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**JUDICIAL AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF SPORTS LAW
IN INDIA: A CRITICAL LEGAL EXAMINATION**

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Abstract

The evolution of sports governance in India has been significantly influenced by judicial intervention due to the absence of a comprehensive statutory framework. This research paper critically examines the role of judicial oversight in ensuring transparency, accountability and fairness in sports administration. By analyzing landmark judgment such as BCCI v. Cricket Association of Bihar, Zee Telefilms ltd. v. Union of India and Rahul Mehra v. union of India, the paper explores how courts have addressed governance failures, corruption, and administrative inefficiencies. It further evaluates the effectiveness of judicial oversight in protecting athletes' rights and promoting institutional reforms. While judicial intervention has played a transformative role, it remains largely reactive and cannot substitute a well-defined regulatory structure. The study also compares international governance models and proposes legal and policy reforms for strengthening sports governance in India. The paper concludes that a balanced framework combining judicial oversight with robust legislative and regulatory mechanism is essential for sustainable development of sports in India.

Keywords:

Sports law; judicial oversight; BCCI; governance; transparency; athletes' right

1. Introduction

Sports law in India has emerged as a significant legal discipline due to the rapid commercialization and globalization of sports. Traditionally¹, sports governance in India was largely unregulated, with autonomous bodies exercising instances of corruption, lack of transparency, and administrative inefficiencies have necessitated judicial intervention. The judiciary has played a crucial role in bridging the regulatory vacuum by ensuring to principles of fairness, accountability, and good governance. This paper seeks to analyses the scope and effectiveness of judicial oversight in sports governance in India and to evaluate whether such intervention has led to meaningful reforms.

The relationship between sports and law in India has evolved over time, and the emerging trends in this field have attracted the attention of scholars, policymakers, and sports enthusiasts alike².

Sports law in India is a specialized legal discipline that governs the rights, obligations, and regulations associated with sports activities, organizations, and individuals. It integrates various legal frameworks and policies that structure the sports ecosystem in the country.

The scope of sports law is extensive, covering issues such as:

- Contractual agreements between athletes, teams, and sponsors.
- Antitrust concerns related to competition and market practices within sports organizations.
- Labor disputes involving athletes' rights, working conditions, and collective bargaining.
- Intellectual property rights, including trademarks and copyrights associated with sports brands and media.
- Discrimination cases, particularly those addressing gender and racial equality in sports.
- Criminal matters, such as doping violations and other illegal activities within the sports context.

¹ Dr. Somappa Badiger, Indigenous Games and Its Importance, International Journal of Creative Research Thought, available at <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2008188.pdf>

² Gaurang Kanth, Emergence of Sports Law in India, India Law Journal, available at https://www.indialawjournal.org/archives/volume3/issue_2/article_by_Gaurang.html (last visited on 2.2.2025) ⁴ Does India have Sports Laws? Nyaya, available at <https://nyaaya.org/nyaaya-weekly/does-india-have-sportslaws/>

According to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), “Sport is a vital part of human life. It contributes to physical and emotional well-being, builds social connections, and encourages healthy lifestyles”. The IOC defines sport as “an activity that involves physical effort and skill, is governed by rules or customs, and is conducted competitively”. This definition³ emphasizes the importance of physical activity, skill, competition, and rules and regulation in sports. In general, sports involve physical engagement, competitive spirit, specialized training, and strategic planning. They are typically governed by established rules and may be played individually or in teams, either indoors or outdoors. The primary goal is to achieve specific outcomes—such as scoring points, crossing a finish line first, or outperforming opponents—while maintaining fairness and sportsmanship. Besides improving health and fitness, sports also contribute to social bonding, teamwork, and personal growth.

Sports refer to all forms of physical activities that enhance physical fitness, provide enjoyment, and encourage competition, encompassing individual and team sports, traditional games, adventure sports, and modern formats like e-sports. Beyond their recreational appeal, sports contribute to social cohesion, promote discipline, teamwork, and resilience, and foster global unity through international competitions such as the Olympics⁴. Additionally, sports significantly boost economic activity by driving tourism, event management industries, merchandising, and sponsorship opportunities. On a personal level, participation in sports aids in mental and physical well-being by reducing stress, preventing lifestyle diseases, and promoting healthier living.

