

ELECTION RULES OF HOCKEY MAHARASHTRA

Framed in consonance with Schedule II of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 and the Bye-laws of Hockey Maharashtra.

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 In these Election Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (i) “**Act**” means the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, (Act No. 25 of 2025)
- (ii) “**Candidate**” shall mean any candidate contesting for Election to an Elected Post;
- (iii) “**Election**” shall mean an election conducted in accordance with these Election Rules to an Elected Post;
- (iv) “**Election Panel**” shall mean the Election Panel maintained by Hockey India as per applicable law.
- (v) “**Elected Post**” means all posts on the Executive Committee, other than the posts reserved for representatives of the Athletes Committee and the posts to be occupied by *ex officio* members, in accordance with the bye-laws of Hockey Maharashtra and applicable law.
- (vi) “**Electoral Officer**” is a person appointed from the Election Panel maintained by Hockey India to oversee its election process and ensure free and fair elections.
- (vii) “**General Meeting**” shall mean a meeting of all members of the General Body of the Hockey Maharashtra, that is called and conducted in accordance with the Association’s bye-laws; and
- (viii) “**Nomination**” shall mean the process through which a Candidate formally submits such Candidate’s interest to contest for an Election to an Elected Post in accordance with these Election Rules.
- (ix) “**Rules**” shall mean the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026.

1.2 Any terms used in these Election Rules, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Act, the Rules, and the bye-laws of Hockey Maharashtra.



2. Scope and Applicability

- 2.1 These Election Rules shall apply to all Elections of the Executive Committee and Athletes Committee of Hockey Maharashtra.
- 2.2 Any Candidate, voting member or other participant in the election shall also be subject to the Act, and Hockey India's Code of Ethics if he is not otherwise already bound and covered by the same.

3. Conduct of Elections

- 3.1 Elections shall generally take place at the Annual General Meeting of Hockey Maharashtra and, where so required, may also take place at a specially convened general meeting.
- 3.2 Elections shall always be by secret ballot.
- 3.3 Hockey Maharashtra shall provide the requisite number of administrative staff as specified by the Electoral Officer to assist such officer to conduct the elections to the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 Hockey Maharashtra shall appoint an Electoral Officer from the roster to be maintained Hockey India, to oversee its election process and ensure free and fair elections.
- 3.5 Hockey Maharashtra shall, in respect of each election, pay such fees and expenses to the Electoral Officer, and to any assistant appointed by the Electoral Officer, as may be mutually agreed between the two parties, having regard to the nature and requirements of the election process.

4. Electoral Officer

- 4.1 The Electoral Officer shall be responsible for supervising the administrative process relating to the elections, including ensuring smooth conduct of elections and the correct application of the Act, the Rules and these Election Rules.
- 4.2 The Electoral Officer shall set reasonable deadlines for each stage of the elections in accordance with the model calendar provided under Rule 5 of these Rules, and enforce such deadlines strictly.



- 4.3 The Electoral Officer shall determine and distribute the appropriate documentation and forms, including nomination forms and ballot papers, for each stage of the elections and enforce and verify their proper use.
- 4.4 The Electoral Officer shall distribute information to voting members, other members, the media and public.
- 4.5 The Electoral Officer shall manage relations with government bodies, Hockey India, or any observers as deputed by the competent authority.
- 4.6 The Electoral Officer shall cause the publication of all notifications and forms concerning the elections on the official website(s) of Hockey Maharashtra and/or such other platforms as may be required.
- 4.7 The Electoral Officer shall perform all other tasks necessary to ensure the smooth running of the electoral process.
- 4.8 The Electoral Officer may, only for reasons of practical necessity, modify the forms appended to these Rules, while ensuring that the principles of these Rules are adhered to.

