

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
OF INDIA HELD ON 31ST MARCH 2021 AT ARMY BATTLE HONOURS MESS, DELHI**

1. The Executive Committee Meeting of Equestrian Federation of India was held on 31st March 2021, at 1500 hrs at Army Battle Honours Mess, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Delhi-110021.

2. Following members attended the meeting: -

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| (a) | Lt Gen PR Venkatesh, PVSM, SM | - | Vice President (Vet) |
| (b) | Col Jaiveer Singh | - | Secretary General |
| (c) | Lt Col MM Rahman | - | Joint Secretary |
| (d) | Col Vikas Thakur | - | Member Medication Control |
| (e) | Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd) | - | Member Dressage |
| (f) | Col PP Singh (Retd) | - | Member Eastern Region |
| (g) | Dr Sanjay Gupta | - | Member Central Region |
| (h) | Lt Col DP Nanda | - | Member Northern Region |
| (j) | <u>Absent</u> | | |
| (i) | Mr Harish Khokhar | - | Vice President (Fin) |
| (ii) | Col Jagat Singh | - | Vice President (Tech) |
| (iii) | Brig SS Kashyap | - | Vice President (Sports Devp) |
| (iv) | Col Rakesh Sharma | - | Treasurer |
| (v) | Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM | - | Member Eventing |
| (vi) | Col Mangal Singh | - | Member Jumping |
| (vii) | Col CS Sohal (Retd) | - | Member Endurance |
| (viii) | Col Tarsem Singh Warraich | - | Member Tent Pegging |
| (ix) | Mr Kishore Futnani | - | Member South Region |
| (x) | Mr Shyam Mehta | - | Member West Region |
| (xi) | Dr Siddhartha Sharma | - | Member North East Region |



3. Dr SY Quraishi, learned Observer appointed by the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi was also present in the EC meeting.

4. In terms of provisions as contained in Para 7 of Article 017, Chapter VI of EFI Statutes, the Secretary General proposed in the EC to nominate Lt Gen PR Venkatesh, PVSM, SM, Vice President (Vet) to chair the meeting. The EC approved the proposal.

5. **Opening Address by the nominated Chair.** The nominated chair of the meeting Lt Gen PR Venkatesh, PVSM, VSM welcomed all members and the learned Observer to the EC Meeting. He informed the house that this emergent meeting had been called to discuss and deliberate on the issue of Indian athletes impersonating as Nepalese citizens and their participation on behalf of Nepal in the recently concluded ITPF World Cup Tent Pegging Qualifier held at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida. The matter was highlighted by Mr Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod during the AGM 2020 held on 21 Mar 2021 and thereafter, a number of media articles had also been doing the rounds. The purpose to gather at a short notice was to decide the course of action to address the issue at hand. The nominated chair requested the Secy Gen to proceed with the agenda and brief the house on the conduct of the ITPF World Cup Tent Pegging Qualifiers.

Points	Decision	Action to be taken by
<u>AGENDA-I</u>		
<p>6. <u>ITPF World Cup Tent Pegging Qualifier in India : Participation of Nepal Tent Pegging Team.</u> The Secretary General displayed the list of groups of countries as received from the ITPF through their email on 22 Jan 2020. The Secretary General appraised the house that the ITPF consisted of 28 countries and was further divided into various groups. Every two/three years they have a World Cup competition based on qualifiers organised amongst countries in the Group. India was in Group B and Nepal was in Group C. He informed the house that a bid was received from Equiwings Sports Riding Club to host the ITPF World Cup Tent Pegging Qualifier for Group B countries in April / May 2020. The bid was recommended by the Bid Evaluation Committee in May 2020 and thereafter the Calendar was approved by the Executive Committee in Jun 2020. Accordingly, the Calendar for year 2020-21 was promulgated through the EFI Website and social media. During last year, there were a lot of apprehensions for various tournaments because of COVID 19 pandemic restriction like lockdown etc. The Calendar events which was supposed to start in October, could only be held in November. In January 2021, NF</p>	<p>After detailed deliberations, the house decided to detail a Committee consisting of the following to investigate the circumstances under which five Indian Nationals participated on behalf of Nepal during the Tent Pegging World Cup qualifier conducted by Equiwings Sports Riding Club wef 15 to 18 Mar 2021 at Gautam Buddha Nagar University, Noida, UP: -</p> <p>(a) Comdt Naresh Tehlan (b) Col SS Solanki (Retd) (c) Col JS Maan (d) Col Rakesh Nair (e) Mr Kevic Setalvad</p> <p>The draft convening order approved by the Executive Committee was attached as Appendix A</p>	<p>Secy Gen Investigation Committee Members</p>