2. Evolution of Sports Governance in India

The governance of sports in India has evolved from informal customary practices to structured institutional frameworks. Post-independence, the establishment of bodies such as the Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Authority of India marked significant progress.

Despite these developments, the absence of a unified legal framework has resulted in fragmented governance. The National Sports Development Code, 2011 was introduced to address these issues, but its implementation has been inconsistent.

³ International Olympic Committee, "What is sport?" available at <https://www.olympic.org/what-is-sport>.⁵
Rakesh Ghildiyal, Role of Sports in the Development of an Individual and Role of Psychology in Sports, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4381313/> (last visited on 04.02.2026)

⁴ History of Indian Olympic Association, available at <https://olympic.ind.in/history>

The governance of sports in India has evolved from informal customary practices to structured institutional frameworks. Post- independence, the establishment of bodies such as the Indian Olympic Association⁵ and the Sports Authority of India marked significant progress.

The evolution of sports governance in India reflects a gradual transition from informal, community-based regulation to a structured institutional and legal framework. In ancient and pre-colonial India, sports were governed by customary norms, ethical values, and royal patronage rather than codified laws.

Activities such as wrestling, archery, and chariot racing were regulated through traditions and societal expectations, with texts like the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* emphasizing discipline, fairness, and adherence to rules. During the medieval period, governance remained largely patronage-driven, as rulers, particularly the Mughal emperors, encouraged and regulated sports like polo, hunting, and wrestling.

A significant shift occurred during the colonial era with the arrival of the east India company which introduced organized sports such as cricket, football, and hockey along with formal governance structures including clubs, written rules, and institutional frameworks. Initially restricted to British elites, these sports gradually saw Indian participation, leading to the establishment of indigenous clubs like Mohun Bagan Athletic Club whose victory in the 1911 IFA Shield Final symbolized both sporting achievement and resistance to colonial dominance. The formation of the Indian Olympic Association in 1927 marked the beginning of national level sports governance in India.

Policy developments such as the National Sports Policy of 1984 and its later revisions, as well as initiatives like Khelo India, further contributed to structured governance and grassroots development. However, a distinctive feature of Indian sports governance has been the significant autonomy of bodies such as the Board of Control for Cricket in India, which, while effective in administration, have also raised Policy developments such as the National Sports Policy of 1984 and its later revisions, as well as initiatives like Khelo India, further contributed to structured governance and grassroots development.

⁵ History of Indian Olympic Association, available at <https://olympic.ind.in/history>

3. Need for Judicial Oversight

Judicial oversight in sports governance arises from systematic failures within sports institutions. Key issues include lack of financial transparency, political interference and absence of accountability mechanism.

Courts have intervened to ensure compliance with the constitutional principles and to safeguard public interest. Judicial intervention has been particularly significant in cases involving corruption and maladministration.

In the absence of specific sports legislation, Indian courts have played a pivotal role in resolving disputes and ensuring fair practices in sports. Judicial interventions have addressed issues such as governance of sports bodies, players' rights, doping violations, and selection controversies. These interventions have been crucial in upholding the principles of natural justice and ensuring that sports organizations operate within the legal framework.

While the legal and regulatory framework governing sports in India comprises a combination of constitutional provisions, governmental policies, and the roles of various sports authorities, there is a pressing need for a more cohesive and robust legal structure. Such a framework would not only streamline sports governance but also foster an environment conducive to the holistic development of sports in the country.

In India, the rules and management of sports are mainly decided by the country's Constitution, which outlines the responsibilities of both the central (Union) and state governments. Although the Constitution doesn't specifically mention "sports" as a separate category, certain sections

indirectly impact how sports are governed. Let's break down these constitutional provisions and understand their effects on sports management in India.

Understanding the Division of Powers: The Seventh Schedule

The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution details the subjects on which the Union and State legislatures can make laws. These subjects are divided into three lists:

1. Union List (List I): Subjects exclusively under the central government's control.
2. State List (List II): Subjects where only state governments can legislate.

3. Concurrent List (List III): Subjects where both the central and state governments can make laws.

Indian courts have occasionally interpreted constitutional provisions to resolve disputes in sports governance:

- **Autonomy of Sports Laws:** While many sports organizations operate independently, courts have intervened to ensure transparency and accountability. For example, the Supreme Court's involvement with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) led to significant administrative reforms.

