



INDIA Rowing Rowing Federation of India <sgindiarowing@gmail.com>

Proceedings No 14 of the Returning Officer

Srinath Sridevan <rfelectionofficer2024@gmail.com>

14 February 2024 at 16:56

To: Legal flcons <cra.rowtwin@yahoo.com>, Sriram RFI <sgindiarowing@gmail.com>, Rajlaxmi Singh Deo <rowingindia@gmail.com>

Cc: Aishwarya Nathan <aishwarya.nathan@gmail.com>, vishnu r <vishnu_lex@yahoo.com>

PROCEEDINGS No 14 OF THE RETURNING OFFICER DATED 14.02.2024**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 dated 14.02.2024

These proceedings are issued in relation to the latest communication received from Shri Rajiv Sharma dated 14. 02.2024.

1. In relation to the Manipur Rowing Association, I have already issued my ruling.
2. Shri Sharma has questioned my ruling on various grounds.
3. Shri Sharma had earlier brought to my notice the non-inclusion of Manipur Rowing Association in the published Form-1, and urged me to direct the Rowing Federation to permit the Manipur Rowing Association to submit their nominations. I accepted this and issued a direction accordingly. Thereafter, on 13.02.2024, the Manipur Rowing Association submitted nominees, which are different from the nominations submitted earlier. Now, Shri Sharma's request is that the electoral college should be comprised of the persons whose names are contained in the earlier nomination of the Manipur Rowing Association, and not the names contained in the nomination submitted on 13.02.2024.
4. It is evident that there are disputes within the Manipur Rowing Association and this is clear from the litigations themselves.
5. Be that as it may, the persons competent to speak about who will represent the Manipur Rowing Association are the members of that association themselves.
6. Although there seems to be some back-and-forth on this issue (including some unsavoury allegations of computer hacking), the Manipur Rowing Association seems to have ultimately submitted a nomination on 13.02.2024. I am not aware of any other member of this Association raising any counter-view.
7. When once the Manipur Rowing Association has been permitted to submit nominations to the Electoral College, one has to respect their internal decision making process.
8. Accordingly, I decline the request to ignore the latest submission and to go by the earlier submission of the Manipur Rowing Association.
9. Shri Sharma has drawn my attention to the timing of the letter sent by Manipur Rowing Association. In my view, this cannot be a ground to refuse to them the right to vote. Nor can it be a reason to refuse to them the right to nominate persons of their choice.

10. At the risk of repetition, I reiterate that all issues as to the competence of a body to nominate persons to the Electoral College or the authority of persons representing a particular association, are matters to be raised in appropriate proceedings, post the elections. These issues cannot be allowed to interdict or delay an ongoing election process.

Dated this the 14th day of February 2024.

RETURNING OFFICER