



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग / Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय / Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/16049/1141/25

Dated: 10/12/2025

In the matters of -

Case Nos. CCPD/16049/1141/25 & 16050/1141/2025

Mr. K. Kishoregokul & Rakesh Jagan

... Complainant

Versus

The Secretary,
Indian Blind Football Federation

... Respondent No.1

The Secretary, Paralympic Committee of India

... Respondent No.2

1. Gist of the Complaint

1.1 The Complainants, **Mr. K. Kishoregokul** (100% visually impaired) and **Mr. Rakesh Jagan** (90% visually impaired), submitted complaints dated **04.03.2025** and **01.03.2025**, respectively, alleging arbitrary exclusion from the **South and West Zone Blind Football Tournament, Ahmedabad (29-31 April 2025)** by the Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF). Both athletes are affiliated with the **Tamil Nadu Blind Football Association (TNBFA)** and have substantial national and international sporting achievements.

1.2 They stated that IBFF imposed a blanket ban/suspension upon players who had participated in tournaments organised by independent bodies such as the **All India Blind Football Association (AIBFA)**. They contended that this action is discriminatory, monopolistic, and violative of the rights recognised under **Article 30 of the UNCRPD** and **Section 30 of the RPwD Act, 2016**, which require equal access to recreation, leisure, and sport.

1.3 The Complainants sought directions for quashing the ban and restoring their eligibility to participate in national blind football events.

2. Notice to the Respondents

2.1 Despite notice issued on **20.03.2025**, no written reply was filed by the Respondent prior to the hearing.

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट न०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य मे पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखे)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग / Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय / Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/16049/1141/25

Dated: 10/12/2025

3. Hearing:

3.1 A hearing in hybrid mode (online/offline) was conducted on **21.03.2025**. The following parties/representatives were present during the hearing:

S. No.	Name and designation of the Attendees	On Behalf of	Mode
1.	Mr. K. Kishoregokul	Complainant (16049)	Online
2.	Mr. Francis Sebastian – Technical Director and General Secretary, TNBFA	Complainant (16050)	Online
3.	Mohammed Asif Iqbal – Secretary, Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF)	Respondent No.1	Online
4.	Sunil J. Mathew – IBFF	Respondent No.1	Online
5.	David Absolam – General Secretary, Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA)	Respondent No. 1	Online

3. Record of Proceedings

3.1 A hybrid hearing was held on **21.03.2025**. The Complainants reiterated that IBFF's blanket suspension of players participating in independently organised tournaments was unjust and detrimental to the limited competitive opportunities available to visually impaired athletes. TNBFA emphasised that the ban had a demoralising effect and that alternative associations such as AIBFA emerged due to perceived lack of transparency in IBFF's functioning.

3.2 The Respondent submitted that the action was not a ban but a **one-year suspension** limited to TNBFA players who had breached the membership agreement of **September 2023**, which required players to participate only in "authorised events." The Respondent stated that the suspension could be revoked upon submission of an apology or an undertaking.

3.3 The Court sought clarity on the existence and binding nature of the said agreement, the membership structure of TNBFA, and whether players were expressly prohibited from participating in

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364, 20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग / Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय / Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/16049/1141/25

Dated: 10/12/2025

independent tournaments. TNBFA stated that its membership is open and does not impose tournament restrictions; the Respondent argued that blind football is a team sport requiring uniform adherence to institutional rules.

3.4 The Respondents confirmed that reinstatement was possible either through a written apology or an ad hoc arrangement during TNBFA's suspension.

4. Observations

4.1 Sports play a critical role in the social, physical, and psychological development of persons with disabilities. The **Supreme Court in *Rajive Raturi v. Union of India*, (2018) 2 SCC 413**, underscored the State's obligation to remove barriers that restrict participation of persons with disabilities in public life, including sports and recreation. Further, **Section 30 of the RPwD Act, 2016**, in alignment with **Article 30 of the UNCRPD**, mandates the promotion of disability-inclusive sporting opportunities. In ***Vikash Kumar v. UPSC*, (2021) 5 SCC 370**, the Court reiterated that equal participation in all facets of life, including competition-based activities, is a component of dignity and substantive equality. Restrictions that diminish sporting opportunities for disabled athletes must therefore be narrowly tailored, proportionate, and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination.

4.2 The Court observes that blanket suspensions, especially where institutional disputes exist, must be avoided as they undermine athletic development, competitive readiness, and psychosocial well-being. The Court further notes that the issue, if any, lies at the **institutional level** (i.e., between IBFF and TNBFA), and not with the individual players. Procedural or administrative disputes between organisations should not result in adverse consequences for athletes who rely on competitive exposure for skill development, recognition, and advancement.

4.3 Given the absence of wilful misconduct on the part of the Complainants and the Respondent's own admission that reinstatement is possible upon an undertaking, the Court finds that a proportionate, athlete-centric resolution is warranted. All sanctions affecting persons with disabilities must comply with the principles of **reasonable accommodation, non-discrimination, and least restrictive alternative**.

4.4 The Complainants are accomplished athletes who have represented their State and country at various tournaments. The Court accepts that the grievance arises not from disciplinary misconduct but from **institutional disputes** between associations, which should not result in punitive

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग / Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय / Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/16049/1141/25

Dated: 10/12/2025

consequences for individual players absent mala fide intent. The Complainants are also required to acquaint themselves of the rules and procedures of the sport governing bodies and comply with them under normal circumstances.

4.5 The Court feels that the positive approach of the Respondents to the issues raised through this Court's statutory intervention needs to be appreciated on record. The Respondent's willingness to arrive at a pragmatic solution was evident from their response during the hearing and action thereafter. The Respondents were quick to understand the need for reasonable accommodation, as recognised in **Section 2(y)** and **Section 3** of the RPwD Act, while taking all decisions affecting persons with disabilities, including those participating in sport.

5. Recommendations

4.1 In exercise of powers under **sections 75 to 77** of the RPwD Act, the Court directs the following:

(a) The Complainants may furnish a **written undertaking** affirming adherence to IBFF's rules, procedures, and tournament protocols.

(b) Upon receipt of such undertaking(s), the **IBFF is recommended to reinstate the Complainants immediately** and permit their participation in all ongoing and future tournaments without further restriction.

(c) Any institutional disputes between IBFF and TNBFA shall be addressed through appropriate administrative channels and **shall not result in adverse action against individual athletes**.

(d) IBFF shall adopt a **proportionate and disability-inclusive disciplinary framework**, consistent with Section 30 of the RPwD Act and the jurisprudence laid down in *Rajive Raturi* and *Vikash Kumar*.

4.2 Copies of the undertakings furnished by the Complainants shall be transmitted to this Court. The Respondent shall submit its **final decision and Action Taken Report (ATR)** within **three months**, in accordance with **Section 76** of the RPwD Act, 2016.

5. In terms of the above, the cases are **disposed of**.

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075; Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग / Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय / Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Case No. CCPD/16049/1141/25

Dated: 10/12/2025

Yours faithfully,

(S. Govindaraj)
Commissioner

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in
(पया भविष्य मे पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखे)
(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)