AITA'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PREPARED BY THE LEARNED ADMINISTRATOR

PRESENT RULE (AITA RULES AND REGULATIONS, 2020)	LD. ADMINISTRATOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	AITA EC'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND COMMENTS TO THE LD. ADMINISTRATOR'S PROPOSAL
Rule 3(c) (existing) "Central Council" shall mean and include the Office Bearers, Senior Vice President, Vice President Sports, Vice Presidents and Joint Secretaries of AITA, two representatives each nominated by the President / Honorary Secretary of the Affiliates and one representative of each of the Associate Affiliates.	3(c) [Substitute]: 'Central Council' means the general body of the Association constituted under Rule 6(a).	**General Body: Shall have the meaning ascribed in Rule 6(a).** *Comment*: Term "General Body" has been adopted from Section 4 of the Act and replaces the term "Central Council" across the document.
Rule 3(d) (existing) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the AITA duly elected at Annual General Meeting plus two player representatives nominated by the Athlete's Commission, with concurrence of President, AITA.	3(d)[Substitute]: 'Executive Committee' means the committee of the Association constituted under Rule 6(b).	**Executive Committee: Means the Executive Committee of the AITA duly elected at Annual General Meeting.** *Comment*: Reference to Rule 6(b), as suggested by the Ld. Administrator may be added.
Rule 3(g) "Office-bearers of the AITA" mean and include the President, Hon. Secretary General, and Hon. Treasurer.	-------	**Omitted** *Comment*: No definition of "office bearers" prescribed in the Act.

Rule 3(i) "Senior Vice President" means the Senior Vice President of the AITA duly elected by the Central Council.	3(i) [Deleted] *The definition of 'Senior Vice President' is deleted, the post having been abolished under Rule 6(b).*	**Vice Presidents: Means the Vice Presidents duly elected by the General Body.** *Comment*: Rule 3 (i) was the definition of Vice Presidents as per the existing constitution of AITA and not Senior Vice President. All references to Senior Vice President, Vice President (Sports) and Vice President (Chair) have been omitted by us from the Constitution. A single and simplified definition of Vice President is incorporated.
Rule 3(k) "Vice President Sports (VP Sports)" shall mean the Vice President Sports duly elected by the Executive Committee from amongst the Vice Presidents elected by the Central Council.	3(k) [Deleted]	**Vice President (Chair) and Vice President (Sports) both deleted.**
Rule 3(s) No existing provision.	3(s) [New]: 'Sportsperson of outstanding merit' means a person whose name appears on a roster prepared under Rule 6(aa).	**3(o) Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit: Shall have the scope and meaning ascribed to the term in Annexure III of these Rules.** *Comment*: Annexure III Contains Sportspersons of Outstanding Meri Bye-laws consistent with the National Sports Bodies Rules, 2026. It is further proposed to re-arrange the definitions alphabetically.
Rule 6(a) (existing) Central Council (i) Central Council shall mean and include the Office Bearers, Senior VP, VP Sports, Vice Presidents, Joint Secretaries of AITA, two representatives each nominated by the President /	6(a) [Substitute] Central Council: The Central Council shall function as the general body of the Association for the purposes of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The Central Council shall consist of	**a. General Body** **General Body shall mean and include:** **i. State Affiliates, each of which shall be represented by two representatives each nominated by the Executive Committee of the State Affiliate;**

Honorary Secretary of the Affiliates and one representative each of the Associate Affiliates. (ii) The number of Vice-Presidents shall not exceed eight at any one time. (iii) The number of Joint Secretaries shall not exceed four at any one time.	(a) the members of the Executive Committee for the time being in office; (b) five Vice-Presidents, one from each of the following zones, namely:- (i) the North Zone; (ii) the South Zone; (iii) the East Zone; (iv) the West Zone; and (v) the Central Zone; (c) five Joint Secretaries, one from each of the following zones, namely:- (i) the North Zone; (ii) the South Zone; (iii) the East Zone; (iv) the West Zone; and (v) the Central Zone; (d) one representative of each Affiliate registered with the National Sports Board; (e) one representative of each Associate Affiliate; (f) eight sportspersons of outstanding merit, of whom four shall be men and four shall be women; and (g) One nominee of the Paralympic Committee of India nominated by its Executive Committee. Each sportsperson of outstanding merit and each authorised representative of an Affiliate shall have one vote.	**ii. Associate Affiliates, each of which shall be represented by one representative, provided that Associate Affiliates shall be entitled to participate in proceedings of the General Body without voting rights;** **iii. Four (4) Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (2 males and 2 females), who shall be elected by the retired sportspersons included in the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Roster of the Association from amongst themselves as outlined in <u>Annexure III</u> to these Rules;** **iv. Institution or any other organisation to which the AITA has granted affiliation and which satisfies the conditions laid down in Rule 18 of the Rules, such as Railway Sports Promotion Board, Services Sports Control Board, etc without voting rights.** **Only the State Affiliates (2 votes per State Affiliate) and Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit representatives (1 vote each) shall have voting rights in meetings of General Body. The members of the Executive Committee of AITA can attend the meeting of General Body, but cannot vote in their capacity as member of the Executive Committee unless they are nominated by a State Affiliate as their representative.** *<u>Comments</u>:* 1. The newly proposed structure of General Body is completely consistent with the Act.

	Associate Affiliates shall not be entitled to vote but may participate in discussions. 6(aa) The procedure for designating sportspersons of outstanding merit shall be as follows- (i) not less than one hundred and fifty days before the expiry of the term of the Executive Committee, the Association shall issue a public call for applications; (ii) applications shall close sixty days after the call; (iii) not less than ninety days before the expiry of the term, the Association shall prepare gender-segregated rosters of eligible applicants, each roster containing ten times the number of sportspersons required; the rosters shall be populated in order of tier under Schedule I of the Sports Governance Rules, 2026, with the eldest applicant preferred where applicants from the same tier exceed available places; (iv) the rosters shall be published on the Association's official website and submitted to the National Sports Board; and (v) the election or nomination of sportspersons of outstanding merit from the rosters shall be completed not less than seventy-five days before the expiry of the term of the Executive Committee	2. The proposed amendment of the Ld. Administrator provides for offices of Vice President and Joint Secretaries in the General Body which is not provided in the Rules. Further, it does not clarify how the Joint Secretaries and Vice Presidents will be elected as they are not covered under Rule 6(b). 3. There are separate detailed SOM Bye-Laws prepared by us which are in line with the Act and the Rules and hence the same may be used instead of Rule 6(aa) which is not as detailed. 4. Our proposal clarifies how each representative of State shall come. 5. The Ld. Administrator's proposed amendment does not clarify whether all EC members, Joint Secretaries and Vice Presidents shall also have voting rights or not. If yes, the states from which EC members belong will have three votes in AITA GB, which may not be fair for those not having representation in EC. 6. In reality, AITA does not have any defined zones on paper. Thus, in our proposal, the concept of zones has been done away with entirely throughout the document. 7. Number of SOM has been retained strictly from the SG Rules. 8. Paralympic Committee of India has no role whatsoever, even remotely, in AITA and hence, there is no need to include one nominee from there in AITA GB. If at all there should be any position, it should be for a retired para-tennis player who can be nominated jointly by the 4 elected SOM GB members. 9. Given that the Hon'ble High Court has permitted time for States to comply with the Act, there need not

