



ATHLETICS FEDERATION OF INDIA

WZ-72, First Floor, Toda Pur Main Road, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi - 110012
T.: +91 11 25845421/22 F: +91 11 25845423 E: afi@indianathletics.in, indianathletics@gmail.com
W : www.indianathletics.org

Action Taken on Govt Circular No. F32-18/2009-SP-III dated Nov. 25, 2009 on Issue of I cards to National Athletes and Prevention of Age Fraud

In regards to the Action Taken on Govt Circular No. F32-18/2009-SP-III dated Nov. 25, 2009 on Issue of I cards to National Athletes and Prevention of Age Fraud, the AFI would like to submit the following action taken in issuing I Cards to Athletes and fighting the menace of Age Frauds:

1. The AFI has adopted the Govt. of India, MYAS Circular and guidelines in its Competition Manual (Manual Copy and relevant pages attached).
2. The number of athletes participating in athletics in India is huge and the AFI has succeeded in issuing I Cards for some athletes and it is carrying on the process so that all the athletes participating in various age categories, from Under-14 age onwards are covered under the I Cards
3. A sample of the registration process of Athletes at our competitions is also attached for submission
4. As far as fighting Age Fraud is concerned, the AFI has taken the following steps:

AFI is of the opinion that "age fraud" is a menace which needs to be tackled firmly and effectively. The Federation had a tough time to curb

overage participation in the Junior Meets and made consistent and continuous efforts to stop overage participation over the years.

Athletics, in particular, is a discipline in which there are large number of participants in National Junior Meets. There are around 2500-3000 participants in National Junior & National Inter District Meets each. The AFI conducts the following Championships for juniors - National Junior Championships, Federation Cup National Junior Championships, National Youth Championships, National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet and Zonal Championships and Inter-Zonal Championships being held under the aegis of our State Units.

- Federation has cautioned the state units to ensure that proper screening of athletes is done before sending entries.
- State units are invariably being informed that suitable action including disaffiliation will be taken against such units which encourage overage participation by sending overage athletes.
- The Federation has also issued directive to the state units that entries should be sent at least 15 days, before the championship which will help the federation to check date of birth and compare with the date of birth given by the athletes in the previous years. The Federation has its data bank and every time it is enriched by the confirmation from various sources.
- To check overage participants, AFI has issued directive that the Athletes should bring along the following original certificates for verification by Age Verification Committee and a Team of Doctors:
 - (a) 10th Standard/equivalent examination certificate from recognised Central/State Education Board

(b) Birth certificate in case of athletes who have not attended school at all

(c) Birth certificate and also School leaving certificate in case of athletes who are drop outs.

In this connection, it is pertinent to mention that athletes, who do not produce original age proof as mentioned above, are not allowed to participate in the Championships.

In order to eliminate age fraud, Sports Authority of India framed National Code a few years ago. The Federation incorporated the said Code in the Indian Athletics Manual and also circulated to all the affiliated state units for its implementation.

Challenges faced: It is also pertinent to mention that the Hospital authorised for medical examination of doubtful overage athletes are not extending helping hand and do not agree for immediate medical examination of the athletes and instead give date for medical examination after a period of 3-6 months.

It is also relevant to mention that many cases of fake educational and birth certificates have come to our notice. Unfortunately, verification of such certificates is a very cumbersome process and hence cannot easily be adopted. There is no doubt that programme of the Federation gets badly affected when overage athletes take the front seat and push the genuine athlete to back seat. It is therefore absolutely important and essential that overage participation needs to be completely eliminated.

The federation and its affiliated units are seriously working hard to get rid of this menace.

As per the AFI's estimate, the number of doubtful overage indented athletes would be more than 100 in each Major Junior Competition. Government Hospitals which are otherwise burdened by patients will not be in a position to exceed to the request for medical examination of such a large number of athletes at a particular time just before the competition.

While the AFI is committed to zero-tolerance for age fraud and the issue has been taken up regularly in the Executive Committee body Meeting and AGM and also undertaken a number of steps to curb the menace, clearly a lot more needs to be done on this front to ensure that only the deserving and genuine athletes participate in Junior Meets.