

## **MINUTES OF THE AFI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019 AT HOTEL HOLIDAY INN, AGRA**

The Annual General Meeting of Athletics Federation of India was held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Agra. The list of members who attended the meeting is attached at **Annexure-I**.

At the outset the foreign delegates who had come from Jordan, Malaysia and Chinese Taipei and also the senior members of AFI including ex-athletes were felicitated by Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot, Chairman, Planning Committee and Mr. Adille Sumariwalla, President, AFI.

Mr. Adille Sumariwalla, President, AFI informed the house about the sad demise of Brig. Chandpuri due to cancer. He was the President of Chandigarh Athletics Association and was International Race Walking Judge. The House applauded his contribution towards the development of Athletics in the country and one minute silence was observed to pay homage to him.

The President, AFI informed that the performance of our Athletes during the year 2018 and 2019 was as per the expectations. Our athletes performed fairly well during the Asian Games held at Jakarta, Indonesia and thereafter in the Asian Championships. The House was informed that Hima Das became the first Indian athlete to win a medal in track event i.e. 400m gold medal in IAAF World Junior Championships. Neeraj Chopra won gold medal in Commonwealth and Asian Games and Tejenderpal Singh Tur won the gold medal in the Asian Championships at Doha. The other athletes also did very well and he congratulated them.

He also showered praise for Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot for excellent results achieved by our athletes which were undoubtedly due to his meticulous and well-thought of programme prepared for training of athletes in India and abroad.

He informed that there was a big gap between the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games and the forthcoming Olympic Games 2020 and as such we had to make training plans for our athletes very carefully so that they could give their best in 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games. About 40 TOP athletes including some junior athletes were already training abroad in Poland and they were also participating in different competitions.

The President, AFI expressed his deep concern about the poor conduct of Meets by some of the states. Not only that, some states even refused to conduct the meet allotted by AFI at the last minute causing embarrassment for AFI and it also badly

affected the image of AFI. The Athletics Calendar was always prepared in consultation with the state units and coaches and the same was also put on the website of Ministry/SAI which they never realised. Some of the states had also not adopted the model constitution despite lot of reminders sent to them and that action would be taken against such state units. Over age participation was still a matter of concern. It was their primary responsibility to check age of the athletes at the state level itself.

He was pleased to inform that the change of format of Athletics had proved to be very successful. The Federation Cup was conducted with the new format which had reduced the financial burden on AFI Organizers. Hence, AFI was considering to conduct all other meets with the new format. We had introduced ONLINE entry which also proved successful, he informed. In the two days' meeting all these points would be discussed in details.

The President informed that we would be unveiling the uniform of the Indian Athletes. He was also happy to inform that Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, President, IOA had been nominated as the IOC Member and he would also be honoured in this meeting. With these words, President, AFI requested Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot, Chairman, Planning Committee of AFI to address the House.

The Chairman, PC thanked the President, AFI and mentioned that the President had raised many important issues concerning State Units and the NIDJAM was one of them. The Federation has been harping upon State Units to ensure that District Units organize the Meet before sending its athletes for participation in NIDJAM. However, not much headway had been made in this regard.

Similarly, the states were also not even replying to the circulars sent by AFI by email and even by whatsapp. They must read the circulars carefully and take necessary action on that and also should use whatsapp. He even warned that it would be the responsibility of the President and Secretary if that state do not respond to circulars issued by the Federation within the time frame. In the last AGM, the States were given three months' time to adopt the model Constitution but almost one year had elapsed and still there were some states which had not adopted the Model Constitution and they might have to face disaffiliation.

The Chairman was pleased to inform that as already informed by the President, our new format of conduct of Athletics Meets was very successful and it had also reduced the financial burden on us. Therefore, the Federation was considering for conduct of its National Open and Inter State Meets 2019 onwards with the new format. However, this

would be applicable for the senior meets only. He further added that we were thinking to start Under 22 years meet which would be discussed during the meeting.

After the brief address of Chairman, Planning Committee, the President, AFI requested the Secretary, AFI Mr. C.K. Valson to take up the agenda of the meeting.

After welcoming the members including the foreign delegates, the Secretary, AFI took up the agenda of the meeting.

**Agenda No. 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the last AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018.**

The Secretary, AFI informed the members of the House that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting had already been circulated to the them and a copy of the same was also kept in their folders. He requested the members to give their comments, if any. However, no comments were received from any of the members of the House and it was resolved to approve the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting which was proposed by Mr. Raja Velu and seconded by Mr. A.V. Raghavendra.