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<td>be a provision allowing only those State Affiliates to vote who are registered with the National Sports Board (NSB). The NSB has yet not been constituted and hence any rule requiring registration with the NSB will be premature at this stage.
10. The number of seats for a particular category of member in the General Body should be commensurate to the population represented by the member. Each State Affiliate represents its entire State, which includes the Districts, Clubs and Taluka therein. On the other hand, each SOM represents retired athletes whose number does not measure up to the vast population and stakeholders that each State Affiliate represents.
11. A guarantee of 4 sportspersons is already higher than that provided in Clause 11.1 of the ITF Constitution, which guarantees only 2 player representatives in the Executive Committee of ITF.</td>
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<td>Rule 6(b) (existing)
Executive Committee
The Executive Committee shall consist of President, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary General, VP Sports, Hon. Joint Secretaries and Hon. Treasurer, ten (10) members elected from the representatives representing Affiliates and two player representatives representing the AITA Athletes' Commission.</td>
<td>6(b) [Substitute]
Executive Committee:
The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen members elected from the Central Council and shall include—
• President;
• Secretary General;
• Treasurer;
• five sportspersons of outstanding merit;</td>
<td>b. <u>Executive Committee</u>
i. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:
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<tr><th>Sr.No.</th><th>Post</th><th>Number</th></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td>President</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td>Vice-President</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.</td><td>Secretary General</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.</td><td>Joint Secretary (Male)</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.</td><td>Joint Secretary (Post Reserved for Female))</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.</td><td>Treasurer</td><td>1</td></tr>
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- Two representatives of the Athletes Committee elected from among themselves; and
- five members, preferably from each of the Zones (North, South, East, West and Central):

Provided that at least five of the members on the Executive Committee shall be women, including two women sportspersons of outstanding merit and a woman representative of the Athletes Committee.

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<tr><td>7.</td><td>Executive Member (Minimum 1 post reserved for female)</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td>8.</td><td>Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit (1 male and 1 female) who shall be elected by the retired sportspersons included in the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Roster of the Association from amongst themselves [as prescribed in Annexure III to these Rules]</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>9.</td><td>Athletes Commission Representatives (1 male and 1 female) who shall be elected by the members of the Athletes Committee from</td><td>2</td></tr>
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			amongst themselves.	
			Total:	**15**

ii. The Executive Committee shall not have more than 15 members.

iii. The term of the Executive Committee shall be of four (4) years.

iv. At least (4) members of the Executive Committee shall be women. This shall include (a) 1 Joint Secretary, (b) 1 Members Executive, (c) 1 representative of the Athletes Committee, and (d) 1 female Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit.

v. At least two (2) members of the Executive Committee shall be Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit out of whom 1 shall be male 1 shall be female.

vi. At least two (2) members of the Executive Committee shall be representatives from the Athletes Committee out of whom 1 shall be male 1 shall be female and these representatives shall have voting rights except where they have a conflict of interest vis-à-vis the agenda being taken up.

vii. The Executive Committee shall exercise the powers as defined in these Regulations and entrusted upon by the General Body.

No member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible to vote on an agenda in an Executive Committee meeting where they have a conflict of interest vis-à-vis the agenda being taken up.

		Comments: 1. The proposed Executive Committee structure is entirely consistent with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the Rules thereunder. 2. It maintains a balanced and compact governing body of 15 members, ensures adequate reservation women, athletes and Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, incorporates voting rights for athlete representatives, 3. Our proposal includes an essential safeguard of not allowing EC members to vote where they have a conflict-of-interest. The said safeguard is missing from the draft of the Ld. Administrator. 4. Our proposal guarantees the 4 posts which will remain reserved for women at all times. The said safeguard is missing from the draft of the Ld. Administrator. 5. Maintaining 4 posts for athletes out of 15 equates to a 37.5% reservation for athletes which was the mandate under the earlier regime of Sports Code, the Rahul Mehra judgement, the draft Constitution of IOA, as well as the Sports Act. The proposal of the Ld. Administrator for 5 SOM is not contemplated under any law or court order. No rationale has been provided for the said number in the proposed amendments of the Ld. Administrator. 6. In the same fashion, maintaining 4 reserved seats for women is also in excess of the minimum 30% mark approved in the draft IOA Constitution, the Sports Code, and the Rahul Mehra judgement. The proposal of 5 seats for women is not contemplated under any law or court order and no rationale for the same is

		provided in the proposed amendments of the Ld. Administrator. 7. Proposed independence of election and selection of SOM and Athletes' representatives is already an upgrade from the nomination mechanism provided by the ITC Constitution in Clause 11.1 read with 12.9.
Rule 6(c) Ethics Committee (existing) An Ethics Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for looking into matters relating to adherence to ethical guidelines of the Association and the international sporting bodies.	6(c) [Substitute] Ethics Committee: An Ethics Committee shall be maintained as a permanent standing committee of the Association. The Ethics Committee shall have independence in its decision-making. The Ethics Committee shall have jurisdiction over all members of the Central Council, members of the Executive Committee, employees, players, coaches, officials and affiliates. Its constitution, operation and procedure shall be as provided in the Bye-Laws, in compliance with the International Charters and Statutes of the International Tennis Federation, the guidelines of the Indian Olympic Association and any model guidelines issued by the National Sports Board.	**c. <u>Ethics Committee</u>** **i. A 5-Member Ethics Committee consisting of One (1) Chairman and Four (4) Members (2 male and 2 female) will be appointed by the General Body upon nomination by the Executive Committee for a term of 4 years.** **ii. The Ethics Committee shall have at least:** • **1 - a person of eminence and repute** • **1 - SOM from the AITA SOM Roster** • **1 - a person who has in the past been a part of the AITA Executive Committee** • **1 - a person with legal knowledge** • **1 - a person with expertise in finance and accounting** **iii. No person from the incumbent Executive Committee or the General Body of AITA shall be appointed to the Ethics Committee.** **iv. The Ethics Committee shall exercise the powers, perform the functions and follow the procedure which is applicable to the ITF Ethics Commission as per the ITF's Rules & Regulations, ITF's Code of Ethics, ITF's Ethics Commission Conflict of Interest**

		Guidance and ethical guidelines of the Association. **v. The purpose of the Ethics Committee is to help ensure that the sport of tennis is governed ethically and in accordance with the highest standards of honesty and integrity.** **vi. The Executive Committee may formulate an AITA Code of Ethics and publish it on the website of AITA.** **vii. The ITF Code of Ethics and the AITA Code of Ethics shall apply to the Executive Committee, members of the Sub-Committees, and each person who is a candidate for election or is appointed or is seeking appointment in AITA in any capacity.** **viii. The Ethics Committee shall function entirely independent of the Executive Committee and General Body. However, the Ethics Committee shall have the liberty to take assistance from AITA staff for administrative support and the proper functioning of the Ethics Committee.** **ix. The Ethics Committee shall depute an observer for the elections of AITA Executive Committee for ensuring that no unethical practices are being adopted during the process.** *Comments*: 1. The proposed Ethics Committee represents a robust governance mechanism that promotes transparency,

