

## **FICCI REPORT SUGGESTS SEPARATE LAW FOR SPORTS TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY AND BOOST BUSINESS OF SPORTS**

**NEW DELHI, September 25, 2010.** FICCI has suggested structural reforms in the business of sports through a separate legislation.

FICCI report titled “**India’s Sports Scenario**”, prepared for its forthcoming “**International Convention on the Business of Sports**” scheduled for September 30, 2010 in the capital, suggests that the proposed sports law should encompass the following:

- Regulate the sports and the governing body regulating that sport
- Ensure transparency and accountability
- Check malpractices and rampant corruption
- Spell out the role for Player’s Representative/ Agent, if any;
- Ensure that there is meritocracy and equal opportunity in selection devoid of bias on account of gender, religion etc.;
- Ensure a mechanism for quick (India’s legal system is infamous for being slow) redressal of grievances of various stake holders – viz. players, teams, federations, sponsors etc.;
- Ensure uniformity and lack of special status on issues such as doping;
- Ensure collective bargaining agreements for team sports and corresponding changes to the prevalent labour laws;
- Ensure that sexual harassment issues are firmly and expeditiously dealt with;
- Ensure just and fair league regulations governing various sports;
- Consider a cap on player’s fees so that there is more equitable distribution among competing teams;
- Consider having a Court of Arbitration for various sports in India may be on the lines similar to the one based in Laussane, Switzerland.

The Report notes that **as many as seven statutes** today govern various facets of particular sport, viz. Indian Contract Act, 1872; The Copyright Act, 1957; Specific Relief Act, 1963; Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996; Trademarks Act, 1999; Information Technology Act, 2000 and Competition Act, 2002.

Global spend on sports is projected to rise from US \$ 114 billion in 2009 to US\$ 133 billion in 2013, (according to PWC projections) with an increasing number of corporates and brands looking at sport as an effective medium to promote their business interests.

While sport sponsorship in the Asia pacific region is projected to grow at 3.9% between 2010 and 2013, growth in India is expected to be higher India plays host to global sporting competitions like the Commonwealth Games and greater spending power of the average Indian.

**The FICCI reports suggests that sports bodies be made accountable to the people of this country and that sports bodies and National Sports Federations (NSFs) should look at creating self regulatory guidelines to ensure transparency.**

Further, there is need for the Government to look at creating a new form of entity for sporting organizations which ensure autonomy and also create accountability.

The other recommendations are:

- Professional management of sports would be required to ensure this sector reaches its potential
- India with its huge youth population and increasing spending power is a market waiting to be tapped, the Government should create an atmosphere both at an administrative level as well as the commercial level
- New sporting competition structures like leagues with private participation needs to be encouraged
- The media especially the TV distribution business provides ample scope for promotion of sports, cleansing and transparency in this sector shall improve business opportunities for sport
- Sport retail and Sport hospitality are sectors ready to boom, Sporting events need to be packaged effectively to maximize outputs
- There is a strong need for laws dedicated to Sport, It is also recommended Sport be moved to the concurrent list from the state list

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