**Agenda No. 2 Action taken report.**

The Secretary, AFI informed the members of the House that the Action taken Report had already been circulated to the Council members and a copy of the same was also kept in the Working Paper. He asked the members if they had any comment about the Action taken Report. However, no comments were received from any of the members. It was, therefore, resolved to approve the same which was proposed by Mr. MadhuKant Pathak and seconded by Dr. Ashutosh Sharma.

**Agenda No. 3 To Discuss and approve the Report of Secretary, AFI upto 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

The Secretary, AFI informed the members of the House that the Annual Report had already been circulated to the members and it was also placed in the folders. Mr. C.K. Valson, Secretary, AFI wanted to know the views of the House about the Annual Report. However, no comments were received. In fact, the members expressed that it was the comprehensive report containing lot of information. As such, it was resolved to approve the Annual Report of Secretary, AFI which was proposed by Mr. K. Ranga Rao and seconded by Mr. R.K. Sacheti.

**Agenda No. 4 Consider and approve the Audited Statement of Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

The President, AFI informed the members that yesterday Mr. P.K. Srivastava, Treasurer, AFI could not attend the Executive Council Meeting due to delay in his flight from Mumbai. Although the same was approved by the members after discussions yet it needed approval and adoption by the General House.

Treasurer, AFI informed that the matter of sundry debtors and creditors had been pending for more than 10 years and the Federation was to recover more than Rs. 8.00 lacs from different parties. He further informed that our internal auditors wanted to waive off this amount. In this regard, Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot, Chairman, Planning Committee, AFI mentioned that it might not be acceptable to the CAG and, hence, they might raise objection if we waive off this amount without their approval. After brief discussions, it was decided to send first and second notice as reminders to the concerned parties to pay us the amount. It is only thereafter that we would seek approval of CAG to waive these pending amounts..

He also informed that CAG wanted our bankers to create two accounts; one internal account within the Federation and the other for the money received by us from the Government. The Treasurer informed that our bankers had agreed for the same.

Further, it was also informed that the new “funds maintenance system” was introduced by Sports Authority of India (PFMS) which was made mandatory. Necessary training was also imparted by SAI 2-3 times which was attended by our staff and the new system would be followed by us in future.

It was resolved to approve this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. Sandeep Sharma and seconded by Mr. Laxman Karanjgaokar.

**Agenda No. 5 Appointment of Auditors and fix their remuneration.**

The President, AFI informed the House that this agenda item was discussed and approved yesterday in the Executive Council Meeting and needed approval of the General House. He informed the House that the present auditors M/s S.K. Sehra & Company had been working for us since long at a remuneration of Rs. 50,000/- per annum. Now, they were demanding enhancement of their remuneration to Rs. 1.00 lacs. But the Executive Council Meeting had decided to increase this to Rs. 75,000/- per annum. He requested the General House to approve. The House unanimously approved the proposal.

It was resolved to approve the enhancement in their remuneration from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 75,000/- per annum and adopt this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak and seconded by Mr. Mumtaz Khan

**Item No. 6 To present the report on performance of Indian Athletes in the following International Competitions :**

- **IAAF Under-20 World Athletics Championships 2018, Tampere (Finland)**
- **18<sup>th</sup> Asian Games 2018, Jakarta (Indonesia)**
- **Asian Junior Athletics Championships 2018, Gifu (Japan)**
- **Asian Youth Athletics Championships 2019, Hong Kong**

Mr. C.K. Valson, Secretary, AFI requested Mr. Bahadur Singh, Chief Coach to present his report to the House.

At the outset Mr. Bahadur Singh, Chief Coach thanked Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot, Chairman, Planning Committee, AFI for his meticulous and well thought of planning and training programmes which resulted in the uplift of Athletics standard in the Country to new heights. While making the power point presentation to the House, the Chief Coach was pleased to inform that the Indian Athletes gave excellent performance during the Asian Games held at Jakarta, Indonesia in the year 2018. Initially, the Indian Athletics team won 7 Gold Medals, 9 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals in the Asian Games but later due to disqualification of The Bahrainian 4x400 Relay (W) Team, one more Gold Medal was added to our medal tally making 8 Gold, 9 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals (since Anu Raghavan) in 400m Hurdles won Bronze later), making a total of 20 Medals in place of 19 which was very much applauded by the House. The Indian Relay team was specially congratulated for giving ever best performance in the Asian Games and it was expected that our Relay team would also perform exceptionally well during the World Championships and Olympics 2020 to be held in Tokyo.

