

PRESS RELEASE – REBUTTAL ON MISLEADING ALLEGATIONS REGARDING ATHLETICS TEAM

Dear Media Friends,

We have received media inquiries into the media release by individuals associated with the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP). The statements made by the former officials of AFP are baseless and unfortunately nothing less than an attempt to mislead all. The facts are:

1. POA had reported to the media about the AFP's disaffiliation by the POA due to three positive doping tests in an international competition by a foreign anti doping body, raising serious concerns over doping controls within the sport of Athletics in Pakistan. AFP was initially suspended on 22 December 2020. Following non-compliance with the roadmap provided by POA and the refusal of AFP to cooperate and abide by it. The concerns over inadequate doping controls have been validated on multiple occasions the most recent being the recently concluded National Games where the PSB and not the POA conducted the tests. They also publicly declared in January 2021 that they would not seek POA membership. AFP was officially disaffiliated on 26 March 2021.

2. As a result of the disaffiliation which AFP had itself initiated, the AFP lost its privilege to recommend athletes or athlete support personnel in accordance with the membership rights of the POA. However to uphold the rights of athletes within the sport of Athletics, the POA, post-AFP's disaffiliation, has coordinated with units that are members of AFP and also affiliated with POA, in order to ensure a fair recommendation of athletes based on merit and performance. A similar exercise was conducted for the selection of the Athletics Team for the Asian Games. The athletes and coaches recommended by the Army and WAPDA (National Champion Departments) have showcased outstanding performance at national and international levels, as demonstrated in the recently held National Athletics Championship 2022 and National Games 2023.

3. The Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee and Olympic Council of Asia has stipulated a structured accreditation timeline to facilitate organized preparations for the 2023 Asian Games. This timeline includes various milestones, culminating in the **'Entry by Name' deadline on 15 July 2023**. The outlined procedure aids in ensuring a well-coordinated approach towards successful execution and participant registration for the Games. The timelines for accreditation are:

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|----------------------------|---------------|
| a. Confirmation of Sports: | February 2021 |
| b. Entry By Number: | 15 March 2023 |
| c. Accreditation by: | 20 May 2023 |
| d. Entry By Name: | 15 July 2023 |

4. AFP's allegations stem from a misrepresentation of facts concerning the accreditation process for the Asian Games Hangzhou 2023. We would like to make it very clear that AFP's claim that POA excluded athlete names or did not consider the inclusion is inaccurate and misleading. AFP sent a list of Athletes and coaches to Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and NOT to POA, which PSB forwarded to POA on 25 July 2023, post the 'Accreditation by' and 'Entry by Name' deadlines. POA has informed PSB that the names PSB has recommended (except those already accredited before 20 May 2023) cannot be entered into the system due to timelines. It is also pertinent to mention that only a list of names was forwarded to POA and no required documents were attached which are mandatory for processing purposes.

5. POA also considers that the former officials of AFP misinforming public does not have the constitutional mandate to act so. POA cannot recognize any activity of AFP or its officials as they have also failed to hold their elections that were supposed to be held in 2021. Therefore AFP is a defunct organization and has failed to implement strong doping controls and democratic and Good Governance principles across the organization.

6. The POA has adhered to a structured, transparent, and merit-based approach for athlete and official accreditation. The table below gives the standing of the Athletes in the National Games Quetta and the Athletics National Championship organized by AFP itself. It may also be noted that these very Athletes also include those who participated in the World Athletics Championships and Asian Athletics Championships held in 2023 and were sent there by AFP.

S. #	Name of Athlete	Unit	34 th National Games 2023	National Championship November 2022
1.	WAQAS AKBAR	Army	800m (1 st Position) 1500m (2 nd Position)	800m (1 st Position) 1500m (1 st Position)
2.	RABEELA FAROOQ	Army	800m (2 nd Position) 1500m (1 st Position)	800m (2 nd Position) 1500m (1 st Position)
3.	TAMEEN KHAN	Army	100m (2 nd Position) 200m (3 rd Position)	100m (1 st Position) 200m (1 st Position)
4.	FARHAN ILYAS	Army	110m Hurdles (1 st Position)	Not participated
5.	JAFFAR ASHRAF	Army	Pole Vault (1 st Position)	Pole Vault (1 st Position)
6.	MUHAMMAD AFZAL	Army	Long Jump (1 st Position) Triple Jump (2 nd Position)	Long Jump (1 st Position) Triple Jump (1 st Position)
7.	ABID RAZZAQ	Army	400m Hurdles (1 st Position)	400m Hurdles (1 st Position)
8.	SHAROZ KHAN	Wapda	High Jump (1 st Position)	High Jump (1 st Position)
9.	SOHAIL AMIR	Wapda	1500m (1 st Position) 5000m (2 nd Position) 10000m (1 st Position)	5000m (1 st Position) 10000m (1 st Position)
10.	SHAJAR ABBAS	Wapda	Not participated	100m (1 st Position) 200m (2 nd Position)
11.	MUHAMMAD ASAD UR REHMAN KHAN	Wapda	200m (4 th Position) 400m (3 rd Position)	400m (3 rd Position)
12.	GOHAR SHAHBAZ	Wapda	100m (2 nd Position)	100m (2 nd Position)
13.	MUHAMMAD AKHTAR	Wapda	1500m (3 rd Position) 5000m (1 st Position)	1500m (2 nd Position) 5000m (2 nd Position)
14.	FARHAT BANO	Wapda	1500m (2 nd Position) 5000m (2 nd Position) 10000 (1 st Position)	1500m (2 nd Position) 5000m (1 st Position) 10000m (1 st Position)
15.	MUHAMMAD YASIR	Wapda	Javelin Throw (2 nd Position)	Not participated
16.	GHAZALA RAMZAN	Wapda	100m Hurdles (1 st Position)	100m Hurdles (1 st Position)
17.	ARSHAD NADEEM	Wapda	Javelin Throw (1 st Position)	Javelin Throw (1 st Position)
18.	SAHIB E ASRA	Wapda	400m (2 nd Position)	400m (3 rd Position)
19.	AROOJ KIRAN	Wapda	100m Hurdle (2 nd Position)	100m (4 th Position) 100m Hurdles (2 nd Position)

Best regards,

POA Secretariat