- **Protection of Rights:** Athletes and stakeholders have approached courts to protect their fundamental rights, addressing issues like gender discrimination and unfair selection practices. Judicial decisions have reinforced fair treatment and justice in such cases.

The judiciary has played a significant role in shaping sports law in India by ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability in sports governance. Over the years, courts have intervened in various disputes related to corruption, doping, unfair player selection, and mismanagement in sports federations.

In India, sports law has significantly evolved in recent years, with increasing focus on safeguarding athletes' rights, promoting transparency and accountability in sports governance, and preventing corruption and other unethical practices in sports. However, several key issues still need to be addressed to ensure the protection of athletes' rights and to ensure that sports organizations function in a fair, transparent, and responsible manner. Judicial oversight in sports law continues to be a balancing act between maintaining the autonomy of sports federations and ensuring their accountability.

While courts do not directly interfere in the day-to-day functioning of NSFs, they step in when there is a violation of fundamental rights, mismanagement, or corruption.

4. Landmark Judicial Decision

The evolution of sports governance in India has been significantly influenced by judicial pronouncements, which have acted as a catalyst in ensuring transparency, accountability, and adherence to constitutional principles within sports administration. A pivotal judgment

in this context is *Zee Telefilms Ltd v Union of India*⁶, wherein the Supreme Court examined the legal status of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The case arose from a dispute over the cancellation of a broadcasting rights tender, leading the petitioner to challenge BCCI's actions under Article 32 of the Constitution. The principal issue before the Court was whether BCCI could be classified as a "State" under Article 12. While acknowledging the significant public functions performed by BCCI, such as selecting the national team and regulating cricket in India, the Court held that it does not qualify as a "State" due to the absence of deep and pervasive governmental control. However, the Court importantly clarified that BCCI's actions remain subject to judicial review under Article 226, given its public functions. This decision laid the foundational principle that private sports bodies performing public duties can still be held accountable under constitutional remedies.

The Supreme Court's decision in *BCCI v. Cricket Association of Bihar* (2016) is a landmark case in Indian sports law. The Court-appointed Lodha Committee introduced structural reforms aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability.

Equally significant is the judgment in *Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting v Cricket Association of Bengal*, which addressed the issue of broadcasting rights in sports. The dispute between Doordarshan and the Cricket Association of Bengal raised critical questions regarding the control and distribution of broadcasting signals. The Supreme Court held that airwaves constitute public property and must be regulated in a manner that serves the public interest. Furthermore, the Court recognized that the right to broadcast is an extension of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a), subject to reasonable restrictions. This judgment established a crucial precedent by balancing state control with individual rights and laid the groundwork for the regulation of sports broadcasting in India.

A transformative development in sports governance emerged through *BCCI v Cricket Association of Bihar*, which arose from allegations of corruption and spot-fixing in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The case exposed systemic issues of conflict of interest and

⁶ (1995) 1 SCC 1

lack of transparency within cricket administration. Recognizing BCCI's monopolistic control over cricket in India, the Supreme Court emphasized the necessity of ensuring fairness and institutional integrity. Consequently, the Court appointed the Lodha Committee to recommend structural reforms aimed at improving governance. The implementation of these recommendations, including conflict-of-interest regulations, tenure restrictions, and enhanced transparency mechanisms, marked a watershed moment in the reform of sports administration in India and demonstrated the judiciary's proactive role in enforcing good governance practices.

In addition to these landmark rulings, sustained judicial scrutiny has been facilitated through public interest litigations filed by Rahul Mehra, whose efforts have further strengthened accountability in sports bodies. In his 2004 litigation, Mehra challenged the functioning of BCCI and the Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA), contending that these entities, despite being private, perform public functions and must therefore be subject to judicial review. The Court upheld this contention, reinforcing the applicability of Article 226 to such bodies. Subsequently, in 2017, Mehra contested the elections of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on the grounds of non-compliance with the National Sports Code, 2011. The Court found the electoral process to be inconsistent with prescribed governance norms and declared it invalid, thereby reaffirming the binding nature of regulatory standards in sports administration.

