

**W.B.SRINIVAS**  
**Senior Advocate**

High Court of AP & Telangana State  
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Nallakunta (Vegetable Market Road), Hyderabad - 500004

**Proceeding No.2/WB of the Returning Officer dated 18.02.2024**


**In the matter of elections to Rowing Federation of India**

Vide Proceeding No.1/WB of the Returning Officer dated 17.02.2024, it was communicated to all concerned that I was appointed as RO to continue with the election process from the stage of scrutiny of nominations which was not taken up by the predecessor RO since he had resigned on 16-02-2024. In order to complete the remaining process, I have issued a revised time schedule from the stage of scrutiny of nominations and finally elections will be held on 25-02-2024 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM which was already notified by my predecessor. It is also informed that the Revised schedule issued by me dt.17.02.2024 would be part and parcel of Election guidelines dt.29.01.2024 and Election guidelines and schedule communicated by my predecessor Returning officer. In this regard, I have received certain objections from Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Honorary Secretary, Chandigarh Rowing Association and Lt. Col. Harpal Singh, objecting to the revised schedule, expressing objections to the schedule fixed and requesting to re-consider the date and time of Scrutiny and Elections, stating that it is a tight schedule.

(i). In this regard, I have considered the objections raised, having gone through the same, I find the same are not tenable, and hence **reject** the same since the date and time of Elections were already notified long back by my predecessor as way back as on 29-01-2024 which was further revised by him in his proceedings no.12 dt.12.02.2024 wherein the scrutiny was to be taken up on 17-02-2024. Since my predecessor resigned on 16.02.2024, I was appointed as RO to continue with the Election process on 17.02.2024. Therefore, I had to re-schedule the scrutiny of nominations instead of 17.02.2024 to the revised date 19.02.2024, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm in order to facilitate the candidates to attend and for smooth functioning of the Election process. The request made to postpone the Election schedule and date of Election cannot be permitted since it would stall the Election process already commenced and since Elections are to be completed in time on 25.02.2024 as scheduled and the same cannot be postponed.

Hence, all concerned may note that the Revised Election Schedule fixed by me in Proceeding No.1/WB of the Returning Officer dated 17.02.2024 **stands intact**.

(ii). I have received Objections from Mr.Rajeev Sharma, Rajpal Singh, Nongmaithem Hari, Founding Member MRA, President Andhra Pradesh Rowing, Chiranjit Phukan Joint Secretary, Assam Boat Racing & Rowing Association, Ismail Baig, Hony Secretary, Telangana Rowing Association and others wherein objections are raised with regard to

  
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decision taken by my predecessor RO for "Inclusion of Manipur Rowing College" has been raised, couple of them supporting and most others objecting. Also Mr.Rajeev Sharma raised certain other issues regarding "Inclusion of Puduke, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Rowing Associations" apart from seeking to review the decisions of my predecessor RO and other proceedings given by him. Couple of others have also raised objections on the same lines. I have considered all the objections received by me vide emails during the course of the day dt.17.02.2024 and after past midnight and couple of objections in the morning hours today on 18.02.2024. I have considered all these objections and having gone through the same and the previous proceedings of my predecessor RO, it is found that all these objections were already raised with regard to inclusion of the above named Rowing Federations which were already met with by my predecessor RO and the same were rejected by giving detailed reasons in that regard and my predecessor RO had taken decision with regard to Inclusion of the above referred Rowing Federations and exclusion of Tripura Association. A fresh Form-1 was communicated by the President RFI, indicating the names of Electoral College on 14.02.2024 and after receiving the nominations of Manipur Rowing Associations, a fresh list of nominations was also published on 16.02.2024 in Form-3. Thereafter in view of Resignation of RO on 16.02.2024, I have taken over as Returning Officer on 17.02.2024 and have to continue the Election process and hold Elections on 25.02.2024.

Since my predecessor has already taken decisions after duly considering objections which are again now repeated, I therefore deem it inappropriate for me to review the decisions taken by the predecessor Returning Officer and I cannot entertain these objections which were already been answered and decided. I therefore deem appropriate to continue with the Election process as per the proceedings given by me in Proceeding No.1/WB of the Returning Officer dated 17.02.2024 and also hereby inform that no further objections shall be entertained on the decisions taken by the predecessor Returning Officer and on the Revised Schedule issued by me since Elections cannot be stalled once the Election process has started, nor as a Returning Officer appointed to continue further process of Election from the stage of scrutiny of nominations, I cannot review the earlier decisions taken nor I am empowered to do so.

Dated this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

  
**W.B.SRINIVAS**  
Senior Advocate  
**RETURNING OFFICER**