The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy

IOA–IOC DISPUTE AND INDIA'S 2036 OLYMPIC HOSTING AMBITIONS

IOA–IOC Dispute: Latest News

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has expressed strong disappointment over alleged irregularities and disputes surrounding the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) electoral process.

1. About the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is the National Olympic Committee of India and the governing body responsible for coordinating the country's participation in the Olympic Games and other international multi-sport events.

Established in 1927, it is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and functions within the framework of the Olympic Charter.

The IOA works with national sports federations and other stakeholders to promote Olympic sports, facilitate the selection and participation of Indian athletes in international competitions, and represent India's interests within the Olympic Movement.

It is also responsible for ensuring that its governance and electoral processes adhere to its Constitution and the principles of the Olympic Charter.

2. About the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement and is responsible for overseeing the organisation of the Olympic Games.

Established in 1894 by Pierre de Coubertin, it is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The IOC recognises National Olympic Committees, including the IOA, and works with international sports federations and other Olympic stakeholders to promote sport globally.

It safeguards the Olympic Charter, which establishes the principles and rules governing the Olympic Movement, including the autonomy, integrity and good governance of National Olympic Committees.

3. News Summary

- The IOC has expressed strong disappointment over recurring disputes and allegations of misconduct surrounding the Indian Olympic Association's electoral process.
- In its communication to the IOA, the IOC warned that the controversy was negatively affecting the functioning and reputation of the Olympic Movement in India.

The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy

- The IOC urged the IOA and its Electoral Officer to ensure that elections are conducted in full compliance with the Olympic Charter, the IOA Constitution and applicable rules, in a free and fair manner and without external interference.

4. Controversy Surrounding Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) Elections

The controversy intensified after IOA President P.T. Usha finished fifth with 40 votes in the women's category of the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) elections held on November 9, failing to secure one of the four available positions.

Elected Candidates

- Anju Bobby George – 53 votes.
- Rani Rampal – 50 votes.
- Dola Banerjee – 45 votes.
- Saina Nehwal – 43 votes.

The elections were preceded by the withdrawal of 13 candidates, comprising eight men and five women.

Former athletes Ashwini Nachappa and Ronjan Sodhi alleged that their withdrawals followed external pressure. Consequently, all four men's positions were filled unopposed, while the women's category went to a vote.

5. P.T. Usha Seeks Independent Examination

In a communication dated November 9 to IOC President Kirsty Coventry, P.T. Usha sought an independent examination of alleged irregularities in the SOM election process.

Her complaints included:

- Alleged campaigning by incumbent officials and WhatsApp messages soliciting votes for a particular panel.
- Communications seeking confirmation of voters' participation.
- References to the Sports Ministry during an election involving a secret ballot.
- Concerns over the handling of four representations submitted to the Electoral Officer.

She maintained that her complaint was not an attempt to challenge the result because she had lost, but an effort to protect the autonomy and integrity of the IOA's electoral process.

The IOC has expressed concern over the situation but has not adjudicated P.T. Usha's specific allegations or identified individuals responsible for the reported violations.

The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy The Tutors Academy

6. Disputes Over Nominations and Upcoming IOA Elections

The controversy has extended to the scrutiny of nominations ahead of the December 5, 2026 elections to the IOA Executive Council.

P.T. Usha's nomination as a representative of the Ice Hockey Association of India to the IOA General Assembly was challenged, along with those of more than a dozen other nominees. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on November 15.

Olympic medallists Gagan Narang, Saina Nehwal and Anju Bobby George are among the names being discussed in connection with the presidential contest. Former Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, representing the Archery Association of India, is also in the fray.

7. Implications for India's 2036 Olympic Bid

The controversy has emerged at a sensitive time for India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

An Indian delegation is scheduled to present its case before the IOC's Future Host Commission on November 26, 2026. The delegation is expected to include P.T. Usha, Nita Ambani, representatives of the Central and Gujarat governments, and an athlete. Ahmedabad has been proposed as the host city.

India submitted its expression of interest in October 2024 and is competing with six other countries: Qatar, Turkey, Germany, South Korea, Hungary and South Africa.

The IOC's evaluation process is expected to continue over the coming years, with the host city likely to be selected in 2029.

The IOC had also raised concerns in July 2025 regarding IOA governance, India's anti-doping record and its performance at previous Olympic Games. These remain important areas for India to address as it seeks to establish its credentials as a potential host.

8. Conclusion

The IOA–IOC dispute highlights the importance of transparent elections, institutional autonomy and good governance in Indian sports administration.

As India pursues its ambition to host the 2036 Olympic Games, resolving governance concerns, strengthening anti-doping systems and ensuring credible sports administration will be essential to building international confidence.