Regarding IAAF Under 20, Youth and other Junior international competitions held in 2018 at Tampere, (Finland), Hongkong and Gifu (Japan) he informed that the same was looked after by Mr. Sanjay Garnaik, Athletics coach (Juniors). Mr. Bahadur Singh added that overall performance of the Indian junior athletes in these competitions was good. In Asian Youth, Hongkong our team won 27 medals including 8 Gold, 10 Silver and 9 Bronze. In the Asian Junior Championships held in Gurfu, Japan, the team won 17 medals (Gold-05, Silver-02 and Bronze-10) and came Third in the overall medal tally. During this championship two athletes also qualified for the World Junior Athletics Championship which was held from 10<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at Tampere, Finland. Regarding IAAF Under 20 World Athletics Championships held at Tampere, Finland. Hima Das won Gold Medal in 400m event. Our Team got 21<sup>st</sup> position in the overall medal tally out of 156 teams which participated in the said championships.

The House appreciated the presentation and also congratulated the Indian senior and junior athletes for their outstanding performance in the above mentioned international competitions. It was resolved to approve and adopt the presentation made by the Chief Coach which was proposed by Mr. H.S Bhadu and seconded by Prof. K. Ranga Rao.

**Item No. 7 To present report about preparation of Indian Athletes for the following International Competitions :**

- **IAAF World Championships to be held at Doha from 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**
- **Tokyo Olympics 2020**
- **IAAF World Championships 2021**
- **Asian Games 2022**
- **Commonwealth Games 2022**

Mr. C.K. Valson, Secretary requested Mr. P. Radhakrishnan Nair, Deputy Chief Coach to present his report to the House.

At the outset Mr. Adille Sumariwalla, President, AFI informed the members of the House that Mr. Radhakrishnan had attended International Coaches Enrichment & Certificate Programme (ICE&CP) which was conducted by IOC in collaboration with United States Olympic Committee. The Graduation ceremony of this programme was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Head Quarters of IOC and Mr. Radhakrishnan was given the graduation (Hons,) degree for the above programme. The achievement of Mr. Radhakrishnan was appreciated and applauded by the members of the House. Mr. Radhakrishnan thanked the House for the compliments.

Mr. Radhakrishnan informed that they had already started the preparations of the Indian athletes for the forthcoming IAAF World Championships to be held in Doha followed by Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to be held in Japan. He informed the House that coaching camps had already started at different venues of SAI at Patiala, Bengaluru, Trivandrum, Dharamshala and P.T. School of Athletics. In addition to this, the Indian athletes were also training in Poland as well as taking part in the competitions being conducted in Europe and they were also giving good performance in those competitions.

Mr. Radhakrishnan informed the House that they had also given the targets to all potential athletes and he assured the House that we were very close to winning the medal in Olympics. The Federation had identified 10 events. We were likely to win medals during the World Championships to be held at Doha and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He was pleased to inform that 13 athletes (Men) and 4 athletes (Women) had already qualified for the World Championships to be held in Doha. When asked how

many medals we were likely to win in Olympics, he replied that we could win one Silver and two Bronze. In Olympics 2024 we hope to win one Gold, two Silver and two Bronze Medals. He further informed the House that he had prepared the multi-layer (3 Tier) training programme for the athletes wherein he had shown the strong and weak points of the athletes, for which he got appreciation of the House. It was resolved to approve this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. Prasun Mukherjee and seconded by Mr. KPS Brar.

**The following Agenda Items were inter-related and hence taken together**

**Item No. 8 To apprise the members about adoption of AFI Model Constitution by the State Units.**

**Item No. 9 To discuss about Poor Conduct of National Meets and action taken on such states.**

**Item No. 10 To discuss & suggest action for showing inability to conduct the National Meet at last minute after the allotment to State Units.**

**Item No. 12 To fix the accountability of States on following issues**

- **Not adopted the Model Constitution**
- **Districts not conducted their Meets & not participated in NIDJAM**
- **Not performing the activities as per AFI Constitution**  
**Not responding to AFI circulars**

**Item No. 25 Finalization of Indian Athletics Manual 2019.**

**Item No. 27 To discuss and approve the Reports of the following Committees :**

- **Selection Committee**
- **Medical Committee**
- **Technical Committee**
- **Planning, Coaching & Monitoring Committee**

The Chairman, Planning Committee informed the House that as pointed out by the President, AFI, Agenda Items No. 8, 9, 10, 12, 25 & 27 are basically to enhance the image of the Federation and also the State Units. He apprised the Members that out of 50 National Sports Federations, ours was the only one which was having two days AGM in which various aspects pertaining to development of Athletics, transparency and efficiency at State and District Level and Welfare of athletes were discussed at length. He had special praise for the new Secretary (Sports) who had made many changes for betterment of Sports and had brought efficiency and discipline in the department. The President, AFI managed to get Rs. 55 Crores approved for Athletics after detailed discussion for two days, is a testimony to the fact that our Federation was performing quite creditably. Another 10 Crores had also been promised for Athletes in the current year by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

It is in the above context, I implore the State Units to kindly be more active and perform the activities as per the guidelines of the Federation to further raise our status in sports arena of the country.