		accountability and institutional integrity within AITA. 2. The Ld. Administrator's proposal does not provide for the exact composition and leaves it for the Bye-Laws to provide for the same. The EC has undertaken the said exercise and after examining the composition of the ITF Ethics Commission, the proposed amendments are formulated. This leaves no space for any future EC to tamper with the composition. Please see this link: Tennis Ethics Commission | ITF 3. The proposed Committee has a balanced composition comprising independent professionals, a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit, legal and financial experts. 4. The proposal carefully and expressly excluding members of the incumbent Executive Committee and General Body, thereby ensuring institutional independence, an issue which has been faced by various NSFs over the several few years. 5. The proposed clauses are in line with Clause 8.2.8 and 17 of the ITF Constitution.
Rule 6(c) Arbitration Committee (existing) An Arbitration Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee and be responsible for dealing with any dispute between AITA and any of its affiliates/affiliates of affiliates/players/coaches/umpires & officials/administrators, and any other dispute relating to internal matters of AITA. The decision of	6(c) [Insertion] Dispute Resolution Committee: The Dispute Resolution Committee shall facilitate the resolution of disputes. When any dispute arises between AITA and any of its affiliates/affiliates of	**d. Dispute Resolution Committee** **i. A 5-Member Dispute Resolution Committee consisting of One (1) Chairman and (4) Members will be appointed by the General Body upon nomination by the Executive Committee for a term of 4 years.** **ii. The Dispute Resolution Committee shall have the following composition:**

the Arbitration Committee, which will act in accordance with the laws relating to arbitration in the country, will be final and binding on all concerned.	affiliates/players/coaches/umpires and officials/administrators, or if there is any other dispute relating to internal matters of AITA, the dispute may be resolved through arbitration or mediation. There shall be a roster of arbitrators and trained mediators maintained by the Dispute Resolution Committee. If the parties opt for arbitration, an arbitration tribunal shall be constituted by the Dispute Resolution Committee by selecting one arbitrator from the roster of arbitrators, with the consent of all parties to the dispute. The decision of the arbitrator, who will act in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, will be final and binding on all parties. If the parties opt for mediation, a sole Mediator shall be appointed by the Dispute Resolution Committee, with the consent of the parties, from the panel of trained mediators on the roster prepared by the Dispute Resolution Committee. Any settlement pursuant to the mediation by the Mediator shall be final and binding on all parties.	• **Chairman - a retired judge of a high court** • **Member - a senior advocate (male)** • **Member - a senior advocate (female)** • **Member - a person who has in the past been a part of the AITA Executive Committee** • **Member - a person with expertise in finance and accounting** **iii. The Chairman shall decide the composition and the number of members hearing the dispute depending on the subject matter of the dispute. However, for matters a. and b. of subsection IV. below the composition of the members hearing will be of all the 5 members.** **iv. The Dispute Resolution Committee shall be responsible for hearing and deciding any and all disputes:** **a. Regarding elections of AITA or its affiliates;** **b. Regarding matters involving AITA's affairs;** **c. Regarding matters involving AITA's affiliates;** **d. Regarding matters involving affiliates of AITA's affiliates;** **e. Pertaining to any action against a player;** **f. Pertaining to selections;** **g. Pertaining to age fraud;**

	All disputes shall ordinarily be resolved within a period of ninety (90) days from the date of appointment of the arbitrator or sole mediator.	**h. Pertaining to any tournament conducted by AITA its affiliates, or affiliates of AITA's affiliates;** **i. Pertaining to disciplinary action taken by AITA or its affiliates;** **j. Arising out of the field of play; and** **Provided, the complaint regarding or pertaining to the internal matter within the State Affiliate shall at first instance be instituted before that State Affiliate's dispute resolution committee. In such cases, the AITA Dispute Resolution Committee shall hear appeals against the decision of the dispute resolution committee of the State Affiliates.** **v. The decision of the Dispute Resolution Committee shall be final and binding.** **vi. Before any dispute is referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee, it shall first be referred to a Mediation Panel consisting of 3 members (who shall be persons with past experience of conducting mediation) which shall be appointed by the General Body of AITA in the Annual General Meeting in which the election for the Executive Committee is conducted. Only once the said Mediation Panel gives a certificate that there is no scope for amicable settlement in the dispute, then the aggrieved party may**

		file a complaint before the Dispute Resolution Committee. **vii. The AITA Dispute Resolution Committee shall follow the procedure as deemed appropriate by it. The Dispute Resolution Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee shall duly formulate the forms and procedures for filing complaints before the Dispute Resolution Committee and the same shall be published on the website of AITA.** **viii. The AITA Dispute Resolution Committee shall act independent of AITA Executive Committee and General Body.** **ix. AITA's members, coaches, players, staff, or any other person or entity in public, which has any dispute with AITA shall not approach any court of law for any grievance with AITA or any of its state/district units. All disputes shall be brought before AITA's Dispute Resolution Committee. Recourse to ordinary and constitutional courts of law shall be barred.** **x. The Chairman of the Dispute Resolution Committee may, from time to time, lay down nominal fees for filing complaints after approval form the Executive Committee.** **xi. AITA shall extend all assistance to the Dispute Resolution Committee in order to ensure that its operations run smoothly and in an efficient manner.**

		Comments: 1. The proposed Dispute Resolution Committee strengthens good governance in AITA by providing an independent and structured mechanism for resolving disputes. 2. The inclusion of legal experts, mediation, and an appellate process promotes fairness, transparency, and accountability. 3. It is in line with the spirit of the National Sports Governance framework, which encourages effective internal dispute resolution and institutional autonomy within sports bodies. 4. The Ld. Administrator's proposal does not provide for the exact composition and leaves it for the Bye-Laws to provide for the same. The EC has undertaken the said exercise and after examining the composition of the ITF Ethics Commission, the proposed amendments are formulated. This leaves no space for any future EC to tamper with the composition. Maintaining a roster will leave scope for arbitrary appointments and manipulation. Thus, it is suggested that a fixed committee be appointed. 5. The suggestion of the Ld. Administrator for concluding the cases within 90 days is welcomed. However, it may not be strictly possible to achieve the same. Thus, it is suggested that the phrase 'endeavour to' may be incorporated.
No Existing Provision	Rule 6(c) [Insertion] Internal Complaints Committee:	**32 (s) The Executive Committee shall constitute an Internal Complaints Committee to prevent and address 'Sexual Harassment of women'.**

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<td>The Association shall constitute an independent Internal Complaints Committee, as required by the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, in accordance with the Bye-Laws.</td>
<td>Read with Article 6 (e) vi.

