



ATHLETICS FEDERATION OF INDIA

WZ-72, First Floor, Toda Pur Main Road, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi - 110012
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OPEN LETTER

Dear ALL,

In response to the allegations and complaints made against Athletics Federation of India from last few days by a section of media, officials and some fans on the social media, I would like to inform you that:

- 1) The selection committee for selecting the Indian team for IAAF World Championships to be held in London from 4-13 August 2017 met at 3pm in AFI headquarters on 20 July 2017 under the Chairmanship of Shri G. S. Randhawa (Olympian & Arjuna Awardee). The other members of selection committee (a list of which is on the AFI website) present during the meeting included- Shri Paramjit Singh (Member, Olympian) , Shri Praveen Jolly (Member, Asia Medalist) and Shri Uday Prabhu (Member, Asian Medalist), Mrs. P. T. Usha (Govt. Observer & Coach, Olympian, Padma Sri), Shri J. S. Saini (Dronachary) and Radhakrishnan Nair (Dy Chief Coach, special invitee), Shri Bahadur Singh (Chief coach of India, Olympian, Padma Sri, Dronachary, Asian Gold Medalist), Shri C. K. Valson (Secretary AFI,) and myself, Adille J Sumariwalla (President AFI, Olympian).
- 2) The selection committee of AFI is responsible for selection of national team for all the national and international competitions. The members of selection committee including its chairman are eminent sports personalities with strong a athletics background, unquestionable integrity and great understanding of their sport with years of experience in both coaching and selection of Indian team.
- 3) While picking the Indian team for the worlds, the selection committee was unanimous in its decision. The selection committee discussed all issues and names of all the potential athletes who it considered worthy of discussion for World Championships berth before announcing the final team which includes 24-athletes (including 14 men and 10 women athletes) and support staff.



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- 4) Further, I would like to inform you that on 10th July 2017, soon after the felicitation ceremony of Indian medal winners at AAC2017 by Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik at Hotel Swosti Premium, the Indian contingent was addressed (in the presence of media personnel who attended the ceremony) by CK Valson- Secretary AFI, Chief Coach Shri Bahadur Singh and deputy chief coach RK Nair. All athletes were informed by Secretary AFI that "they must participate in the Inter State Championships in Guntur (15-18 July, 2017) and if they do not perform close to the IAAF Qualifying standards, they will not be considered by the selection committee for the selection for the World Championships." AFI also sent a Press Release with quotes from Mr. Valson regarding the same on 14th July 2017, a day before the start of the Inter State Championships. The same can be accessed at- <http://indianathletics.in/article/inter-state-athletics-championships-begins-tomorrow-guntur>
- 5) As per the various media reports and complaints received on emails over the past few days after the declaration of the Indian team, questions has been raised on-
- A) Exclusion of these three athletes- 1. PU Chitra (1500m, W), 2. Ajay Kumar Saroj (1500m, M) and 3. Sudha Singh (3000m SC, W)
- B) And inclusion of these two athletes- 1. G Lakshmanan (5000m & 10000m, M) and 2. Swapna Barman (Hepthalon, W)

In this regard, I request you to study the comparative performance data which was discussed in detail by the committee while finalizing the Indian team, as below:



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A) Excluded:

1. PU Chitra (1500m,W)

CHITRA PU (1500mts, Women)	IAAF WORLDS Q. MARK 04:07.50s
1. Federation Cup Sr. 2017 (1-4 June, 2017)	04:26.48s (1 st)
2. Asian Athletics Championships (6-9 July, 2017)	04:17.92s (1 st)
3. Nat'l. Inter State Championships (15-18 July, 2017)	04:28.87s (2 nd) ↓
Indian Junior National Record (U-20)	04:17.29s
REMARKS: Her Performance dropped significantly after AAC2017 at Interstate event & timing was not better than even Indian junior national record timing - Not close enough to World Q Mark at Interstate which was last chance to achieve Q Mark. She was also beaten to Second Position.	

2. Ajay Kumar Saroj (1500m, M)

Ajay Kumar Saroj (1500mts, Men)	IAAF WORLDS Q. MARK 03:36.00s
1. Federation Cup Sr. 2017 (1-4 June, 2017)	03:48.49s (1 st)
2. Asian Athletics Championships (6-9 July, 2017)	03:45.85s (1 st)
3. Nat'l. Inter State Championships (15-18 July, 2017)	03:45.88s (1 st) ↓
Indian Junior National Record (U-20)	03:44.96s
REMARKS: Performance dropped after AAC2017 at Interstate event & timing was not better than even Indian junior national record timing - Not close enough to World Q Mark at Interstate which was last chance to achieve Q Mark.	



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3. Sudha Singh (3000m SC, W)

Sudha Singh (3000mts SC, Women)	IAAF WORLDS Q. MARK 09:42.00s
1. Federation Cup Sr. 2017 (1-4 June, 2017)	10:03.01s (1 st)
2. Asian Athletics Championships (6-9 July, 2017)	09:59.47s (1 st)
3. Nat'l. Inter State Championships (15-18 July, 2017)	Did not participate
REMARKS: Did not participate in the Inter State following AAC 2017; it was informed to all athletes including medal winners from AAC 2017 who did not attain IAAF Worlds Q. Mark that it was mandatory for them to compete and get at least close to Q. Mark for being considered for selection.	