**Item No. 8 To apprise the members about adoption of AFI Model Constitution by the State Units.**

The President, AFI expressed his concern about state units who had still not adopted the Model Constitution. It was approved in the last AGM and three months' time was given to the state associations to adopt the Model Constitution. In spite of repeated reminders, many State Units had not taken any action for the reasons best known to them. The President clarified that we did not have any other option but to take stringent action against the defaulters.

It was unanimously resolved by the House to give three months more to the states which had not adopted the Model Constitution after which the defaulter states would stand suspended automatically without any further notice from AFI. It was proposed by Prof. K. Ranga Rao and seconded by Mr. Raj Kumar Mittan.

**Item No. 9 To discuss about the poor conduct of the Meets.**

The President, AFI stated that about 20 Competitions were allotted to State Units during a year. It had been observed that the State Units were hesitatingly coming forward to conduct the Meets which was not a good sign for promotion and development of Athletics. The poor conduct of the Meets adversely affects the image of both the Federation and the Organizing Unit. The Meets organized by Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Chhatisgarh were organized very poorly resulting in lot of criticism. More discussions took place about Chhatisgarh Athletics Associations and ultimately it was decided to suspend the Association till the Federation was fully satisfied with the working of the Association. It was proposed by Mr. MK Pathak and seconded by Mr. Mumtaz Khan.

**Item No. 10 To discuss & suggest action for showing inability to conduct the National Meet at last minute after the allotment to State Units.**

The Chairman, PC informed the House that Athletics Calendar was prepared in consultation and in fact, with the consent of the State Units in the AGM in which the Coaches were also present. The Competition Calendar was pasted not only on AFI Website but also by MYA&S and Sports Authority of India in their website. It could be denied that last minute change of venue and dates marred the reputation and image of the Federation and this was not tolerable.

In this context, he made a reference to National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships which had to be shifted to other Venue on refusing to conduct these Championships by West Bengal Athletics Association and Karnataka Athletics Association respectively. This was a serious lapse on the part of these Units and needed to be viewed seriously.

After detailed deliberations, it was decided that no State Unit would refuse to conduct the Meet unless there was a natural calamity etc. and that stringent action (heavy fine on suspension) would be taken against such defaulting Units.

**Item No. 11 To present & discuss about activities of Affiliated Units and action to be taken against defaulters.**

The President, AFI formed a committee comprising the following members to assess the performance of the affiliated units on the basis of presentation made by them in the House.

1. Mr. Ravinder Choudhry
2. Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak
3. Ms. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
4. Ms. Krishna Poonia

The Committee observed the following shortcoming/drawbacks in the presentations made by the State Units :

- Units not having their own website must have the same by 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 otherwise; action would be taken against them as per AFI Constitution.
- Units which did not attend the AGM were suspended for three months. It was also decided that their suspension would only be revoked if they fulfilled the conditions which the AFI would notify separately.
- It was also found that some state units were still not registered with Registrar of Societies or their Charity Commission and they were asked to do the needful as soon as possible.
- Some units were still having their Chief Coach as Chairman of the Selection Committee and they were advised to appoint the new Chairman of their Selection Committee immediately.
- Units which did not make power-point presentation to the House were strictly warned that their presentation would not be accepted if they did not make their presentation on power point as per format provided by AFI in future.
- It was also mentioned that no grant would be given to any state unit which did not have PAN number and did not submit their audited statement of accounts duly signed by President, Secretary, Treasurer and also Chartered Accountant.
- It was observed that some State Units had not conducted Election of Office Bearers on due dates.
- Some of the states were having less number of qualified coaches. They were advised to have more number of IAAF Level-1 coaches in their states. They should also encourage their district units to have more qualified coaches with them.

- Some State Units had participation of less number of districts in NIDJAM. Such Units were advised to ensure that all the district units conduct District Meets and send athletes for participation in NIDJAM.
- Some of the state units did not adopt the model constitution of AFI and they were given three months' time to adopt the model constitution failing which they would be automatically suspended.