5. Calling Elections and the Electoral Roll

- 5.1 The election to all Elected Posts in the Executive Committee shall be conducted at least once every 4 (four) years, in a fair and transparent manner and in accordance with these Election Rules.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee shall, by resolution, appoint an Electoral Officer prior to the expiry of such Executive Committee's term, for the preparation of the electoral roll and conduct of elections to the Executive Committee and to the Athletes Committee.
- 5.3 The Executive Committee shall, in consultation with the Electoral Officer appointed under Rule 5.2, notify the date for elections at least 25 (Twenty-Five) days prior to the expiry of such Executive Committee's term.
- 5.4 Elections shall be called by Hockey Maharashtra's Executive Committee in consultation with the Electoral Officer, at least 25 (Twenty Five) days prior to the expiry of such Executive Committee's term, in accordance with the bye-laws of the



Association, and shall be included in the agenda of the applicable annual general meeting.

5.5 The call for elections shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

- i. the name of the Electoral Officer;
- ii. the final electoral roll prepared and released by the Electoral Officer in accordance with **Form 1** appended to these Election Rules;
- iii. the Elected Posts that are the subject of such Elections and any pre-requisites or qualifications for Candidates to contest such Elected Posts;
- iv. an invitation to file for nominations for Elected Posts by interested Candidates;
- v. the nomination form to be submitted by interested Candidates which shall be in accordance with **Form 2** appended to these Election Rules;
- vi. the electoral calendar which shall be in accordance with the model calendar specified below;

5.6 The Electoral Officer shall conduct the Elections, insofar as practicable, in accordance with the following model calendar:

EVENT	DAY
Call for Elections, invitation for nominations and release of final electoral roll	1
Filing of nominations	8 – 10
Announcement of draft list of nominations received	10
Objections to draft list of nominated Candidates	11 – 14
Scrutiny and disposal of objections to Draft list of nominated Candidates	15 – 16
Final list of nominated Candidates	17
Withdrawal of nominations	18
Final list of contesting Candidates	19
Polling and announcement of results	21



- 5.7 The Electoral Officer may, only for reasons of practical necessity, modify the model calendar specified in Clause 5.3, while ensuring that the elections are completed within a maximum period of 21 (twenty-one days).
- 5.8 Hockey Maharashtra shall adhere to the timelines specified below and applicable law in order to conduct an election for its Executive Committee.

EVENT	TIMELINE
Submission of application to be a sportsperson of outstanding merit	Within 30 (Thirty days) of the call for applications under sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of the National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026
Preparation of a roster of male sportspersons of outstanding merit and a roster of female sportspersons of outstanding merit	At least 30 (Thirty days) prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Election or nomination of sportspersons of outstanding merit to the General Body	At least 25 (Twenty-five) days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Appointment of an Electoral Officer	At least 30 (Thirty days) prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Notification of election date	At least 25 (Twenty-five) days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.
Preparation and release of draft electoral roll	At least 25 (Twenty-five) days prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee
Call for elections, release of final electoral roll and invitation for nominations	At least 25 (Twenty-five days) prior to the expiry of the term of the incumbent Executive Committee.

5.9 Election to the Executive Committee

- 5.9.1 Members of the General Body of Hockey Maharashtra shall be eligible to vote for the election to its Executive Committee as specified below:
- i. every individual "Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit" shall have 1 (one) vote;



- ii. every district or affiliate unit of Hockey Maharashtra as recognised under the bye-laws of the Association, shall have a maximum of 2 (two) votes, to be exercised by separate individual representatives of such affiliate unit; and
- iii. for any category of persons specified under the bye-laws of Hockey Maharashtra), 1 (one) vote for each such person.

5.9.2 The electoral roll for an election to the Executive Committee shall consist only of such members or their representatives in the General Body of the Hockey Maharashtra that have voting rights under the bye-laws of the Association and are not otherwise disqualified under the provisions of the Act, the Rules or these Election Rules.

5.9.3 The draft electoral roll for the election shall be prepared and released by the Electoral Officer in consultation with the then current Executive Committee of Hockey Maharashtra prior to the expiry of the term of such Executive Committee: Provided that the Electoral Officer's decision shall be final and binding in respect of the inclusion or non-inclusion, as the case may be, of any person on the electoral roll.

