

SRINATH SRIDEVAN

SENIOR ADVOCATE

No. 24, JUDGE JAMBULINGAM ROAD, JAGADAMBAL COLONY,
DURGAPURAM, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI, TAMILNADU 600 004
PROCEEDINGS No 9 OF THE RETURNING OFFICER DATED 11.02.2024

SRINATH SRIDEVAN
Senior Advocate, Madras High Court

In Re Elections to the Rowing Federation Of India

Proceedings in relation to e-mail from Shri Rajiv Sharma, Senior Advocate, Mr.Rajpal Singh and Mr.Ramnik Singh pertaining to Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association, Karnataka Amateur Rowing Association, Rowing Association of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Rowing Association, and Tripura Rowing Association, as well as other issues

These proceedings are in relation to the communications received from Shri Rajiv Sharma raising objections with respect to the Electoral College list published in Form 1 dated 06.02.2024, by the Rowing Federation of India. Very similar objections have been received from Shri Rajpal and Shri Ramnik. I dispose all the objections jointly by these proceedings.

I propose to deal with the objections in three parts:-

Part 1. Complaint relating to non-eligibility of certain Association to submit nominations for the electoral college

- (i) Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association
- (ii) Karnataka Amateur Rowing Association
- (iii) Rowing Association of Madhya Pradesh
- (iv) Uttar Pradesh Rowing Association
- (v) Tripura Rowing Association

Note: The said letter also deals with the rowing association of Pondicherry. I have dealt with these under separate proceedings, and I am awaiting responses pursuant thereto.

Part 2. Complaint relating to eligibility of certain Association to submit nominations for the electoral college

- (i) Non-grant of permission to Manipur Rowing Association
- (ii) Non-grant of permission to Uttarakhand Rowing Association

Part 3. Complaints pertaining to other matters

- (iii) Failure to furnish EC minutes



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Part 1 Complaint relating to non-eligibility of certain Association to submit nominations for the electoral college

A. Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association

I take note of the grievance expressed by Shri Sharma. The fact is that the President of the said Association has resigned, and the fact is also that he did not sign the forms.

The further issue raised by Shri Sharma that it is implausible that the President would not have had an influence on the nominations, is an issue which is beyond the purview of a returning officer. I will have to proceed on the basis of the nominations as they stand.

As in all election matters, the remedy in cases of this nature, is not to interdict the elections. The remedy lies elsewhere.

The Form – 1 as published in relation to Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association will therefore, stand.

B. Karnataka Amateur Rowing Association

Here too, I note the similar concern voiced in relation to the KARA.

C. Here too, my ruling must necessarily be the same as that of Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association

The Form – 1 as published in relation to Karnataka Amateur Rowing Association will therefore, stand.

D. Rowing Association of Madhya Pradesh

Here too, I note the similar concern voiced in relation to the RAMP.

Therefore, my ruling must necessarily be the same as that of Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association

The Form – 1 as published in relation to Rowing Association of Madhya Pradesh will therefore, stand.

E. Uttar Pradesh Rowing Association

The grievance of Shri Sharma in relation to UPRA is also similar. The Federation has informed me that the difference here is that the President (who has crossed the age of 70) is continuing until the next election proposed to be conducted next month.

The President has not signed the nomination. He does not form part of the electoral college.

Therefore, here too, I do not see this as sufficient reason to interdict the election.

The Form – 1 as published in relation to Uttar Pradesh Rowing Association will therefore, stand.

F. Tripura Rowing Association

The grievance in relation to the Tripura Rowing Association office bearers is more serious. The allegation is that the President and Secretary are office bearers in other state sports associations.

I am yet to receive the Federation's response in relation to this allegation. As the time is growing short, I cannot extend time indefinitely.

The Federation is to respond in writing on the allegations made by Shri Sharma in relation to the Tripura Rowing Association. It would be appropriate for Tripura Rowing Association to also respond on these allegations. If it has not been already done, a copy of Shri Sharma's complaint is to be sent to the Tripura Rowing Association to solicit their response.

The Federation (and the Tripura Rowing Association, should they choose to do so) must respond on Shri Sharma's allegations by 12 noon tomorrow, i.e. 12th February 2024.

Based on the above, I will issue further proceedings in relation to the above subject.

Part 2. Complaint pertaining to eligibility of Manipur Rowing Association and Uttarakhand Rowing Association to submit nominations for the electoral college

- A. **Manipur Rowing Association** : My earlier proceedings on this issue are clear. I have been informed by the Federation that there are interim orders of the Honourable Courts of Manipur as well as of the Registrar of Societies, having a direct bearing on the eligibility of that body to nominate persons to the Electoral College.

If these orders have been subsequently vacated or modified, copies may kindly be furnished at the earliest, no later than by 12 noon tomorrow.

- B. **Uttarakhand Rowing Association** : This Association has written to me on 06.02.2024 that they do not wish to participate in the election. The copy of the said letter is attached hereto.



Although there were some litigations, those have been sought to be subsequently withdrawn as seen from the record.

In the light of the above, nothing remains to be considered in relation to this

Part 3. Complaint on other matters

A Complaint has been raised in relation to non-furnishing of EC minutes. I, as a Returning Officer, have nothing to do with this. The request in this regard may be directed to the appropriate channels.

CONCLUSIONS AND DIRECTIONS

1. The Form – 1 as published in relation to Assam Boat Racing and Rowing Association will stand.
2. The Form – 1 as published in relation to Karnataka Amateur Rowing Association will stand.
3. The Form – 1 as published in relation to Rowing Association of Madhya Pradesh will stand.
4. The Form – 1 as published in relation to Uttar Pradesh Rowing Association will stand.
5. The Federation is to respond in writing on the allegations made by Shri Sharma in relation to the Tripura Rowing Association. It would be appropriate for Tripura Rowing Association to also respond on these allegations. If it has not been already done, a copy of Shri Sharma's complaint is to be sent to the Tripura Rowing Association to solicit their response.

The Federation (and the Tripura Rowing Association, should they choose to do so) must respond on Shri Sharma's allegations by 12 noon tomorrow, i.e. 12th February 2024.

Based on the above, I will issue further proceedings in relation to the above subject.

6. The interested parties may furnish to me in writing, the copies, if any, in the event that the orders granted by Hon'ble Courts in Manipur (copies attached) have been subsequently vacated or modified. If there are any reasons as to why these court orders are not applicable to the issue at hand, those too, may be furnished in writing.

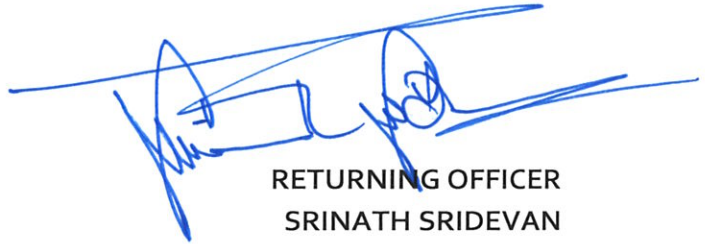


These must be furnished at the earliest, no later than by 12 noon tomorrow, i.e. 12th February 2024.

Based on the above, I will issue further proceedings in relation to the above subject.

7. The non-inclusion of Uttarakhand Rowing Association in the Form – 1 as published, will stand.
8. I make no direction on furnishing of EC Minutes, as it is not within the scope of my remit.

Dated this the 11th day of February 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name of the Returning Officer.

RETURNING OFFICER
SRINATH SRIDEVAN