This agenda item was approved by the House. The report of Committee was placed at **Annexure-II**.

**Item No. 12** To fix the accountability of States on following issues

- Not adopted the Model Constitution
- Districts not conducted their State Meets & not participated in NIDJAM
- Not performing the activities as per AFI Constitution
- Not responding to AFI circulars

The Chairman, Planning Committee expressed his dis-pleasure about the activities being performed by some of our State Units. He pointed out that majority of State Units did not organize Inter District Meet for Juniors and Seniors. They were not monitoring the activities of its district units. As a result, the Federation had not achieved total success in NIDJAM which was our ambitious programme. It was also observed that State Units were not conducting its Meets as per slot allotted to them. Many State Units were not serious in responding to the circulars and advisories issued by the Federation. This was not acceptable. The Federation might think of action against such States, he remarked. The President, AFI also expressed his concern in this regard. The Chairman, Planning Committee was more specific about the training programme of Junior athletes with reference to the presentation made by Mr. Hermann Volker, High Performance Director. He was of the opinion that Coaches should not put more load on youngsters to keep them injury free. He strongly felt that their training programme for juniors must be prepared with utmost care to avoid early specialization. He also informed the House that IAAF had stopped conducting Youth Championships and instead laid more emphasis on KIDS Athletics.

It was also pointed that some State Units had not adopted the Model Constitution. Such Units were advised to do so within three months in the presence of AFI Observer, failing which they would automatically stand disaffiliated. The proposal was proposed by Dr. Ashutosh Sharma and seconded by Mr. VA Shiyad.

**Item No. 13 To amend the Constitution. Details as enclosed.**

The Secretary, AFI informed the members that few amendments proposed to be made in AFI Constitution had already been circulated to all the member state units of AFI. However, no comments had been received from any of the members. The proposed amendments to the Constitution were unanimously approved/adopted by the House. It was proposed by Mr. Sandeep Mehta and seconded by Sh. Ravinder Choudhry.

**Item No. 14 To discuss & approve the Annual Calendar for the year 2020.**

It was informed that the Federation had prepared the calendar for 2020 and after that the calendar would be prepared for next four years. The President, AFI requested all affiliated units of AFI that they should also prepare their Athletics Calendar in line with AFI. Some of the affiliated Boards also were not doing their activities as per guidelines of AFI. This issue would be taken in this regard in the next AGM. Some corrections in the calendar were proposed by Mr. P.K. Srivastava as regards Youth Meet, Junior Federation Cup, Junior and Zonal Meets. It was suggested that number of days shown in this calendar for these meets should be corrected which was agreed and the President, AFI advised that corrections should be made in the calendar.

The Chairman, Planning Committee informed the members of the House that for the next five years the International Walk Championships would be conducted by Mr. C.K. Valson in Chennai. This agenda item was approved by the House.

**Item No. 15 Junior athletes who win medal in Senior Meets not to be allowed to participate in Junior Meet (s) even if he/she is Juniors at the time of the Competition(s) for Juniors.**

The issue regarding junior athletes who won medal in Senior Meets should not to be allowed to participate in the same age group again was discussed in Executive Council Meeting and also in Annual General Meeting in details but no decision could be taken. Hence, a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bahadur Singh with other members being Mr. Ravinder Chaudhry, Ms. Jyotirmoyee Sikder, Mr. Sanjay Garnaik, Ms. Anusuya Bai and Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak was formed which would submit its report within next three months. It was decided that issue would be discussed in the next Executive Council Meeting.

**This agenda item was approved by the House.**

**Item No. 16 To ratify the National Records approved by the Executive Council.**

The national records were presented during the Executive Council Meeting held yesterday and were approved in the Executive Council Meeting. The same were approved in the House. It was proposed by Mr. Sandeep Sharma and seconded by Mr. V.A. Shiyad.

**Item No. 17 To discuss about steps taken by the Federation to eliminate doping and ratify the list of athletes on whom sanctions were imposed during the period of the report.**

**Item No. 18 To discuss about age fraud and discuss about the modalities of SOP for Age Verification of Junior athletes during National Junior Athletics Championships.**

Mr. C.K. Valson, Secretary, AFI requested Dr. Arun Mendiratta, Chairman of Medical Commission, AFI to make presentation to the House on these agenda items.

