National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026

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Why in News?

Recently, the Union Government notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026.

- **National Sports Tribunal –** A quasi-judicial body to adjudicate disputes related to National Sports Bodies.
- **Aim –** To lay down the structure, appointment process, powers, and service conditions for the Tribunal that will resolve sports-related disputes.
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **Parent Legislation –** National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

National Sports Tribunal Rules, 2026

- **Composition –** Tribunal consists of a Chairperson and Members appointed under Section 17 of the Act.
- **Selection Mechanism –** Appointed by the Central Government from a panel recommended by the Search-cum-Selection Committee.
- **Declaration of Interests –** Chairperson and Members must annually declare assets, liabilities, and financial interests.
- **Term of Office –** Chairperson holds office for 5 years or till age 70; Members for 5 years or till age 67, whichever is earlier.
- **Resignation –** Chairperson or Member may resign by written notice to the Central Government.
- A Chairperson or Member continues in office for up to 3 months after giving notice, or until a successor takes charge, or until their term ends, whichever is earlier, unless the Government allows an earlier exit.
- **Vacancy –** Central Government must fill vacancies within one month of occurrence or three months before tenure ends.
- **Removal of Members –** The central government shall remove Chairperson or any Member if they are
    - Insolvent
    - Convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.
    - Physically or mentally unfit or have conflicting financial interests.
- The Member must be given a chance to explain before action is taken.
- **Residuary Provisions –** Conditions not expressly covered shall follow Group ‘A’

service rules

- **Other Conditions –** Terms and conditions of the Chairperson or any Member with no express provisions will match those of a Group 'A' Government of India officer with the same pay.
- The Chairperson and the Members shall not –
  - Practice before the Tribunal, after retirement.
  - Take up arbitration work while serving in the Tribunal.
  - For two years after leaving office, accept jobs in or linked to any National Sports Body, committee, club, or association governed by the Act.
- **Oath of Office & Secrecy –** Mandatory before entering office.

Digital Governance

- **Techno-Legal Implementation –** Mandates a single-window electronic portal, notified by the Central Government, for submitting disputes, notices, responses, documents, and clarifications.
- **Virtual Proceedings –** Legally enables the Tribunal to conduct remote, virtual hearings and distribute communication electronically to ensure accessibility for athletes nationwide.
- **Digital Archiving –** Requires the digital publication of final orders and the electronic maintenance of all case records.

Powers of the Tribunal

- **Judicial Powers –** May issue orders or directions to meet ends of justice or prevent abuse of process.
- **Interim Orders –** Can grant injunctions or stays after hearing parties.
- **Enforcement –** Tribunal orders are executable as civil court decrees; final after appeal period expires.

References

- PIB | National Sports Tribunal Rules
- The Gazette of India | National Sports Tribunal Rules

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