Comment: This is an already existing Committee and hence, the insertion is not necessary.</td>
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<td><u>Rule 6(d)</u> (existing)
AITA Athletes' Commission
As required by the Olympic Charter, AITA will have an Athletes' Commission. The Commission shall be formed with the following criteria:
(a) The Commission will have a maximum 8 members with its own office bearers.
(b) A member can serve a maximum of three (3) terms, i.e. 12 years.
(c) 50% of the members will be elected by the players and 50% will be nominated by the Executive Committee of AITA.
(d) Elections to the Commission shall be held every 4 years.
(e) To be eligible to be elected as a member of the Commission an athlete must have: (i) been above 18 years of age; (ii) achieved an ATP/WTA ranking and/or ITF Junior Ranking of less than 300 and/or ITF Seniors Ranking (age groups 35+/40+ only) of less than 25, during his/her career; (iii) never received any sanction in relation to World Anti-Doping Code.
(f) Election would be conducted in the presence of an AITA appointed Election Observer.
(g) Commission will try and maintain Gender Equality and have at least 2 female athletes.</td>
<td>6(d) [Substitute]
Athletes Committee:
As required by the Olympic Charter, AITA will have an Athletes Committee. The Committee shall be formed with the following criteria:
(a) The Committee will have a maximum of 8 members with its own office bearers.
(b) A member can serve a maximum of three (3) terms, i.e. 12 years.
(c) 50% of the members will be elected by the players and 50% will be nominated by the Executive Committee of AITA.
(d) Elections to the Committee shall be held every 4 years.
(e) To be eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee, an athlete must have satisfied the following criteria:
(i) must be above 18 years of age;
(ii) must have achieved an ATP/WTA ranking and/or ITF Junior Ranking of less than 300 and/or ITF Seniors Ranking (age groups 35+/40+ only) of less than 25, during his/her career; and</td>
<td>6(f) AITA Athletes Committee
AITA will have an elected Athletes Committee. The Committee shall be formed with the following criteria:
(a) The Athletes Committee will have 2 members (1 male and 1 female) who shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee of AITA.
(b) Term: The Athletes Committee shall have a term of 4 years from the date of their election.
(c) Tenure: A member can serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms, i.e. 12 years, and after that they must undergo a cooling off period of one term i.e. 4 years, before again seeking election to the Athletes Committee.
(d) Eligibility: To be eligible to be elected as a member of the Athletes Committee an athlete must have satisfied the following criteria:
i. Must be an Indian citizen, and
ii. Must be above 18 years of age on the day of announcement of election, and
iii. be in good standing with AITA, meaning not currently suspended or otherwise ineligible to participate in AITA-recognised tournaments pursuant to any applicable rules or regulations, and</td>
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(h) Commission will have only one member from the Seniors category. (i) The Commission will nominate two representatives to be members of the AITA Executive Committee, with concurrence of AITA President. (j) The Commission will be elected by athletes who qualify to be members as per the above criteria.	(iii) must never have received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code: Provided that the athlete shall not be eligible if he or she meets any of the criteria for disqualification given in Rule 11 of the Sports Governance Rules 2026. (f) Elections to the Committee shall be conducted by the Electoral Officer simultaneously with elections to the Executive Committee. (g) Not fewer than fifty per cent. of the members of the Athletes Committee shall be women. (h) The Committee will have only one member from the Seniors category. (i) The Athletes Committee shall nominate two representatives to be members of the Executive Committee. (j) The Committee will be elected by athletes who qualify to be members as per the above criteria. Its constitution, operation and procedure shall comply with the International Charters and Statutes of the International Tennis Federation; in the absence of such guidelines, with those of the Indian Olympic Association; and in the absence of both, with model guidelines issued by the National Sports Board.	**iv. not have previously served a suspension period of three (3) months or longer, unless AITA approves their eligibility taking into account all relevant factors, and** **v. Must never have received any sanction in relation to World Anti-Doping Code, and** **vi. Must never have received any sanction from ITF, AITA or any of its State/UT Affiliate.** **(e) Election would be conducted in the presence of an AITA appointed election observer.** **(f) The Athletes Committee shall perform the functions and shall be elected as per the Athletes Committee bye-laws appended to this Constitution as Annexure II. [Attached]** ***Comments***: 1. The proposed Athletes Committee provides a balanced and democratic platform for athlete representation in AITA's governance structure. 2. The earlier criteria such as ATP/WTA ranking narrowed down the pool of athletes considerably and hence, the same has been proposed to be done away with. Instead, a broader and purely merit based mechanism based on AITA rankings has been provided, which leaves no scope for any tampering in the future. 3. Equal representation of male and female athletes, direct participation in the Executive Committee, clear eligibility standards, term limits, and a cooling-

		off period help ensure transparency, accountability, and fresh leadership. These are in strict compliance with the Act and the Rules. 4. The framework empowers athletes to have a meaningful voice in decision-making while maintaining integrity and good governance standards in line with the objectives of modern sports governance. 5. Exhaustive Athletes Committee Bye-Laws have been laid down so that there is no scope for tampering by future ECs. 6. The eligibility criteria is in strict consonance with the Sports Act and the Rules thereunder. 7. The Ld. Administrator has suggested 50% nomination by EC. Our proposal completely excludes EC from the process and allows athletes to choose their representatives entirely from amongst themselves. 8. The Bye-Laws proposed by us go on to vest proper functioning in the Athletes Committee, which is absent in the proposal of the Ld. Administrator. 9. Applicability of Rule 11 proposed by the Ld. Administrator and 50% reservation for women may be incorporated. 10. ITF does not have any full-time Athletes Commission/Committee. They have a tournament oriented panel. They have shared with us their rules for the World Tennis Tour Player Panel vide email dated 15.05.2026. So we have relied upon that as the guiding tool. **[Email and document shared by ITF attached]**

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<tr><td><u>Rule 7</u>
Powers and Duties of Central Council
(a) To elect the President, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary General, the Hon. Joint Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer and Executive Committee, and to convene general body meetings of affiliated organisations to resolve disputes and conduct elections.
(b) To carry out the objects of the Association and to make, maintain and publish all necessary Rules and Regulations.
(c) To appoint not more than one person to act on the Committee of Management of national tournaments held in India by affiliated organisations.
(d) To prohibit any act or practice by affiliated members, clubs or Tournament Committees or by any person which is detrimental to the interests of the Game and the Association.
(e) To adopt for any player the status deemed adequate or appropriate as per the International Federation Rules or rules framed by the Association.
(f) To impose penalty on affiliated organisations and on members and/or players for any infringement of the Rules and Regulations of the Association.
(g) To consider and deal with all applications for affiliation and decide all questions as to the right of representation at meetings of the Central Council.</td><td>7(a) [Consequential amendment]:
To elect the President, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary General, the Hon. Joint Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee, and to convene general body meetings of affiliated organisations to resolve disputes and conduct elections.
[All other sub-clauses (b)–(o): no change]</td><td>7. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GENERAL BODY
The General Body shall have the following powers :–
a. To elect the President, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary General, the Hon. Joint Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer and other members of Executive Committee. In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the powers mentioned above, the General Body shall have the power to convene a general body meeting of any of its affiliated organisations to resolve any dispute which impedes the normal functioning of its affiliated organisations that may have arisen in the management, elections, in conduct of tournaments etc. and to conduct elections by issuing required notice and complying with the formalities as enjoined by the rules. All decisions taken and elections held at meetings convened by the General Body shall be absolutely binding on affiliated organisations. The General Body may also depute such persons according to its own decisions for convening such meeting and for presiding over such meetings and for conduct of such meeting and all decisions taken by these representatives shall be absolutely binding on the affiliated organisation and its members.
b. To carry out the objects of the Association and to make, maintain and publish all necessary Rules and Regulations in connection therewith.</td></tr>
</table>