Dr. Arun Mendiratta while making the presentation to the House showed the list of food supplements which were being given to the athletes who were training in National Coaching Camps at different venues of SAI. He clarified that all those supplements were duly approved by WADA. These supplements helped in natural enhancement of performance of athletes with no side effect on their body, he explained. These supplements had also been approved by the Government

The President, AFI informed that all the supplements shown by Dr. Arun had been cleared by WADA and at the same time he cautioned the state units that NADA officials had started reaching States also for dope test. He advised the State Units to be very vigilant in this regard to ensure that athletes did not use banned substance since it would be deemed as a criminal offence. Any athlete found positive in doping could now be arrested as per judgment given by Justice Mudgil, he informed.

The Chairman, Planning Committee informed the members that in the last AGM it was decided that any person who was not in the coaching camp would not be allowed to participate in any international competition. It was due to the reason that those athletes who were not joining the coaching camp were likely to take the banned substance and we could not allow them to tarnish the image of the Federation. He gave the example of Nirmala who wanted to take part in the Asian Games 2018 even not being the part of national coaching camp. However, she was not allowed to take part in the Asian Games and our team won Gold Medal in 4X400m Relay (W). A few other women athletes also approached the Court but ultimately the judgement of the Court came in our favour and none of those athletes was selected for participation in Asian Games. Therefore, he requested all the units to ensure that their athletes must join the national coaching camp if they wanted to participate in the international competitions.

Dr. Arun Mendiratta showed the list of over age athletes of different states who participated in various Youth and Junior Meets at domestic level.

This was another issue of concern for all of us, Chairman Planning Committee remarked. He strictly warned the units that the Federation was proposing to take stringent action against the President and/or Secretary of the concerned state if their athletes were found over age. We could even suspend the President and/or Secretary of that particular state if any of their athlete was found over age. After brief discussions it was decided that if more than two athletes of a State were found over age, the Secretary of that state would immediately cease to be the Secretary and he could be re-instated as Secretary only after his performance was found to be satisfactory. This was approved by the House.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mendiratta showed the list of athletes found positive and on whom sanctions were imposed. He also showed the list of athletes whose suspension was lifted after their suspension period was over.

The Chairman, Planning Committee told that the list of suspended athletes found positive in doping was supposed to be uploaded on the website of the state units. Dr. Mendiratta informed that normally NADA was sending the whereabouts form to all the athletes which they had to fill up and send to them, so that the exact location of the athletes of their training could be known. The Federation was also following IAAF rules in this regard. NADA was also informed whenever any new camp started and also about the domestic competition being held, so that they could send their officials for collecting dope samples. No athlete having tested positive should be allowed to participate in any Competition. At the same time, it was also proposed that no coach should impart training to any athlete found positive in doping.

It was resolved to approve this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. M.V. Kutty and seconded by Mr. Mumtaz Khan.

#### **Item No. 19 To discuss about distribution of Merit Certificates.**

Mr. T.R. Sharma who was responsible to send the Merit certificates of athletes informed that the certificates were being sent to the Secretaries of all State Associations but some were not being distributed to their athletes. As a result of that the athletes were approaching AFI Office to get the certificates. The circulars were also sent in this regard but no action was being taken by most of the State Associations. The Chairman, Planning Committee mentioned that the certificates could only be issued after the NADA declared the results of dope test. Therefore, the President and Secretary must inform their athletes that the certificates would be sent to them on receipt from the Federation. He further mentioned that all the Secretaries of the States should ensure that certificates received by them were delivered to the concerned athletes immediately

on receipt from the Federation as the same were required by them for appearing in different examinations and/or for applying for the jobs/admissions.

Similarly, another problem of passport photographs was also being faced by the Federation. The Chairman, Planning Committee informed the members that number of Athletes participating in the international competitions were not having their valid passports and in some cases the validity of their was due to expire soon. Some athletes were also sending their photographs which were not as per requirement of the embassies. The athletes must be advised to send their coloured photographs showing the 80% face and with white background. This had been intimated to all the State Associations but still no action had been taken in this regard.

It was also mentioned that lot of communication and circulars were being sent to the State Associations, but what to talk about action, even no reply was received from some of the Associations which was becoming a problem for the Federation.

**Item No. 20 To present report on “Online” entry system.**

The President, AFI informed that the Federation had introduced this system some time ago and same was found to be successful. Lot of improvements were there since this programme had been introduced and everything was under control. Earlier the Secretaries had to send the manual entries which resulted in many anomalies but now with the introduction of this system, everything had become error free. The facility of live chat was also there now under this system, President informed. The House appreciated the steps taken by AFI in this regard.

