal governance of the National Sports Federations, which should be determined in their respective statutes in accordance with the rules of the International Sports Federations concerned (copied on this letter, for information and appropriate action, if necessary at this stage, in coordination with their respective National Sports Federations).

Lastly, the pressure that is being exerted on the elected office-bearers of your NOC to resign – due to the results of the team at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – also goes against the above-mentioned principles. As you know, your NOC General Assembly is the only governing body that is entitled to elect, or dismiss, the members of your NOC Executive Board, in accordance with your NOC statutes and the Olympic Charter. So, as

things stand, we wish to re-confirm that the IOC and the OCA continue to recognise your NOC leadership, as elected by your NOC General Assembly on 26 November 2019, and will not accept any undue interference from any third parties with the internal governance of your NOC. Moreover, it goes without saying that the performance of a team at the Olympic Games is the result of combined efforts and financial support from the government authorities, the NOC and the National Sports Federations, with the assistance of the international sports organisations concerned. Consequently, this is a shared responsibility and all parties involved should contribute at their respective levels and play their roles in a coordinated manner to best prepare the team ahead of the Olympic Games. This is, again, the reason for which productive partnerships between all stakeholders are required.

We therefore sincerely trust that all parties can address these issues responsibly and in good faith with a view to resolving this situation amicably and peacefully in the framework of the Olympic Charter, so as to avoid any unnecessary escalation. To this end, we would appreciate it if you could forward a copy of this letter to all concerned government authorities and reiterate the need for an urgent meeting between all concerned parties in Pakistan.

Thank you for your collaboration, and we remain fully at your disposal should you need any further clarification or assistance in your ongoing discussions with the government authorities.

Yours sincerely,



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NOC Relations
International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Husain AL-MUSALLAM
Director General & Technical Director
Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)

Cc: All International Sports Federations concerned

Encl. Reference document / Olympic Agenda 2020