(h) To decide all questions of eligibility of persons nominated or elected as office-bearers and Councillors of the Central Council and to annul any election. (i) To delegate all or any of its powers to its duly appointed committees. (j) To enlist by co-option or invitation the services of any person for any special purpose. (k) To establish and maintain office premises, to appoint staff and to appoint auditors. (l) To disaffiliate any organisation which has not complied with any of the rules. Also to re-admit organisations that have been disaffiliated. (m) To build Stadia and Tennis Courts on land belonging to the Association or in partnership with another body. (n) In case of dispute between AITA and its office-bearers on one part and State Associations, clubs, institutions, councillors or any individual on the other part, only courts within the territorial area of Delhi State shall have jurisdiction, irrespective of any other territorial jurisdiction. (o) Affiliated units of AITA will ensure that any unit affiliated to an Affiliate/Associate Affiliate will not engage AITA in direct legal proceedings and will always go through the Affiliate/Associate Affiliate. **[EXISTING PROVISION RELIED UPON BY THE LD. ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT THE CORRECT EXISITING PROVISION]**		c. To prohibit any act or practice by affiliated members and clubs or Tournament Committees affiliated to such members or by any person which in the opinion of the General Body is detrimental to the interests of the Game and of the Association and to deal with any such member, club or Tournament Committee or person, in such manner as Council may think proper. d. To adopt for any player the status deemed adequate or appropriate as per the International Charters or rules framed by the Association. e. To impose penalty on affiliated organisations and on such members and/or players for any infringement of the Rules and Regulations of the Association. f. To consider and deal with all applications for affiliation and decide all questions as to the right of representation at the meetings of the General Body. g. To decide all questions of eligibility of persons nominated or elected as office-bearers and Councillors of the General Body and to annul any election if through non-attendance or any other course, continuation as a member of the General Body is not considered to be in the interest of the Association. h. To delegate all or any of its powers to its duly appointed committees. i. To enlist by co-option or invitation for any special purpose the services of any person who is not a member of the Executive Committee. j. To establish and maintain office premises, to appoint staff and to appoint auditors. k. To disaffiliate any organisation which has not complied with any of the rules and which has not

		resulted in an automatic disaffiliation. The General Body shall also have the power to readmit such organisation that is disaffiliated under these rules on being satisfied that the noncompliance was not intentional and the circumstances indicated sufficient cause for condoning the noncompliance. l. To build stadia and tennis courts on the land belonging to the Association or on land owned by any other body or on land taken on lease from any other body, on its own or jointly or in partnership with that body. m. Affiliated Units of AITA will ensure that any unit affiliated to an Affiliate / Associate Affiliate of AITA will not engage AITA in direct legal proceedings and will always go through the Affiliate / Associate Affiliate of AITA. In case this procedure is not followed, AITA Executive Committee has the power to inform its Affiliate / Associate Affiliate to disaffiliate the said affiliated unit or expel/suspend any member of the executive committee of such an affiliated unit. n. **To provide interpretation to these rules and regulations, whenever required.** ***Comments:*** 1. The existing Clause 7 with the proposed changes is reproduced above with changes in Bold. 2. Clauses (c) and (n) of the existing constitution have been deleted. 3. Name has been changed to General Body. 4. Additionally new clause (n) has been added to the existing Article.

		5. Provision for dispute resolution of affiliates has been removed due to the new Dispute Resolution Committee ecosystem being introduced by the Act.
<u>Rule 8(b)</u> The Senior Vice President (i) In the absence of the President, the Senior Vice President shall preside over all meetings of the Central Council and the Executive Committee. (ii) The Senior Vice President may perform any other tasks/functions as directed by the President, the Executive Committee or the Central Council. **[EXISTING PROVISION RELIED UPON BY THE LD. ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT THE CORRECT EXISITING PROVISION]**	8(b) [Deleted] The provisions relating to the Senior Vice President are deleted, the post having been abolished under Rule 6(b) [Substitute]. Note: The function of presiding over meetings in the absence of the President should be assigned to a designated senior member of the Executive Committee.	**No post of SENIOR Vice President existed in the existing constitution of AITA.**
Rule 8(d) The VP Sports One of the Vice Presidents will be elected by the Executive Committee to act as VP Sports. Powers include oversight of Professional Tennis activities including Davis Cup, Fed Cup, professional tournaments, Players' issues, Media management	8(d) [Deleted]	**Posts of Vice President (Chair) and Vice President (Sports) both have been deleted.**
<u>Rule 11</u> (existing) **Tenure of Office** Office bearers, Senior Vice President, Vice-Presidents, VP Sports, and Joint Secretaries shall	Rule 11 [Substitute]: All members of the EC shall hold office for one term of four years and after expiry of that period, until their successors are appointed.	**11. QUALFICATIONS FOR ELECTION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** **a. A person shall not be qualified to contest for election or seek nomination to, the Executive Committee, unless:**

hold office for one term of four years. Retiring office bearers shall be eligible for re-election. The President can hold the office for a maximum period of twelve (12) years with or without break. The Hon. Secretary General and the Hon. Treasurer may serve a maximum of two successive terms of four years each after which a minimum cooling off period of four years will apply. The President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer shall cease to hold that post on attaining the age of 70 years. Age limit applies only to three Office Bearers; no limit for VPs, Joint Secretaries, or elected EC members. No office bearer of the AITA shall be eligible to be the office bearer simultaneously of any other NSF except the Indian Olympic Association.	Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election by simple majority. No member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible to contest election or hold office if such person has attained the age of seventy years on the last date for filing of nominations. All members of the EC may hold office, separately or in combination of multiple posts, for a maximum of three terms of four years each. On completion of two consecutive terms in one or more of those offices, whether singly or in combination of multiple posts, a person shall be ineligible to hold or contest for any of the offices for one full term. After expiry of that cooling-off period, such person shall again be eligible to contest for any post in the Executive Committee. Furthermore, no member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible to hold office simultaneously in the governing body of— (a) any other National Sports Federation or Association except the Indian Olympic Association; or (b) any State or Union Territory sports association affiliated to, or recognised by, AITA, including Affiliates.	**i. such person is a citizen of India who has attained at least twenty-five years (25) of age and is not seventy-five (75) of age on the last date of nomination for election;** **ii. the nomination of such person is duly proposed and seconded by a voting member of the General Body;** **iii. such person is not declared to be of unsound mind;** **iv. such person complies with the International Charters and Statutes and bye-laws relating to age and term of the Executive Committee** **v. such person, if he is a government servant, has necessary approvals from the Government, as applicable.** **b. A person shall not be qualified to contest for election or seek nomination to, the posts of the President or the Secretary General or the Treasurer, unless such person is (i) a SOM GB Representative, or (ii) has previously served as a member for at least one full term in the Executive Committee of AITA on any post, or (ii) has previously served as the President, or the Secretary General or the Treasurer in any of its State Affiliate units.** **c. A person may continuously hold the position of either the President or the Secretary General or the Treasurer, as the case may be, for up to three consecutive terms separately, or in combination thereof and shall be eligible for election to such posts or to the Executive Committee after a mandatory cooling off period of one term.**

		<u>*Comments*</u>: 1. The proposed provision is a verbatim reproduction of the relevant provision of the Act. 2. **On The other hand, the amendments proposed by the Ld. Administrator are not in line with the provisions of the Act.** 3. ITF Constitution does not contain any age restriction. Please see Clause 12 of the ITF Constitution in this regard. Hence, as per the Second Proviso to Section 4(2)(d), the upper cap of 75 years is permissible. 4. Any reference to IOC Charter is misplaced as AITA is governed not by the IOC Charter, but by the ITF Charter. If there is anything in the ITF Charter, it is presumed to be permitted by IOC and its Charter as the converse would have resulted in ITF being de-recognised by IOC. 5. It is pertinent to note that Second Proviso to Section 4(2)(e) of the Act imposes cooling-off restrictions only on the positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer and the same has been proposed by us. There is no provision in the Act which states that the cooling-off rule shall apply to all EC members and posts. 6. The Section 4 of the Act or the Rules do not provide any outer cap of 12 years for holding any office by any person. There is no such cap in the ITF Constitution either and hence, inclusion of the same by the Ld. Administrator is not based on any governing document.