It was resolved to approve and adopt this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak and seconded by Mr. Mumtaz Khan.

**Item No. 21 To present report on IAAF Level-1 Coaches Course being conducted by AFI.**

Power point presentation was given by Mr. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Chief Coach to the House. He informed that 16 Courses had already been conducted till now and in every course 24 candidates were enrolled. Total number of 384 candidates had already cleared this course which also included foreign coaches from SAF countries like Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. These courses were conducted at Patiala, Gwalior, Trivandrum and Guwahati.

Mr. Radhakrishnan further informed the House that in the next winter session in 2019 it was planned to start IAAF Level-II Course also. Coaches with 90% and above rating on Written and Practical evaluation in IAAF CECS level 1 Course will become eligible for Level-II Course. Level-I Coaches eligible for Level 2 different Event Groups is as under:-

□ Sprint and Hurdles	67
□ Throws	20
□ Jumps	31
□ Middle, long distance and Race Walk	47
□ Combined Events	23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>188</b>

The presentation given by Mr. Radhakrishnan was appreciated by the house. It was resolved to approve this agenda item which was proposed by Madhu Kant Pathak and seconded by Mr. Raj Kumar Mittan.

**Item No. 22 To discuss about steps to be taken to upgrade the knowledge of Technical Officials to bring them at par with ATOs/ITOs.**

The President, AFI requested Mr. C.K. Valson, Secretary, AFI to make presentation to the House on this agenda item.

Mr. C.K. Valson mentioned that most important issue was “For whom we were conducting the Championships”.

We should also consider how to make the competition popular and also to make this spectators more humorous and cheerful. Undoubtedly, Media could play a vital role in this regard.

Mr. Valson informed the House that AFI was conducting three examinations namely FSTO, FTO and NTO/Level-I for which he complimented Dr. Kripal Singh who was responsible to conduct these examinations since long but this was still not sufficient for us. We needed to have Officials like Competition Director, Technical Manager, Meeting Manager and even Event Presentation Managers for perfect conduct of Championships. He further told the House that the Technical Delegates for any competition at domestic or international level should make 2-3 site visits well before the competition, so that he could see the level of facilities available at the venue and should send the report to AFI. Mr. Valson mentioned that our planning was not as good as it should be since our Technical Delegates reach the venue only two days before and any short comings found by them could not be overcome within the short span of time.

He added that all those connected with the Event including spectators should have full view of the Schedule of Events and also that clash of events needed to be avoided. Besides, minute to minute programme should also be prepared and strictly followed.

The performance of athletes should be displayed on the screen which was essential as this would help coaches to know about the performance of their athletes.

He was also of the opinion that a particular Championships should be allotted to one State for 2-3 years in a row to attract more crowd and to improve the overall conduct of that Championships. He was also of the opinion that more and more clinics should be

organized involving all these connected with the conduct of the Championships. The House appreciated the suggestions made by Dr. C.K. Valson.

It was resolved to approve and adopt this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. H.S. Bhadu and seconded by Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak.

**Item No. 23 To discuss about Masters' Athletics and take necessary action.**

In the last AGM, a committee headed by Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak was constituted. He informed the House that Masters Athletics Federation was earlier affiliated to AFI but many complaints were received against that Federation regarding financial irregularities. As such, the Masters' Athletics Federation was disaffiliated by AFI. He further reiterated that this fact was also brought to the notice of World Masters' Athletics Federation and Asian Masters Athletics Association as well. Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak further mentioned that the committee was of the opinion that we should form a new body under AFI which would conduct two Athletics Meets for veterans for which entry fees of Rs. 1000/- per person should be prescribed.

The proposal made by Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak was approved by the House and it was resolved to activate Masters' Athletics by AFI and to form State level Associations for Masters' Athletes and conduct various competitions. The proposal was proposed by Mr. H.S. Bhadu and seconded by Mr. A.V. Raghavendra.

**Item No. 24 To discuss and formulate policy to popularize Javelin Throw and 400m events.**

The Chairman, Planning Committee was pleased to inform that Javelin Throw and 400m Championships were being conducted now as stand-alone events in order to make them more popular since these events were having good track record. However, some of the states were not even knowing that these competitions were being conducted, he added. He informed the members that there was a need for more discussion and exchange of views in order to make these Events more popular and also how to commercialize the same in future. It was resolved to approve this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. M.V. Kutty and seconded by Mr. KPS Brar.

**Item No. 25 Finalization of Indian Athletics Manual 2019.**

The Secretary, AFI informed the members that the new Athletics Manual had been prepared by us which was kept in their folders alongwith working paper. This was just a draft manual and same would be finally printed and sent to all the members once it was approved by the House.

