
Proceedings No 16 of the Returning Officer

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PROCEEDINGS No 16 OF THE RETURNING OFFICER DATED 16.02.2024

SRINATH SRIDEVAN
Senior Advocate, Madras High Court

In Re Elections to the Rowing Federation Of India

Proceedings in relation to Puduke and Tripura Rowing Associations.

1. Shri Rajeev Sharma had, over the course of his many e-mails to me, raised the issue of the rowing associations from Pondicherry and Tripura.

2. I had vide Proceedings No 7 and Proceedings 12 said that I would take a decision in relation to Puduke Rowing Association and Tripura Rowing Association today, based on any documents received up until 14.02.2024.

I have not received any further documents from any of the relevant parties in relation to Puduke Rowing Association or Tripura Rowing Association since that day.

I have received one email from one Mr. Shunmugaraj K, Secretary, Societe' d'Aviron Pondicherry informing me that a Writ has been filed by the Societe' d'Aviron Pondicherry against Puduke Rowing Association, before the Hon'ble Madras High Court.

I note that the Writ Petition has not been allotted a number and appears to be in preliminary filing stage. From the attachment sent to me I note that the Petitioner does not challenge the affiliation granted to Puduke Rowing Association by the Federation, but only seeks an interim order to restrain Puduke Rowing Association from participating in the RFI's election.

3. In these circumstances, in the absence of any orders to the contrary in the above Writ Petition, I conclude that the acceptance of nomination in respect of the Rowing Association from Pondicherry (Puduke Rowing Association) is in order and I confirm the action of the Federation in including their nominees in the Form 1.

4. Of course, if any orders are passed by the Hon'ble Court, those would bind the parties, and supercede these directions to that extent.

5. The allegations made with respect to the Tripura Rowing Association appears to be borne out from the fact that there is no response to the allegation that office-bearers of the Tripura Rowing Association hold office in other state sports associations contrary to the provisions of the Sports Code.

6. Inasmuch as this is not disputed or controverted by the Tripura Rowing Association inspite of substantial amount of time given by me, I hold that the Tripura Rowing Association is not entitled to nominate persons to the Electoral College.

7. I therefore direct the Federation to delete the nominees of the Tripura Rowing Association from the Form 1.

8. A fresh Form 1 should now be published taking note of the changes directed pursuant to the present proceedings. However, having regard to the fact that nominations have already been submitted giving reference to the "Serial Numbers" in the published Form 1, the numbering need not be disturbed. Rather, the Serial Numbers allotted to Tripura can be kept 'VACANT'.

Dated this the 16th day of February 2024.