		7. Section 4(2) does not provide for any of the conditions proposed by the Ld. Administrator. 8. Rule 11(2) of NSG Rules is not at all applicable in this case as the provisions therein only pertain to terms, tenures and posts held by an individual in another NSF and not in AITA itself. Moreover, <u>Rule 11 has been proposed to be incorporated *ad verbatim* as a new Clause 12 [*Please see additional clauses proposed below*] by us</u> and hence, that too stands complied with. Usage of Rule 11(2) to apply cooling off criteria to all EC members is not correct.
<u>**Rule 13**</u> **Permanent Vacancies** (a) President: Permanent vacancy shall be filled by the Senior Vice President. (b) Senior Vice President: Permanent vacancy shall be filled from amongst the Vice Presidents by the Executive Committee. (c) Honorary Secretary General, the VP Sports, the Hon. Joint Secretaries and the Hon. Treasurer: Permanent vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee. (d) Members of the Executive Committee: Permanent vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee from amongst the Hon. Secretaries or representatives of the affiliated organisations. It is not obligatory to fill in such vacancies.	13 [Substitute] Permanent Vacancies: All Permanent vacancies shall be filled by re-elections and the elected member shall have hold office until the expiry of the term of the Central Council, Executive Committee or Sub-Committees, as the case may be.	**14. PERMANENT VACANCIES** **Permanent vacancies can be caused by death or circumstances which may prevent any member of the Executive Committee from attending to his duties for more than 3 months.** **a. President** **Vice President will fill the permanent vacancy of the post of President till 3 months or the next AGM, whichever is less, in which the election shall be conducted.** **b. Honorary Secretary General, Vice President, Hon. Joint Secretaries and Hon. Treasurer** **Permanent vacancy of the posts of Honorary Secretary General, Vice President, Hony. Jt. Secretaries or Hon. Treasurer shall be filled in by the Executive Committee till 3 months**

[EXISTING PROVISION RELIED UPON BY THE LD. ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT THE CORRECT EXISITING PROVISION]		**or the next AGM, whichever is less, in which the election shall be conducted.** **Any member of the Executive Committee who has assumed office by virtue of having filled a permanent vacancy or casual vacancy shall not be deemed to have enjoyed a term of 4 years. He will be entitled to contest election as per rules and if elected, hold office for a further term of 4 years and so on as provided herein above.** ***Comment:*** 1. This provision provides fair balance between administrative continuity and democratic governance. 2. It ensures that vacancies do not disrupt the functioning of AITA by permitting temporary appointments, while requiring elections to be held within a short period to restore the mandate of the members.
Rule 14(a) All bills shall be passed either by the President, Honorary Secretary General or the VP Sports before payment.	14(a) [Substitute]: All bills shall be passed either by the President or the Honorary Secretary General before payment	**All bills shall be passed either by the President, Honorary Secretary General or the Treasurer before payment** *Comment*: Only change required is to replace VP Sports with the Treasurer. Just like all other NSFs, the Treasurer is always one of the authorised personnel to pass bills and sign cheques.
Rule 14(b)	14(b) [Substitute]:	Existing provision:

All cheques shall be issued under the joint signatures of the Hon. Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary General or the President or the Senior Vice President. Cheques for amounts up to Rs.50,000/- may also be issued under the joint signatures of the Hon. Treasurer and the CEO or CFO. **[EXISTING PROVISION RELIED UPON BY THE LD. ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT THE CORRECT EXISITING PROVISION]**	All cheques shall be issued under the joint signatures of the Hon. Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary General, or failing them, the President and the Honorary Secretary General. Cheques for amounts up to Rs. 50,000/- may also be issued under the joint signatures of the Hon. Treasurer and the CEO or CFO.	All cheques shall be issued under the joint signatures of the Hon. Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary General or the President **This requires no change.**
<u>Rule 15</u> **Meetings of the Central Council** (a) Annual General Meeting of the Central Council shall be held annually. Ordinary business includes: receiving the report of the SG and Treasurer's statement; electing office-bearers when due; confirming names of councillors; appointing auditors. (b) All other business at an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting shall be deemed "Special Business" and shall be decided by two-third majority of votes properly recorded. (c) An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting may be convened by the President/Executive Committee whenever they think fit, or shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary General within three months of	15(j) [Consequential amendment]: All matters discussed by the Council in a meeting shall be treated as private and confidential. Matters of public interest may be released to the press by the Hon. Secretary General, the CEO or any other person subject to approval by the Chairman. [All other sub-clauses (a)–(i): no change]	**MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL BODY** a. Annual General Meeting of the General Body shall be held annually at such time and place as the President shall fix, provided that such meeting shall not be called on a date not later than 30th day of September. The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be: - i. To receive the report of the Honorary Secretary General which will include the tentative programs for the ensuing year as drawn up by the Executive Committee and the Hon. Treasurer’s statement of account for the previous year, duly audited. ii. To elect, when due, President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Secretary General, Hon.

receipt of requisition by a minimum of five affiliates specifying the business. (d) No business other than the formal adjournment of the meeting shall be transacted unless a quorum is present. (e) All ordinary business of the AGM shall be decided by a bare majority of votes properly recorded. Business regarding "Change of Constitution and Rules" will be decided by two-third majority. (f) In the case of an equality of votes, the President or the Chairman shall have a casting vote. (g) Notice of every meeting shall be sent to all office-bearers and members of the Central Council at least 3 weeks prior to the date fixed for such meeting. (h) At a meeting, every question or motion shall be decided by open voting unless ballot is directed by the Chairman or demanded by not less than three persons entitled to vote. (i) Elections shall be by secret ballot. (j) All matters discussed by the Council in a meeting shall be treated as private and confidential. Matters of public interest may be released to the press by the Hon. Secretary General / VP Sports / CEO / any other person subject to approval by the Chairman.		Joint Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer and Executive Committee. Associate Affiliate shall not be entitled to be elected in the Executive Committee. iii. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. b. An Extra-Ordinary General **M**eeting may be convened by the (i) President, or (ii) the Hon. Secretary General, anytime as required. An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting can also be convened on receipt of requisition by a minimum of five State Affiliates, by specifying the business for which the meeting is to be convened. A notice of 3 (three) weeks shall be given for such a meeting. If the President or the Hon. Secretary General do not issue a notice for such Extra-Ordinary General Meeting within 7 days of the receipt of such requisition as mentioned above, any 3 of the 5 states who have requisitioned, can issue a notice for Extra-Ordinary General Meeting, and such meeting and the business transacted in the meeting shall be considered valid and shall not be legally objected by the Association. No other business shall be transacted at such a meeting, other than that mentioned in the notice. c. No business other than the formal adjournment of the meeting shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. No quorum will be

