



SPORTS & GAMING LAWS

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SPORTS LAW (NATIONAL)

Sports And Youth Affairs Minister Of Haryana Resigns As Accused Of Sexual Harassment

Sandeep Singh, the minister for sports and youth affairs of Haryana, resigned from his position on January 1, 2023, after Chandigarh Police filed a complaint accusing him of sexually harassing a junior athletics coach.

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Bcci Bags INR 4669 Crores As Women's IPL Team Auction Concludes

Cricket experienced a historic day on January 25, 2023 as teams for the inaugural Women's Indian Premier League (WIPL) outbid those for the Men's IPL, which debuted in 2008. Adani Sportsline Private Ltd. who prior to this, had missed out on the Ahmedabad team in the Men's IPL, bid strongly to the extent of INR 1289 crores to win the auction for the Ahmedabad franchise in the WIPL auctions. Reliance-backed Mumbai Indians was the 2nd highest bidder with INR 912 Cr and will operate Mumbai franchise. Diageo-backed RCB will operate from Bengaluru after bagging the team for INR 901 Cr. JSW-GMR-backed Delhi Capitals will operate Delhi franchise after splashing INR 810 Cr. Capri Global has bagged Lucknow franchise for INR 757 Cr. According to BCCI President, Roger Binny, "...The league will give players from India and abroad a chance to learn and grow together.

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Viacom 18 Network Bags Broadcasting Rights For Women's IPL 2023-27

The media rights to the Women's Indian Premier League (IPL) for the years 2023–2027 were awarded to Viacom18 on January 16, 2023. Viacom18 won the rights at an auction conducted in Mumbai by the BCCI with an offer of INR 951 crore, equated to INR 7.09 crore for each match. Viacom 18 outbid Disney Star, Sony, and Zee, among other broadcasters in the auction. The inaugural women's IPL, a Twenty20 competition, is scheduled to take place in March, 2023.

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Shikhar Dhawan Turns Investor, Launches \$75 Million Sports Tech Fund

Shikhar Dhawan, an Indian cricketer, is the first athlete from Asia to establish a venture capital firm with a focus on sports-related innovation and technology. He announced it in the Abu Dhabi Finance Week and named it 'Da One Global Ventures' (DOGV), a \$75 million Global SportsTech Venture Fund (including a Greenshoe option of \$25 Million), that focuses on innovation across the sports spectrum. SportsTech has had an incredible year, with investments totalling \$12 billion already. That is more than the sum of the previous three years put together, and many segments show the industry's quick expansion. DOGV is actively in contact with a number of important global players, and more information will be released as it becomes available.

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Delhi HC Directs Centre To Treat Deaf & Para Athletes Equally

The Delhi High Court recently ruled that in essence, deaf and para athletes would have to be treated similarly, and neither group could be discriminated against, after hearing a request for equal treatment of deaf athletes. In accordance with the disability certificates issued to them, four athletes with a 100% handicap in speech and hearing had brought a case before Justice Prathiba Singh's single-judge bench. The Ministry of Youth

Affairs and Sports was instructed to make a decision on the points stated "in a manner which is equitable to those suffering from speaking and hearing disabilities" after the court dismissed the arguments. "The aforementioned decision shall be made within three months of this day. Since there are a few tournaments that are now scheduled to take place, the court stipulated that any interim support must be evaluated within four weeks.

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SPORTS LAW (INTERNATIONAL)

Kenyan Betty Wilson Lempus Handed 5 Year Ban By AIU For Doping

Betty Wilson Lempus, a Kenyan road runner received a five-year suspension by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for interfering with doping controls by using the illegal chemical triamcinolone acetonide. The penalty is two years for the doping violation and four years for trying to cover it up. Lempus admitted to both violations, which reduced the ban by one year. After winning the Harmonie Mutuelle Semi de Paris in September 2021, Lempus underwent a positive test. Glucocorticoids, which are frequently utilized as medicinal agents in sports but are also restricted when taken in specific ways, include triamcinolone acetonide. The Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) conducted additional research on behalf of the AIU after Lempus presented medical records to demonstrate that the administration was not made through a forbidden method. This inquiry revealed that the records were fake.