Collectively, these judicial decisions have played a transformative role in shaping the governance framework of sports in India. They have clarified the legal status of sports bodies, expanded the scope of judicial oversight, and underscored the importance of transparency, fairness, and accountability. The judiciary, through its interventions, has effectively bridged the gap between the autonomy of sports organizations and the necessity of public accountability, thereby contributing to the progressive development of sports law in India.

5. Governance Challenges in Indian Sports

In recent years, sports law in India has evolved considerably, placing greater emphasis on the protection of athletes' rights, transparency in administration, and the prevention of corruption and unethical practices. Despite these developments, significant governance

challenges continue to persist within the Indian sports framework. One of the foremost concerns relates to the protection of athletes' rights, which are constitutionally guaranteed under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution of India, ensuring equality before the law and protection against discrimination⁷. In practice, however, athletes are often subjected to arbitrary decisions by sports authorities, including suspensions and bans imposed without adherence to principles of natural justice or fair hearing⁸. To address such issues and provide an effective dispute resolution mechanism, initiatives like the Sports Arbitration Centre of India (SACI)⁹ have been introduced to facilitate impartial adjudication of disputes between athletes and sports bodies.

Another major challenge lies in the governance structure of sports organizations, which has frequently come under scrutiny due to allegations of corruption, mismanagement, and lack of transparency. Issues such as opaque selection procedures, absence of athlete representation in decision-making bodies, and inadequate grievance redressal mechanisms continue to undermine trust in sports administration. While the introduction of the National Sports Development Code of India aimed to establish principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, its implementation remains inconsistent across various sports federations. The ongoing tension between autonomy and accountability further complicates governance, as excessive autonomy often results in misuse of power, whereas excessive governmental interference risks undermining the independence of sports bodies.

Additionally, the growing menace of doping poses a serious threat to the integrity of sports in India. The increasing use of performance-enhancing substances has led to multiple high-profile cases, necessitating stricter enforcement of anti-doping regulations. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) plays a crucial role in this regard by conducting testing, enforcing sanctions, and promoting awareness about clean sports practices. However, challenges remain in ensuring comprehensive compliance and education at all levels.

Furthermore, issues of sports betting and match-fixing, including spot-fixing, continue to affect the credibility of sports. These practices involve the manipulation of game outcomes

⁷ Article 14, 15 of the Constitution of India

⁸ Tarini Mathur, Sports Integrity, available at <http://www.kridalegal.com/post.php?id=30>

⁹ Union Minister Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates India's First Sports Arbitration Centre in Gujarat, available at <https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/sports-news-rijiju-inaugurates-indias-first-sports-arbitration-centre-in-Gujarat/395855> (last visited on 2.4.2026)

for financial gain and have been exposed in several major scandals involving players and officials. The absence of a comprehensive legal framework specifically addressing sports fraud in India highlights the urgent need for stricter laws, effective enforcement mechanisms, and awareness programs to safeguard the integrity of sports.

Lastly, concerns relating to sports injuries and liability also form a critical aspect of governance challenges. Athletes are inherently exposed to physical risks, making it essential to establish proper safety standards, medical support systems, and clear legal frameworks determining liability in cases of injury. The lack of well-defined compensation mechanisms and accountability of sports authorities further exacerbates the vulnerability of athletes.

While India has made notable progress in developing its sports law framework, persistent governance challenges—ranging from inadequate protection of athletes’ rights to corruption, doping, and lack of regulatory clarity—continue to hinder the growth of a fair and transparent sports ecosystem. Addressing these issues requires a balanced approach that ensures both autonomy and accountability, supported by robust legal reforms and effective implementation of existing policies.

Despite judicial intervention, governance challenges persist. These include opaque selection processes, lack of athlete representation, and inadequate grievance redressal mechanisms. The tension between autonomy and accountability continues to hinder effective governance. Excessive autonomy often leads to misuse of power, while excessive intervention may undermine independence. Despite judicial intervention, governance challenges persist. These include opaque selection processes, lack of athlete representation, and inadequate grievance redressal mechanisms.

6. Impact on Athletes

Governance failures have a direct impact on athletes, affecting their career prospects, financial stability, and mental well-being. Judicial intervention has helped in recognizing athletes’ rights and ensuring fair treatment, but systemic reforms are necessary for long-term improvements.