[EXISTING PROVISION RELIED UPON BY THE LD. ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT THE CORRECT EXISITING PROVISION]		necessary for an adjourned meeting. d. All businesses of the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting shall be decided by a bare majority of votes properly recorded at such meeting. However, any business regarding amendment of these rules and regulations will be decided by two-third majority of the member present and who are eligible to vote. e. In the case of an equality of votes, the President or the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. f. Notice of every meeting shall be sent by letter/e-mail/Speed Post/Courier as considered expedient to the office-bearers, Vice Presidents, Joint Secretaries and Members of the General Body at least 3 weeks prior to the date fixed for such meeting. Such notice shall specify the date, time and place of such meeting and the nature of business to be transacted and in case of Annual General Meeting, shall be accompanied by a report of the Hon. Secretary General, report of the Hon. Treasurer, audited statement of accounts for the past year, provided always that the accidental omission to give any such notice to any person entitled thereto or its non-receipt by him shall not invalidate the proceedings at any meeting. g. At a meeting, every question or motion shall be

		decided by show of hands unless, prior to any vote being taken, ballot is- i. Directed by the Chairman, or ii. Demanded by not less than 25 (twenty-five) percent of persons present and entitled to vote. h. Elections shall be by secret ballot. i. All the General Body Meetings shall be always video recorded. j. All matters discussed by the Council in a meeting shall be treated as private and confidential. Matters of public interest, may however be released to the press by the Hon. Secretary General subject to approval by the Chairman. No other member is permitted to speak to the press or anybody on behalf of the Association without the permission of the President. ***Comments:*** 1. The proposed provisions strengthen democratic governance, transparency, and accountability within AITA by clearly regulating the conduct of General Body Meetings, prescribing notice requirements, voting thresholds, requisition rights, and mandatory video recording of meetings. 2. Amendments are made to Articles (a), (b), (d) and

		(i) of the existing constitution. [Which are visible in the Constitution of AITA – Track change mode]
Rule 21 **Disputes** (a) All unresolved disputes arising within the affiliated units of AITA or between affiliated units of AITA shall be referred to the AITA Arbitration Committee by the affiliated units. The arbitration proceedings shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. (b) The arbitration procedure shall be completed within the period specified by the AITA Executive Committee (President AITA based on the circumstances has the authority to extend or vary the period).	**21 Disputes** All unresolved disputes arising within the affiliated units of AITA or between affiliated units of AITA shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee by the affiliated units.	**This Clause has been proposed to be omitted in view of the proposed incorporation of the new Dispute Resolution Committee, its composition and functioning mechanisms introduced vide proposed amended Clause 6(d).** ***Comment***: 1. The proposed Dispute Resolution Committee is a progressive governance measure that promotes independent, efficient, and expert resolution of disputes within the sport. 2. The inclusion of legal professionals, mediation, and a structured appellate mechanism strengthens transparency, accountability, and institutional autonomy. 3. Thus, this clause is proposed to be deleted.
Rule 23(a) (existing) **Voting** An Affiliate will be required to have 2 representatives. Each representative of an Affiliate shall be entitled to a total of 1 vote at all meetings of the Central Council.	**23(a)** [Substitute]: Every Affiliate registered with the National Sports Board will be required to have one representative each. Each representative shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Central Council and at elections.	The following shall have voting rights in the General Body: i. Each Stat Affiliate will be represented in the General Body by 2 representatives who shall be entitled to a total of 1 vote at all meetings of the General Body. ii. Each SOM GB Representative shall have 1 vote

		each at all meetings of the General Body. ***Comment***: 1. The proposed provision by the Ld. Administrator restricting each Affiliate Unit to only one representative does not find basis either in law or any prevalent practice in an NSF. Thus, the same is unwarranted and it adversely affects the objective of broad-based participation in the governance of the sport. State Affiliates represent a huge population and hence, must be entitled to two votes. 2. Section 4(1)(a) of the Act provides that the General Body shall consist of an equal number of representatives from each Affiliate Unit. The emphasis of the Act is on ensuring equality of representation amongst Affiliate Units and not on limiting representation to a single individual. 3. Therefore, permitting two representatives from each State/UT Affiliate, with equal representation across all Affiliates, remains fully consistent with the letter and spirit of the Act. 4. The existing Constitution of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) provides for two representatives from each affiliated State/UT Association, with each representative having one vote. Tennis is a sport that requires greater outreach

		and development across States and Union Territories. Retaining two representatives from each Affiliate Unit promotes broader engagement and strengthens democratic participation. 5. Further, as pointed out hereinabove, requirement of compliance by State Affiliated with the Act has been postponed till end of this year. Further, the NSB has still not been constituted and may take time. The framework and requirements for registration with NSB have also not been laid down yet. Thus, incorporating the requirement of registration with NSB is premature at this stage.
Rule 23(aa) No existing provision. Sportspersons of outstanding merit did not exist as a General Body category under the existing Rules.	**23(aa)** [New]: Each sportsperson of outstanding merit in the Central Council shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Central Council and at elections.	**Each SOM GB Representative shall have 1 vote each at all meetings of the General Body.** *Comment*: SOM with 1 vote each is consistent with the Act and the phrase General Body has been proposed. Further, Clause 23 has been simplified to read straightforward and can be seen in the chart as well as the file showing the amended constitution of AITA clean/track.
Rule 26 **Travelling and Halting Expenses** The President, Senior Vice President, Hon. Secretary General, VP Sports, Hon. Joint Secretaries and the Hon. Treasurer, the members of	26 [Substitute] Travelling and Halting Expenses: The President, Hon. Secretary General, Hon. Joint Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer, the members of the Executive Committee and members of the	**26. TRAVELLING AND HALTING EXPENSES** **The members of the Executive Committee and members of the various sub-committees shall be entitled to such travelling and halting allowances as**

the Executive Committee and members of the various sub-committees shall be entitled to such travelling and halting allowances as may be approved by the Executive Committee.	various sub-committees shall be entitled to such travelling and halting allowances as may be approved by the Executive Committee.	**may be approved by the Executive Committee.** ***Comment***: As it is proposed to empower sub-committees to function more proactively, it is proposed to grant travelling and halting expenses to its members as well.
Rule 30(A) (existing) **Eligibility for Election to the Status of Office Bearers / Executive Committee Member** If the contesting candidate happens to be a Govt employee, the nomination must be accompanied by a 'No Objection Certificate' from the employer indicating that they have no objection in filing nomination for the election to the post desired.	30(A) [Substitute] Eligibility for Election to the Status of Executive Committee Member: (i) Every person seeking to contest election to any post in the Executive Committee shall- (a) be a citizen of India; (b) be not less than twenty-five years of age on the date of filing of the nomination; (c) satisfy the age eligibility conditions prescribed under Rule 11; (d) have the nomination proposed and seconded by voting members of the Central Council; and (e) not be of unsound mind. A government employee shall additionally file a No Objection Certificate from the employer.	Rule 30(A) is proposed to be Omitted *Comment:* The proposed provisions regarding Qualification to the elections to the Executive Committee are incorporated in our proposed to be added in Article 11, which is a verbatim reproduction of Rule 10(2) of the NSB Rules.