forwarded a bid to ITPF to host the ITPF World Cup Tent Pegging Qualifier of Group B countries based on the bids received from the Organiser (Equiwings Sports Riding Club) and the ITPF accepted EFI bid and accorded administrative approval on 06 Jan 2021 to hold a qualifier for Group B countries. On 29 Jan 2021, NF approached Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for permission to hold the International event in India, and also approached Ministry of External Affairs to accord political clearance and Ministry of Home Affairs for Security Clearance. The Qualifier dates were changed to March 2021 based on the advice received from the ITPF due to ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. Accordingly, the EC was apprised and concurrence obtained. Fresh dates were rescheduled to 12 to 14 Mar 2021. The official invitation for Group B countries were sent on 09 Jan 2021. The Secretary General flashed the list of Group B countries which confirmed their participation in the Qualifier. Finally, three countries (USA, Pakistan & Belarus) accepted the invitation. The ITPF General Assembly held on 09 Mar 2021 had taken a decision that there should be a minimum of 4 countries participating in World Cup qualifier being conducted by India, after which it would be considered as the qualifier. In the meanwhile, Nepal through their representative requested the ITPF to change their Group from C to B in order to enable them take part in the Qualifier in India which was agreed upon by the ITPF. On 14 Mar 2021, the NF received a mail from Nepal Tent Pegging Federation (NTPF) under the signatory of Shikshit Srestha that they would be participating in the World Cup Qualifier being held in India. They had also given the names of their Athletes in that mail. On 14 Mar 2021 itself, the NF had sent an email to ITPF to accord their approval for Nepal to participate in the Qualifier of Group B countries as EFI was not aware of any official communication regarding Group change of Nepal from C to B. The ITPF accorded their sanction on 15 Mar 2021. In all the mails, the Organiser (Mr Ahmad Afsar, Show Secretary) was kept informed. The Qualifier was to take place

from 12 to 14 Mar 2021 but because of the VISA issues, arrival of teams of Pakistan and USA got delayed and they arrived on 15 Mar 2021 morning. The Belarus team had reached India in time and the fourth team viz India was already present at the competition location. The draw of lots took place after lunch on 15 Mar 2021 and the Qualifier was conducted from 16 to 18 Mar 2021. In the Annual General Body Meeting 2020 held on 21 Mar 2021, the matter was raised by Mr Raghuvendra Singh Dundlod that the Nepal team did not consist of valid Nepalese citizens but were Indian Citizens. There was a newspaper Article on 24 & 25 Mar 2021 corroborating the same. On 24 Mar 2021, NF sent an email to the ITPF informing them that the Nepal team did not consist of players holding valid Nepalese passports and the list of players forwarded by Nepal Tent Pegging Federation was also shared. The ITPF was also informed that the matter was under investigation and a detailed report would be submitted on completion of the investigation. On 24 Mar 2021 itself, the NF sought an explanation on the incident from the Organiser. Reply was received from them on 26 Mar 2021 in which the Organiser confirmed that the none of the athletes of Nepal team held valid Nepalese passport and were Indian Citizens. In the meantime, the NF wrote a letter to Nepal Equestrian Association on 25 Mar 2021 to forward their views on the incident. On 28 Mar 2021, the Nepal Equestrian Federation informed that they had no role in the incident and the so called Nepal Tent Pegging Federation (NTPF) was neither associated nor known to Nepal Olympic Committee, National Sports Council of Nepal or Nepal Equestrian Association. They also requested for a thorough investigation into the matter. On 26 Mar 2021, the matter was brought to the notice of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The Chair of the Meeting requested to flash the slide once again consisting of the reply of Mr Ahmad Afsar, Show Secretary of ITPF World Cup Tent Pegging qualifier dt 26 Mar 2021 for carrying out necessary deliberations. Col PP Singh said that the mail from Tent

Pegging Federation of Nepal was a fake communication. The Secy Gen affirmed the same and apprised the house that this had been noticed only after the incident was highlighted.

During the discussion on nomination of members for the Investigation Committee, it was decided not to include any names from the EC and as he would participate in the decision making process based on the recommendation of the committee and tantamounted to conflict of interest.

The Secretary General informed the house that the ITPF had asked for a report from the NF regarding the participation of Nepal Team to enable them to take further action on the matter. The Secretary General flashed a draft reply to ITPF on the matter. Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd) suggested an amendment in the draft reply that "according to the decision taken by the EFI" and **not by the EC**, the team Nepal should be disqualified.