5.9.4 The Electoral Officer shall provide sufficient time from the release of the draft electoral roll to receive and respond to any objections regarding the composition of the final electoral roll.

6. Nominations

- 6.1 The nomination of a Candidate for election shall be proposed and seconded by persons on the electoral roll.
- 6.2 Every nomination form shall be delivered to the Electoral Officer in person by the Candidate himself within the deadline specified.
- 6.3 No member shall nominate more than 1 (one) Candidate for the same Elected Post, either as proposer or seconder and, if he/she so does, only the first valid nomination shall be accepted, and all other nominations of such member shall be deemed to be void and inoperative.



- 6.4 No person shall be permitted to withdraw his name as proposer or seconder, once the nomination form endorsed by him has been delivered to the Electoral Officer.
- 6.5 The Electoral Officer shall prepare a list of all nominations received by him, Elected Post-wise in accordance with **Form 3** appended to these Election Rules.

7. Scrutiny and Finalisation of Nominations

- 7.1 The Electoral Officer shall scrutinise each nomination form received by him/her and determine its validity or otherwise as per the Act, Rules, and the bye-laws of Hockey Maharashtra.
- 7.2 During the scrutiny of nominations under Rule 7.1, each Candidate or one of his/her authorised representatives shall have the right to be present and raise any objection in relation to nomination of another Candidate for the Elected Post for which he/she has filed his nomination.
- 7.3 Pursuant to the scrutiny of nomination forms, the Electoral Officer shall prepare a list of validly nominated Candidates in accordance with **Form 4** appended to these Election Rules.
- 7.4 Every Candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny shall be entitled to withdraw his candidature prior to the commencement of the Election by providing notice to the Electoral Officer in accordance with **Form 5** appended to these Election Rules, and the Electoral Officer shall accept the notice of withdrawal if he is satisfied as to the genuineness of such notice.
- 7.5 Any notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled.
- 7.6 The Electoral Officer shall prepare the final list of contesting Candidates in accordance with **Form 6** of these Election Rules.
- 7.7 Hockey Maharashtra shall produce the ballot papers in accordance with **Form 7** appended to these Election Rules under the supervision and charge of the Electoral Officer.
- 7.8 The ballot papers shall be printed clearly and legibly, and the names of the



contesting Candidates shall be arranged, for each Elected Post, in alphabetical order according to the English alphabet.

8. Campaign Practices

- 8.1 Electoral campaigns shall be carried out by the Candidates in a fair manner and, in a spirit of respect for fundamental ethical principles.
- 8.2 Candidates shall conduct all campaigns with dignity and moderation and with respect for any other Candidates, the Hockey Maharashtra and its members.
- 8.3 A Candidate shall not produce any spoken word, written text or representation of any nature likely to harm the image of another Candidate or cause him prejudice, and criticism of other Candidates, if made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work.
- 8.4 No Candidate shall engage in criticism based on unverified allegations or distortion against any other Candidate, and there shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.
- 8.5 Every Candidate may present to the members in the electoral roll, his/her plans and views for the Elected Post, in the form of a written document, which shall be published by the Electoral Officer in accordance with Rule 4.7 of these Election Rules.
- 8.6 Candidates shall avoid excessive expenditure in campaigning, recognising that it could become a factor of inequality amongst the Candidates.
- 8.7 The promotion of a Candidate shall exclude any form of publicity, including the use of new media or social networks, and no public meeting or gathering of any kind may be organised in the process of promoting a candidature, and no use, free of charge or in return for payment, of the services of a journalist or the media may be made in order to place a Candidate at an advantage or a disadvantage.
- 8.8 All Candidates shall scrupulously refrain from all activities that are "corrupt practices", including bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, and impersonation of voters.