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B) Included:

1. G Lakshmanan (5000m,M)

G Lakshmanan (5000mts, Men)	IAAF WORLDS Q. MARK 13:22.00s
1. Federation Cup Sr. 2017 (1-4 June, 2017)	14:02.90s (1 st)
2. Asian Athletics Championships (6-9 July, 2017)	14:54.48s (1 st)
3. Nat'l. Inter State Championships (15-18 July, 2017)	14:07.76s (1nd) ↑

1.1 G Lakshmanan (10000m, M)

G Lakshmanan (10000mts, Men)	IAAF WORLDS Q. MARK 27:45.00s
1. Federation Cup Sr. 2017 (1-4 June, 2017)	29:23.46s (1 st)
2. Asian Athletics Championships (6-9 July, 2017)	29:55.87s (1 st)
3. Nat'l. Inter State Championships (15-18 July, 2017)	DNS

REMARKS: Lakshmanan won two gold medals in Long distance running events at AAC 2017 in hot and humid conditions. Within a week again participated in 5000m event in Inter State and won Gold with much improved timing. IAAF has allowed his entry in 5000m; highly unlikely he will be allowed in 10000m at worlds irrespective of him being Area (Continental) Winner at AAC2017.



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2. Swapna Barman (Heptathlon, W)

3. Swapna Barman (Heptathlon, W)	IAAF WORLDS Q. MARK 6200 points
1. Federation Cup Sr. 2017 (1-4 June, 2017)	5897pts (1 st)
2. Asian Athletics Championships (6-9 July, 2017)	5942pts (1 st)
3. Nat'l. Inter State Championships (15-18 July, 2017)	DNS
REMARKS: Swapna is selected for Worlds by selection committee by virtue of her good performance at difficult conditions at AAC2017 at such a young age.	

6) Coaches and Officials Quota:

As reported in some newspapers, websites and debated on the social media, that officials and coaches are being sent to the Worlds in place of athletes, is completely baseless allegation and without proper knowledge of the Rules and Regulations of the competition-

- 1) As per the IAAF World Championships accommodation policy, the quota of coaches is 80% of the numbers of athletes from each Federation. **If the number of participating athletes from a Federation increases, the quota of team officials will also increase. (Copy enclosed). Hence, it is completely wrong to say that athletes were not selected in order to accommodate officials.**
- 2) All the athletes participating in the IAAF Worlds receive free accommodation & travel by Organizing Committee (irrespective of numbers), hence, no official (s) may take their place or eat into their free quota.
- 3) Athletics Federation of India is sending only 50% coaches though 80% of officials are eligible to receive accommodation on subsidized rates.



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- 7) As the President of AFI, I assure you, the selection committee has always been completely fair, impartial and selects the Indian team with great responsibility as it is a matter of national pride. Selecting best of the best athletes out of hundreds of athletes from across the country to represent India at the highest level is a painstaking task and AFI is thankful to all the members of the selection committee for their service. Hence, it is painful to face such criticism and allegations of partiality every time the selection committee selects the team after going through laborious task of examining the performances of a large number of athletes.

Thank you for your understanding of the matter and I once again assure you that the selection committee has taken utmost care, maintained cent percent transparency and displayed unquestionable integrity in selecting the Indian team for the World Championships to be held at London next week.

Adille J. Sumariwalla

(President AFI)



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ENCLOSED COPIES-

1- Accommodation quota

Per person per day Full-Board	Twin	Single
Participating athletes	Paid by LOC	80 GBP supplement
Subsidised officials (55%)	USD 100	230 GBP
Non-subsidised officials (56%-80%)	150 GBP	230 GBP
Anybody outside the official period	150 GBP	230 GBP

The price in USD will be agreed subject to the prevailing exchange rate on the day the Team Accreditation Centre opens.

The accommodation invoices will be based on the information (number of persons and arrival/departure details) provided in the Final Entries, with a tolerance of two persons.

Member Federations will be expected to settle all the extra accommodation costs not covered by the LOC upon arrival in London, during the accreditation procedure. In most cases these extra costs shall be for:

- accommodation of officials
- single room occupancy
- accommodation outside the official period
- special arrangements requested to the LOC

In those cases in which the Member Federation has been authorised to purchase its own tickets and the IAAF needs to refund the corresponding cost, the amount to be refunded will normally be used to cover all or part of the extra accommodation costs. However, if the amount is insufficient, or if the travel arrangements have been made by the IAAF, the extra accommodation costs must be paid for by the Member Federation directly.

The most common payment methods will be accepted: cash, major credit cards and advance bank transfers.



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IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
LONDON, GBR
4 – 13 AUGUST 2017



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM AND ENTRY STANDARDS

(As approved by the IAAF Council in March and November 2016)

QUALIFICATION PRINCIPLES

Age Categories

Under 20 Athletes

Athletes aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2017, (i.e. born in 1999 or 1998), may compete in any event except the Marathon and 50km Race Walk.

Under 18 Athletes

Athletes aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December 2017 (born in 2001 or 2000), may compete in any event except the throwing events, the Combined Events, 10,000m, Marathon and the Race Walks.

Athletes younger than 16

No athlete younger than 16 years of age on 31 December 2017 (born in 2002 or later) may be entered.

Individual Athletes

Individual Athletes can qualify in one of four ways:

1. Automatically by achieving the **Entry Standard** within the qualification period in accordance with criteria decided by IAAF
2. Based on the **finishing position at designated competitions** as follows (in these cases the athletes shall also be considered as having achieved the Entry Standard):
 - The **Area Champions** in all the individual events (except for the Marathons). However, in the case of **field events**, the entry will be subject to the approval of the Technical Delegates. The Member Federation of the Area Champion will have the ultimate authority to enter the athlete or not, based on its own selection criteria.
 - For the **10,000m**, the top 15 athletes finishing in the senior Men's and Women's races at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships Kampala 2017.
 - For the **Combined Events**, the top three in the 2016 Men's and Women's IAAF Combined Events Challenge.
 - For the **20km Race Walk**, the top three in the 2016 Men's and Women's IAAF World Race Walking Challenge.