Col PP Singh (Retd) said that the participation of Nepalese Team in ITPF World Cup Qualifier was null and void and cannot be termed as disqualified. No authorised entries had been received from the country of Nepal, in view of which they were fake entries received and their entire participation stands invalidated. Secretary General projected that the existence of the fake entries couldn't be decided till the investigations were completed. Col PP Singh (Retd) replied that the NF was in receipt of official communication from the Nepal Equestrian Association (the sole body responsible for Equestrian Sport in Nepal duly registered with the National Sports Council, recognized by Nepal Olympic Committee and recently provisionally recognized by the FEI) and hence should write to ITPF on the matter. Since the NF had not received any authorised entries from the country of Nepal per se and the results of the unauthorised entries received were from a fake organisation which carried out fake runs and was to be annulled and nullified.

22

The Secy Gen asked the house if any immediate action was required to be taken against the OC. Col PP Singh (Retd) said that since a investigation committee has been constituted, one should wait for its report and recommendation to take a final decision. Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd) suggested that a timeline be fixed for the investigation committee to submit its report/recommendation.

The House agreed for a period of 15 days to be given to the investigation committee to submit its report.

AGENDA-II

7. ANY OTHER POINTS WITH THE PERMISSION OF CHAIR

7.1 Delhi Horse Show 2021. The Secretary General informed the house that the NF had received a mail on 22 & 26 Mar 2021 from Lt Col Arjun Patil, Secretary, Army Polo & Riding Centre (APRC) with regard to conduct of Show Jumping events of Delhi Horse Show. He appraised the house that the NF had promulgated the Technical Guidelines 2021 wef 01 Jan 2021 wherein Delhi Horse Show could also be one of the competitions where the horses were going to get upgraded for Show Jumping and Dressage. Therefore, they should follow the Technical Guidelines 2021 for Show Jumping wherein it says Show Jumping events would consist of two rounds competition. APRC had requested that the Show Jumping Events at Delhi Horse Show be a one round competition. The same point was also raised by Col Rohit Dagar, Comdt 61 Cavalry during the AGM 2020 held on 21st Mar 2021 which was suitably replied by Brig Deep Ahlawat, VSM. However, APRC had again approached the NF with reasons as mentioned below to exempt the Delhi Horse show from two round show Jumping events and be a single round competition: -

(a) Delhi Horse Show being a regional/local Horse Show has always organised the Show Jumping Events as a one round competition.

(b) Keeping the rising temperatures and heat in mind, it would be cruel and not advisable to

The house agreed to permit the OC DHS to hold one round competition for all Show Jumping categories and no upgradation for Show Jumping/Dressage horses will be permitted for the said competition. For the next year DHS, the same will be considered subject to continuation of upgradation policy in Tech Guidelines 2021 for the said event.

Secy Gen

jump the horses over 2 rounds in the scorching heat.

(c) In view of the fact that the senior athletes and young riders/ junior riders sharing and competing on the same horses, one round of Show Jumping events would encourage and facilitate the riders to compete in more number of events.

APRC has also highlighted that Delhi Horse Show is a regional horse show and the Technical Guidelines should not be applicable for this show. This would facilitate the riders and most importantly support welfare of horses.

The nominated Chair said that one should consider their request for One round competition in Show Jumping events. Col PP Singh (Retd) said that EFI can consider one round but the law put in the Technical Guidelines for upgradation of horses should not be applicable for Show Jumping events. The Secretary General informed the house that the dispensation of conducting one round competition in Show Jumping events in Delhi Horse Show will be for this year only and the horses participating in the Show Jumping competitions will not be considered for upgradation. However, from next time onwards, the Delhi Horse Show will be part of Horse Upgradation and the event will be conducted as per the rules of EFI Technical Guidelines subject to amendment in these rules in due course. Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd) suggested that no upgradation should be done for Dressage categories also. The suggestion was supported by Mr Harish Khokhar and Dr Sanjay Gupta.



<p>7.2 <u>Reply to Show Cause Notice by Col Rajesh Pattu, SJRP, VSM (Retd).</u> The Secretary General informed the house that Col Rajesh Pattu (Retd) had replied to the Show Cause notice served to him by the NF after the last EC held on 26 Feb 2021 but that needed some deliberations. Col PP Singh (Retd) suggested that the same should be discussed in a larger audience and should be considered later. The suggestion was also recommended by Col SS Ahlawat, VSM (Retd).</p>	<p>The house perused the same and agreed to the suggestion of Col PP Singh (Retd)</p>	<p>Secy Gen</p>
<p>8. <u>Closing Address by the nominated Chair of the Meeting.</u> Lt Gen PR Venkatesh, PVSM, SM thanked Dr SY Quraishi, learned Observer and each EC Members for taking out their precious time from their busy schedule to come and attend the EC meeting.</p>		

Case No : 074/EC/2021
Station : Delhi Cantt-110010
Dated : 10 Aug 2021



(Jaiveer Singh)
Colonel
Secretary General