The President, AFI informed the members that in future all the competitions would be conducted in line with this Manual only. The Competition Manual had been in place for the last ten years and this year it was decided to revise the same incorporating a few changes. Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot, Chairman, Planning Committee requested the members to go through this manual thoroughly and send their comments. Our main purpose to amend this manual was to improve the standard of Athletics competitions in the country. Efforts had been made to cover all necessary aspects for improvement in the conduct of Championships in this Manual. He emphasized that we all must ensure that the quality and equipment for the events was in line with this manual only and no deviation would be allowed. He also informed the members that this had been vetted by our Legal Advisor as well. The members appreciated the steps taken by the Federation for improvement in the conduct of Athletics Meets in the country.

It was resolved to approve this agenda item which was proposed by Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak and seconded by Mr. H.S. Bhadu.

**Item No. 26 To discuss about NIDJAM 2019.**

The President, AFI mentioned that we had already discussed this issue in details. We would organize meeting with State and District Secretaries during NIDJAM. It was decided that an Observer from AFI would be sent for district meets.

**This agenda item was approved.**

**Item No. 27 To discuss and approve the Reports of the following Committees:**

- **Selection Committee**
- **Medical Committee**
- **Technical Committee**
- **Planning, Coaching & Monitoring Committee**

The Chairman, Planning Committee mentioned that earlier the President and Secretary of the Federation used to select the athletes for participation in International Meets and also for Coaching Camps. At present, there were separate Selection Committees for Juniors and Seniors and these Committee comprised of outstanding International Athletes of yesteryears, besides the Chief Coach, Chairman, Planning Committee besides

President, Secretary. This was testimony to the fact that there was now a total transparency in the functioning of the Federation.

Dr. Bhanot further informed that the Planning Committee was doing an excellent job resulting in upliftment of Athletics standard and development of Athletics. We had Planning Committee meeting at Patiala in the recent past wherein the foreign coaches were also invited and decisions taken by the committee were being implemented. There was regular monitoring of Coaching Camps and athletes who did not attend the Camp on a regular basis are removed from the Coaching Camp. No athlete or coach could go on leave without the prior permission of the Federation.

Regarding Technical Committee, the Chairman, Planning Committee informed the members that earlier Mr. S.P. Pillai was appointed as Chairman of the Technical Committee after the demise of Dr. Tony Daniel. However, Mr. S.P. Pillai had also resigned due to sickness of his wife. Now, in his place Mr. Ravinder Chaudhry had been appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Committee of AFI who would present his report to the House.

Before making the presentation to the House by Mr. Ravinder Chaudhry, Mr. Adille Sumariwalla mentioned that our technical conduct of the meet needed to be improved.

While making the presentation to the House, Mr. Ravinder Chaudhry, Chairman, Technical Committee mentioned that the Annual Athletics Calendar should be prepared well in advance. He reiterated that it must be followed strictly, otherwise, it would affect the athletes badly observing that these athletes and coaches needed to do periodization. He added that the time table for the Championships must be prepared and published in advance after consultation with the coaches.

In addition to above, following proposals were also made by him :

- The annual calendar should always be prepared considering the other international Meets at Asian and world level, so that our meets did not clash with the international meets.
- Weather conditions should be taken into consideration while preparing the Schedule of Events. The Technical Officials should keep themselves updated with the latest rules.
- We must have good judges for the Race Walking Event.
- The Technical Examination passed by any candidate should be valid only for a period of five years and after that he/she should appear for the examination again.
- The technical conduct of high level meets should be at par with IAAF.
- The technical report book should be published separately from next year onwards.

Mr. Madhu Kant Pathak proposed that while submitting the bills by Technical Delegates/Key Technical Officials/Others, the travel tickets should also be attached. He further suggested that the Technical Delegates should purchase their uniform from the approved AFI vendor only which was approved.

The Chairman, Planning Committee proposed that instead of spending more money on Opening and Closing Ceremony, we should spend money on Technical Conduct of the Meet in order to make it more attractive. Mr. R.K. Sacheti suggested that we could also follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for presentations which was agreed by the Chairman, Planning Committee.

This agenda item was approved by the House.

**Item No. 28 Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**

Before conclusion of the Meeting, Mr. P.K. Srivastava, Treasurer informed that the next Annual General Meeting of AFI will be held in Noida.

Since there was no other agenda item for discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



C.K. VALSON  
SECRETARY, AFI