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Fifa Suspends Football Federation Of Srilanka

Due to intervention from the government, the FIFA Council's Bureau resolved to suspend the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) immediately. According to the FIFA Statutes, the Bureau believed that the circumstances surrounding the elections for a new FFSL Executive Committee that took place on January 14, 2023, constituted unjustified interference by a third party. The Sri Lanka Sports Ministry apparently implemented a number of rules that threatened the autonomy and independence of national sports organizations, including the FFSL, during the time of that warning. An ally of the sports minister was elected chair in this month's FFSL election, which apparently fell short of the norms set by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

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NFL Announces New Playoff Overtime Rules

New overtime regulations are in effect for the 2023 NFL postseason. NFL owners opted to amend the rules after the thrilling contest between the Kansas City Chiefs and Buffalo Bills last season concluded without Josh Allen's side having the ball in overtime. With this change, it is hoped that the outcomes of these high-stakes games will be less influenced by the flip of a coin. The playoffs kicked off on January 14 with a doubleheader: two wild-card games between the Seattle Seahawks and the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Chargers and the Jacksonville Jaguars. Here is a simplified version of the new rules.

1. The usual coin toss will still take place, with the road team selecting either heads or tails. The coin toss winner's team will have the choice of either kicking off or receiving the ball. There will be chances for both teams to control the ball.
2. If a side has possession of the ball for both halves of a tied score, the next score wins; the game reaches sudden death. The team that kicked off is deemed the winner if they score a safety on the receiving team's first possession of overtime.
3. Coaches' challenges are not allowed during overtime. The replay official will be the only one to start reviews.
4. Every two overtime sessions, there are three timeouts for each team (30 minutes total).

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FIA Prohibits Political And Religious Statements Made By Players

A new regulation prohibiting "political, religious, or personal remarks" was imposed by the International Automobile Federation (FIA), which oversees Formula One, on 9 January, 2023. Such statements would be "in breach of the basic principle of neutrality promoted by the FIA under its statutes,"

according to a new provision in its International Code of Conduct. This decision appears to be a response to drivers, particularly Lewis Hamilton, who have expressed their support to the Black Lives Matter movement and worries about the venues for F1 races, including the human rights records of host countries. Human rights groups have called on FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem to revoke new rules that forbid drivers from expressing their political opinions. Human rights organizations are concerned about the alteration, and The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy criticized it in a letter to Ben Sulayem.

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West Virginia's Transgender Sports Law Upheld By The US District Court

The Transgender Sports Law of West Virginia was recently upheld as lawful by a federal judge. During the legislative session of 2021, a bill implementing the new law was approved by both chambers of the West Virginia Legislature. Under the law, "all interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by any public secondary school or a state institution of higher education" must be "expressly designated" as one of the following, based on biological sex: male, men or boys; female, women or girls; or coed or mixed. The suit on behalf of Becky Pepper Jackson, a then-11-year-old transgender girl who was interested in trying out for the girls cross county team at her school. The plaintiff made two separate motions for summary judgement alleging the law violates both Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The ruling, issued by Judge Joseph Goodwin of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, concluded the law does not violate either provision.

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GAMING LAW (NATIONAL)

Stakeholders Submit Suggestions To Meity On Draft Rules

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has received feedback from a number of online gaming sector stakeholders regarding the proposed rules. They listed the purpose of the planned self-regulatory organizations (SRO) and the procedure for game registration as the two main problems in their submissions.

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Rajasthan High Court Grants Interim Relief To Myteam 11 In Gambling Case

The Rajasthan High Court noted that the question of the nature of online gaming services is no longer res-integra and said that such gaming services have been held to be games of skill and not games of chance or gambling. The bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Shubha Mehta stated that the issue of the show cause notice to Myteam11 by the GST authorities, seeking to levy GST on the gaming services provided by it online by treating the same as "actionable claims," is an abuse of the legal system. They noted that the matter has been resolved in light of the judgments rendered by various Courts. Myteam 11 Fantasy Sports Private Limited, the petitioner, operates the website MyTeam11.in and offers online gaming services, including rummy, poker, and other casual games.

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Chhattisgarh Assembly Passes Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2022

On January 5, 2023, the Chhattisgarh Assembly passed a Bill banning all forms of offline and online gambling in the state. Chhattisgarh is the new entrant in the category of states who have taken steps to regulate online gaming and betting in the country, which did so in order to "protect the social and economic stability of its residents." " Features of Bill are: 1) Only applies to chance-based games. Games of skill are exempt from this rule, including fantasy sports, rummy, and poker;

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NCP Demands Filing Of Cases Against Actors Promoting Online Rummy

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has demanded the state to file cases against actors promoting online rummy in the state. In Maharashtra, playing cards, including matka, are prohibited. A harsh punishment is provided for anyone caught playing these cards in a village or other public area. However, Maharashtra prohibits online rummy. Marathi movie stars are encouraging people to play rummy in order to grow this industry. Cases against them should be filed, according to Babasaheb Patil, state president of the Nationalist Congress Congress's department of film, literature, art, and culture.

