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MAGAZINE NOTES

National Sports Governance Act, 2025

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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National Sports Governance Act, 2025

 **Kurukshetra** Chapter 3 · 2 min read ·

The **NSG Act 2025** is India's first comprehensive statutory framework for sports governance, replacing the ad-hoc system of government recognition and guidelines. The **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026** were notified under this Act.

Sports Governance Structure in India

BODY	ROLE	ESTABLISHED
MYAS	Apex policy-making; recognises and regulates NSFs; allocates financial assistance	2000 (as ministry)
SAI	Implements sports development; manages national training centres; runs TOPS and Khelo India	1984
IOA	Autonomous body recognised by IOC; oversees Olympic participation; affiliates NSFs for Olympic disciplines	1927
NSFs	50+ federations regulate individual sports nationally	Various
State Sports Authorities	State-level sports administration	Various

Constitutional position: Sports falls under **Entry 33 of the State List** ("Theatres, dramatic performances; cinemas...sports, entertainments and amusements")

Key Provisions of NSG Act 2025 and Rules 2026

1. Institutional Framework:

- **National Sports Board (NSB)** established — grants recognition and registers affiliates
- Only **recognised bodies eligible for Central funding** — creates accountability linkage
- **RTI Act 2005 applicability** — recognised sports organisations become public authorities under RTI

2. Representation and Inclusion (landmark provisions):

REQUIREMENT	DETAIL
SOMs in General Bodies	Minimum 4 Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit
Women SOMs	Minimum 50% of SOM positions must be women
Women in Executive Committees	Minimum 4 women members
SOM eligibility	Minimum 25 years old; retired from active sports minimum 1 year
SOM selection	10-tier achievement system — Olympic and international medalists prioritised

3. Electoral Reforms:

- **National Sports Election Panel** established for free and fair elections in sports bodies
- Electoral panels also mandated for affiliate bodies
- **Convicted persons disqualified** — anyone sentenced to imprisonment barred from holding office

4. Code of Ethics:

- Mandatory for all National Sports Bodies
- Professional and ethical conduct standards binding on office-bearers

5. Dispute Resolution:

- **National Sports Tribunal** established for sports-related disputes
- Excludes disputes related to international competitions (which fall under CAS)

6. Compliance Timeline:

- All National Sports Bodies must **amend their constitutions within 6 months** of Rules notification

7. Government Powers:

- Power to grant **exemptions in public interest**
- **Search-cum-selection committees** for key appointments (expertise in sports governance, law, public administration)

UPSC Angle

- **GS2:** Statutory bodies, governance reforms, transparency, RTI applicability, sports federalism
- **GS4:** Ethics in sports governance, accountability of public bodies

- **Interview:** “Should the government regulate autonomous sports bodies, or does it risk compromising their independence under IOC rules?”

Source: [NextIAS Kurukshetra February 2026 Summary](#)



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[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/magazines/2026/kurukshetra-february-2026/national-sports-governance-act/>

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