Rule 30(B) (existing) **Disabilities** No one shall be eligible to become an office bearer, Senior Vice President, Vice President Sports, Vice Presidents, Joint Secretary or Executive Committee member who (a) Has been convicted for an act of moral turpitude. (b) Has been removed from any office for malfeasance (4-year bar). (c) Has been declared as insolvent. (d) Has been suspended or debarred. (e) An office bearer shall not be an office bearer of any other NSF except IOA.	30(B) [Substitute]: No person shall be eligible to hold any office or position as a member of the Central Council, Executive Committee or any sub-committee of the Association who- (a) has been declared insolvent, for the duration of such insolvency; (b) has been convicted by a court in India for any offence and sentenced to imprisonment; (c) is subject to a ban imposed by the Ethics Committee, for the duration of such ban; (d) has been convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude, excepting offences of a political nature; (e) has been removed from any office of the Association or of an Affiliate for malfeasance; (f) is under suspension or debarment by the Association, for the duration of such suspension; or (g) is subject to a finding of an Intractable Conflict of Interest by the Ethics Committee under Rule 30(C), for so long as that conflict subsists. In addition, a person shall also be disqualified if such person (h) is a member of the governing body of any other National Sports Body other than the Indian Olympic Association; or (i) has not completed the cooling-off period of one full term after holding the post of President,	**12. DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR GENERAL BODY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES** **a. A person shall be disqualified from being a member of the General Body, or of any committee of a AITA, and shall not be eligible for contesting for election to the Executive Committee or the Athletes Committee, if such person:** **i. is declared insolvent under applicable law; or** **ii. is subject to a conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction in India for an offence, followed by a sentence of imprisonment; or** **iii. is subject to a ban from holding any such position by an order of the Ethics Committee of AITA; or** **iv. is a member of the general body or of any committee of any other National Sports Body which is registered with the National Sports Board under the Act, except the Indian Olympic Association; or** **v. has not completed the cooling off period of one term after having held the position of President, Secretary General or Treasurer in any other National Sports Body which is registered with the National Sports Board under the Act, except the Indian Olympic Association; or**

	Secretary General or Treasurer in any other National Sports Body.	**b. The period of disqualification under Clause 12(a)(i) shall be for the period of insolvency.** **c. The period of disqualification under Clause 12(a)(ii) shall be for a period of one full term of the Executive Committee after the completion of such sentence.** **d. The period of disqualification under Clause 12(a)(iii) shall be for the duration of such ban.** *Comments:* 1. The proposed provision regarding disqualifications is a verbatim reproduction from Rule 11 of the NSB Rules and has been proposed to be added as a new Article 12. 2. There is no provision in the Rules or the Act which provides for disqualification on the ground of (a) "*convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude, excepting offences of a political nature*", (b) "*has been removed from any office of the Association or of an Affiliate for malfeasance;*", (c) "*is under suspension or debarment by the Association, for the duration of such suspension;*" and (d) "*is subject to a finding of an Intractable Conflict of Interest by the Ethics Committee under Rule 30(C), for so long as that conflict subsists.*". Thus, there is no rationale or legal basis for including these proposals. Please note that removal from State Affiliate may be due to political enmity and thus, may not be a valid ground to disentitle an individual from contesting and voting. Further, the term 'malfeasance' has a wide amplitude and

		allowing such terms to be there will lead to misuse in the future and hence, should be avoided.
Rule 30(C) **No existing provision.**	30(C) [New] Conflict of Interest: 30(C). 1. For the purposes of this Rule, a Conflict of Interest arises when the personal, financial or professional interests of an individual associated with AITA, conflict, or may reasonably be perceived to conflict, with that individual's duties and obligations to AITA. A Conflict of Interest may take any of the following forms: (a) Contractual Interest: When AITA or an Affiliate enters into contractual arrangements with entities in which the individual concerned, or his or her relative, partner or close associate, has an interest, including cases where such involvement may compromise, or be perceived to compromise, the individual's discharge of duties. (b) Incompatible Roles: When the individual holds two separate posts or positions under AITA, the functions of which would require the one to be subordinate to the other or place them in opposition. (c) Commercial Conflicts: When the individual enters into endorsement contracts or other professional engagements with third parties, the discharge of which would compromise the individual's primary obligation to AITA or to the	**This proposal has a wide scale ramification on the tennis ecosystem and hence, needs to cater to the special ecosystem prevalent in India for the sport of tennis. Thus, it is suggested that this proposed addition may be discussed threadbare in the General Body Meeting to be held in consonance with the directions of the Hon'ble High Court.**

	sport, or give rise to a perception that the integrity of the sport stands compromised. (d) Prior Relationship: When the individual has a commercial engagement, past or present, with a vendor, service provider, commercial partner, broadcast partner or sponsor who is being, or is to be, engaged by or on behalf of AITA or an Affiliate. (e) Position of Influence: When the individual occupies a post calling for decisions of governance, management or selection to be made, and a relative, friend or close associate is within the zone of consideration or subject to such decision-making. This includes cases where the individual holds any stake, voting rights or power to influence decisions of any tournament organiser, ranking event or other body operating under the auspices of AITA. 2. Within fifteen days of assuming any office or position under AITA, whether on the Central Council, the Executive Committee, any sub-committee, or as an office bearer, every individual shall disclose in writing to the Ethics Committee any existing or potential event that may constitute a Conflict of Interest. Such disclosure shall be published on the website of AITA. Failure to make complete disclosure, or any partial or total suppression thereof, shall render the individual liable to disciplinary action, which may include removal from office without benefits. A declaration under this clause	

	does not give rise to a presumption that a conflict in fact exists; it is made for purposes of information and transparency. 3. Any person may make a complaint to the Ethics Committee alleging a Conflict of Interest on the part of any individual holding any office or position under AITA. Every such complaint shall be— (a) made in writing and signed by the complainant; and (b) accompanied by particulars sufficient to identify the nature and basis of the alleged conflict. The Ethics Committee may also, on its own motion (*suo motu)*, take cognizance of any matter that may constitute a Conflict of Interest on the part of any individual holding any office or position under AITA. The Ethics Committee may dismiss, with reasons, any complaint that is frivolous, vexatious or not supported by any particulars. Subject thereto, whether acting on a complaint or in a *suo motu* nature, the Ethics Committee shall inquire into the matter and take such action, as issued in writing, as it considers appropriate under Rule 30(C)(5). All complaints, *suo motu* proceedings and the proceedings thereunder shall be treated as confidential pending the conclusion of the inquiry.	

	4. The Ethics Committee shall classify a Conflict of Interest as either Tractable or Intractable: (a) A Tractable conflict is one capable of resolution through recusal of the individual concerned and/or full disclosure of the interest involved. (b) An Intractable conflict is one that cannot be resolved through disclosure and recusal alone. Where the Ethics Committee determines that a conflict is Intractable, the individual concerned shall be required to elect, within such period as the Ethics Committee may specify, between- (i) relinquishing the office or position held under AITA; or (ii) divesting, disassociating from, or terminating the interest, engagement, position or association that gives rise to the conflict - whether held in any other entity, organisation, association, affiliate, company or otherwise. Failure to make such election, or failure to give effect to the election made, within the period so specified shall render the individual liable to removal from office under AITA. A finding of an Intractable Conflict of Interest shall constitute a ground of disqualification under Rule 30(B)(g) for so long as the conflict subsists. 5. No individual shall simultaneously hold more than one of the following posts or	

	positions, except where expressly permitted under these Rules: (i) Member of the Central Council, Executive Committee or any sub-committee; (ii) Member of the Ethics Committee; (iii) Auditor of AITA; (iv) Service provider to AITA (legal, financial or otherwise); or (v) Party to a contractual engagement with AITA (including broadcast partner, commercial partner, sponsor, contractor or otherwise). 6. Every individual holding office on the date these Rules come into force shall make the disclosure required under Rule 30(C)(3) within ninety days of that date.	