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No Betting & Gambling If Games Of Chance Don't Offer Monetary Rewards: Bombay HC

A Bombay High Court ruling issued on January 18 stated that just because a game of chance is played online, it does not qualify as gambling or betting. For such, there must be an implied promise of monetary reward. Justices Gautam S. Patel and S.G. Dige were deliberating over a lawsuit brought by the gaming company Play Games 24-7, which was in violation of its compliance requirements to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for hosting "gambling and betting" games.

The Court argued against this, stating that Play Games 24x7's provided online games did not qualify as gambling or betting. In its decision, the court highlighted that previous rulings by the Supreme Court on games of skill and games of chance emphasize that a game must be predominantly a game of chance and be played for a monetary benefit in order to be called gambling. As a result, the court decided that the contested those games were not gambling.

The court added that Games 24x7 must continue to abide by local regulations, the court noted.

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GAMING LAW (INTERNATIONAL)

1xbet Declared Bankrupt By Dutch Supreme Court

The Dutch Supreme Court declared 1xBet, a contentious offshore betting site, bankrupt. The betting company was founded in Curacao, a Dutch Caribbean island, although it has roots in Latvia and Russia. 1xBet was established in 2007 and had its initial registration in Cyprus before moving its headquarters to Curacao. By 2021, payment processors and the Russian Federal Tax Service had placed the betting website on a blacklist. It was also at the center of the contentious "casino" issue in 2019, which led to the UK Gambling Commission placing it on a blacklist and shutting down the website's UK version.

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NTA asks ISPs to block all the access to digital platforms promoting betting & gambling

The Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), citing an increase in unlawful financial activities through such digital platforms, has intensified attempts to impose restrictions on the websites used for virtual currency and online betting. The industry regulator requested the internet service providers (ISPs) to restrict web portals relating to cryptocurrency, bitcoin, hyper networking, and online gambling in a public notice published on January 8. Despite the National Rastra Bank (NRB) not having approved online gambling and digital platforms like virtual currency and network marketing as the country's monetary instruments, the number of these unlawful transactions has reportedly increased, according to NTA.

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EU Prepares To Challenge Microsoft - Activision Deal

According to reports, the European Union (EU) intends to inform Microsoft of its objections to its acquisition of Activision Blizzard.

The \$68.7 billion acquisition of the publisher of Call of Duty and World of Warcraft by Microsoft is expected to result in an EU antitrust warning, according to sources familiar with the situation who spoke to Reuters. This would add to the growing list of organizations that have expressed concern about the acquisition. Though Microsoft has reportedly stated that it is confident in the success of the purchase, the statement of objections charge sheet is anticipated to be sent in the upcoming weeks. It added, "We're working with the European Commission to address any market concerns."

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Macau Judiciary Police Plans To Team-up With Casino Operators To Tackle Illegal Currency Exchange

A consolidating bill that governs the licencing and operations of casino junket operators and what the city refers to as "gaming management companies," a category of business connected to so-called satellite casinos but separate from the gaming concessionaires themselves, received a second and final approval from Macau's Legislative Assembly on December 15, 2022. But, there has been increased money laundering and currency exchange activities recently in the state.

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New German Regulator Set To Approve 50 More Gambling Licenses

Nearly 50 additional gambling licenses for online slot games and poker have been conditionally accepted by the newly established German regulator Gemeinsamen Glücksspielbehörde der Länder (GGL). Due to unpaid security deposits, only 25 providers have so far been placed to the official white list of operators with German licenses. After 18 months of planning and development, the GGL took control of all German federal state-level gambling regulatory responsibilities on January 1, 2023. This involves providing new gaming licenses as well as looking into and preventing cases of illegal gambling in the nation, both of which were previously responsibilities. Nearly 600 of the 3,500 applications for individual gaming permits submitted to the regulator for online poker and slot machines have also been accepted. However, according to GGL CEO Ronald Benter, some of the games submitted for evaluation are not up to par. The GGL declared that one of their goals for 2023 was to continue focusing on the fight against illegal gambling. When it comes to the penalties the authority may impose, the GGL is not reluctant to exercise the potential of cancelling licenses.

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