Governance failures in Indian sports have a direct and far-reaching impact on athletes, affecting not only their career prospects and financial stability but also their physical and mental well-being¹⁰. While sports law in India is still evolving, certain fundamental rights of athletes have been recognized through constitutional principles, policy frameworks, and judicial intervention. One of the most critical rights is the right to fair competition and due process. A fair sporting environment requires a level playing field, free from manipulation and unethical practices, which is ensured through effective anti-doping mechanisms implemented by bodies such as the National Anti-Doping Agency. However, governance lapses often result in arbitrary decisions by sports authorities, including unjust suspensions, biased selection processes, and lack of proper hearing mechanisms. The absence of procedural fairness undermines athletes' trust in the system and can severely damage their professional careers.

Equally important is the right to health and safety, which includes access to proper medical care, injury prevention mechanisms, and a safe training environment. Athletes are frequently exposed to physical risks¹¹, yet inadequate infrastructure, lack of medical support, and poor implementation of safety protocols highlight serious governance deficiencies. In addition to physical health, mental well-being has emerged as a crucial concern, as athletes often face immense pressure, uncertainty, and stress due to inconsistent policies and lack of institutional support. Governance failures in addressing these issues can lead to long-term psychological consequences, ultimately affecting performance and career longevity.

Furthermore, athletes have the fundamental right to be protected from discrimination, harassment, and abuse. The constitutional mandate of equality extends to the sporting arena, requiring equal opportunities irrespective of gender, caste, religion, or socio-economic background. However, instances of bias, exclusion, sexual harassment, and exploitation continue to surface, reflecting weak enforcement of safeguarding mechanisms within sports

¹⁰ Justice RM Lodha, Former CJI, Indian Sports Suffers from Corruption and Nepotism, Needs Overarching Regulatory Body, available at <https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/sports-news-indian-sports-suffers-from-corruption-and-nepotism-needs-overarching-regulatory-body-rm-lodha/345138>

¹¹ Preventing Sports Injuries, available at <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?countertype=85&contentid=P00935>

organizations. The lack of effective grievance redressal systems further aggravates the situation, leaving athletes vulnerable and often without recourse.

Although judicial intervention in India has played a significant role in recognizing athletes' rights and promoting accountability among sports bodies, these measures alone are insufficient to address systemic shortcomings. Courts have emphasized the need for transparency, fairness, and adherence to principles of natural justice, yet the persistence of governance failures indicates the need for deeper structural reforms. Strengthening institutional mechanisms, ensuring implementation of existing regulations, and prioritizing athlete-centric policies are essential for creating a fair, inclusive, and sustainable sports ecosystem. Without such reforms, governance failures will continue to adversely impact athletes, limiting their potential and undermining the integrity of sports in India.

7. Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis of sports governance frameworks highlights that countries such as the United Kingdom and Australia have developed more structured, transparent, and accountable systems as compared to India. In the United Kingdom, sports governance is characterized by clear regulatory oversight, ethical compliance, and funding-linked accountability mechanisms. Bodies such as UK Sport and Sport England play a crucial role in monitoring performance, ensuring proper utilization of funds, and enforcing governance standards. A key feature of the UK model is the existence of independent regulatory frameworks, including the Code for Sports Governance, which mandates transparency, diversity in leadership, and athlete representation in decision-making processes.

Similarly, Australia has established a highly efficient and athlete-centric governance system through institutions like Sport Australia. The Australian model emphasizes integrity, professionalism, and centralized oversight, supported by organizations such as Sport Integrity Australia, which specifically deals with issues like doping, match-fixing, and safeguarding athletes. These bodies operate with a high degree of independence, ensuring that governance is not compromised by conflicts of interest or political interference. Moreover, both the UK and Australia prioritize athlete welfare by

incorporating mechanisms for mental health support, dispute resolution, and active athlete participation¹² in governance structures.

In contrast, India's sports governance framework, while evolving, continues to face challenges such as lack of transparency, inadequate accountability, and excessive concentration of power within autonomous sports bodies. Although initiatives like the National Sports Development Code have attempted to introduce governance standards, their enforcement remains inconsistent. The absence of fully independent regulatory authorities and limited athlete representation further weakens the system.

India can draw valuable lessons from these international models by adopting best practices such as the establishment of independent oversight committees, strengthening regulatory enforcement, and ensuring meaningful athlete participation in governance. Additionally, introducing transparent selection procedures, robust grievance redressal mechanisms, and clear conflict-of-interest policies can significantly improve governance standards. A shift towards a more structured, accountable, and athlete-focused governance framework, inspired by global best practices, is essential for the holistic development of sports in India.

8. Suggestion and Reforms

In light of the persistent challenges in sports governance in India, there is a pressing need for comprehensive legal and institutional reforms to ensure transparency, accountability, and protection of athletes' rights. One of the foremost recommendations is the enactment of a **comprehensive national sports law** that consolidates existing policies, guidelines, and judicial principles into a unified legal framework. At present, the absence of a single codified legislation results in fragmented governance, inconsistent enforcement, and lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. A well-defined statute would provide a clear regulatory structure, address issues such as doping, match-fixing, dispute resolution, and athlete welfare, and ensure uniformity across all sports bodies.

Another critical reform is the establishment of a **National Sports Tribunal**, an independent quasi-judicial body dedicated to resolving sports-related disputes in a timely and specialized manner. Currently, athletes and stakeholders often rely on regular courts, which

¹² Vagisha, Law of Tort and Sports Litigation, available at <https://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/746/LawofTort-And-Sports-Litigation.html>(last visited on 3.4.2026)

can be time-consuming and lack domain-specific expertise. A dedicated tribunal would ensure speedy justice, reduce litigation delays, and enhance confidence in the dispute resolution mechanism within the sports ecosystem.

Further, there is an urgent need to strengthen existing regulatory institutions such as the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Sports Authority of India, and the National Anti-Doping Agency by granting them greater autonomy, resources, and enforcement powers. Strengthening oversight mechanisms will help curb corruption, prevent conflicts of interest, and ensure adherence to ethical standards. In addition, strict compliance with frameworks such as the National Sports Development Code must be mandated, with penalties for non-compliance to ensure effective implementation.

Reforms must also focus on promoting **good governance practices**, including transparency in selection procedures, financial accountability, and inclusion of athletes in decision-making bodies. Athlete representation is particularly important to ensure that policies are aligned with the needs and welfare of sportspersons. Moreover, robust grievance redressal mechanisms and safeguarding policies should be institutionalized to protect athletes from discrimination, harassment, and abuse.

Lastly, India should adopt global best practices by establishing independent oversight committees, enhancing integrity mechanisms, and leveraging technology for transparent administration. A holistic reform approach that balances autonomy with accountability, supported by a strong legal framework, is essential for transforming the Indian sports governance system into a fair, efficient, and athlete-centric model.

9. Conclusion

Judicial oversight has played a transformative role in shaping sports governance in India by promoting transparency, accountability, and adherence to principles of fairness within sports bodies. Through landmark rulings, courts have clarified the legal status of governing authorities such as the Board of Control for Cricket in India, expanded the scope of judicial review, and enforced reforms aimed at curbing corruption and mismanagement. These interventions have been instrumental in addressing governance failures, protecting athletes' rights, and ensuring that sports organizations performing public functions remain accountable.

However, judicial intervention, by its very nature, is reactive and cannot serve as a substitute for a well-defined and comprehensive legal framework. The absence of a unified sports law continues to result in fragmented governance, inconsistent enforcement of policies, and gaps in the protection of athletes' interests. While initiatives such as the National Sports Development Code and institutional bodies like the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have contributed to regulatory development, their effectiveness is often limited by weak implementation and lack of binding authority.

Therefore, a balanced and forward-looking approach is essential—one that combines the corrective role of the judiciary with robust legislative and institutional reforms. The enactment of a comprehensive sports law, establishment of specialized dispute resolution mechanisms, strengthening of regulatory bodies, and incorporation of global best practices are necessary steps toward achieving good governance in sports. Such reforms must also prioritize athlete welfare, transparency in administration, and accountability at all levels.

In conclusion, while judicial oversight has laid a strong foundation for reform, the future of sports governance in India depends on the creation of a cohesive, transparent, and legally sound framework. Only through a coordinated effort involving the judiciary, legislature, executive, and sports institutions can India ensure sustainable growth, integrity, and excellence in its sports ecosystem.