- 8.9 Candidates may, in no case and under no pretext, give presents, offer donations, gifts or grant advantages of whatever nature, directly or indirectly, to voting members.
- 8.10 The incumbent Executive Committee member shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that they have used their official position for the purposes of their election campaign and in particular shall not use official transport including vehicles, machinery and personnel for furtherance of their campaign.
- 8.11 The incumbent Executive Committee member shall not issue any advertisement at the cost of Hockey Maharashtra or its members in the newspapers and other media or misuse the Association's official media channels during the elections.
- 8.12 The incumbent Executive Committee member shall not sanction grants or payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced.
- 8.13 The incumbent Executive Committee member shall not enter into any promise or undertaking to be performed, whatever the timing of such performance, for the direct or indirect benefit of any of the Association's members or its partners.
- 9. Neutrality and Independence**
- 9.1 As the voting is secret, voting members are prohibited individually or collectively, from announcing publicly, in any form whatsoever, their intention to vote or not vote for a Candidate.
- 9.2 The incumbent Executive Committee members shall refrain from making any public declaration and may in no way support a Candidate.
- 9.3 Candidates shall not:
- i. accept instructions from any person;
 - ii. accept direct or indirect assistance, be it financial, material or in kind, by any third party; and
 - iii. enter into any form of undertaking with any person likely to affect the freedom of decision or action of the Elected Post.
- 9.6 Hockey Maharashtra's Executive Committee and administration shall maintain a strict duty of neutrality at all times, and no support or service in relation to a



candidature may be requested from any member of the Association's administration or staff.

10. Polling

- 10.1 Where the number of contesting Candidates for any Elected Post or category of Elected Post is equal to the number of Elected Posts to be filled, all such contesting Candidates shall be deemed to be duly elected unopposed to those Elected Posts, and it shall not be necessary to take a poll for election to such Elected Post.
- 10.2 Where the number of contesting Candidates for any Elected Post or category of Elected Post is more than the number of Elected Posts to be filled, a poll shall be taken by secret ballot for those Elected Posts remaining unfilled.
- 10.3 At the poll, members who are in the electoral roll shall be entitled to cast one vote for each of the Elected Posts remaining unfilled, where only one such seat is to be filled.
- 10.4 At the poll, members who are in the electoral roll shall be entitled to cast as many votes as are the number of seats to be filled for an Elected Post, where more than one seat is to be filled.
- 10.5 The ballot papers shall contain the name(s) of the Candidate(s), and the voters must mark one Candidate only.
- 10.6 Every voter shall be required, before he is supplied with a ballot paper, to give his signature on the authenticated copy of the electoral roll for taking the poll.
- 10.7 Except for the circumstance under Clause 10.1, a secret ballot shall always be conducted, regardless of how many Candidates there are, and the secrecy of the ballot shall be guaranteed by the provision of a procedure ensuring privacy for the voter, and the Electoral Officer shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers and be responsible for ensuring that the process is properly documented.
- 10.8 Voting members must vote in person where required.
- 10.9 The voter shall record his vote on the ballot paper in secrecy in a voting compartment specially provided for the purpose at the polling station.



- 10.10 The voter shall record his vote on the ballot paper by placing a tick mark against the name of the Candidate of his choice, and the tick mark to indicate the vote shall be placed by the voter only by means of an article, such as a stamp, specifically provided for the purpose by the Electoral Officer.
- 10.11 The ballot paper marked by a voter shall be deposited by him in a ballot box specially prepared and sealed by the Electoral Officer and placed at such a conspicuous place in the polling station that it shall be constantly visible to all present in the polling station.
- 10.12 The Electoral Officer shall close the poll at the designated time of closure, and such voters who are present at the polling station at the appointed closing hour, if any, shall be entitled to vote even if the poll proceedings have to be extended.
- 10.13 The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the Electoral Officer before the commencement of the voting, and if the number of ballot papers returned in the poll is equal to or less than the number of ballot papers distributed, the Election shall be declared valid, but if the number returned in the poll exceeds that of the ballot papers distributed, the vote shall be declared null and void and another poll shall be taken immediately.

11. Counting of Votes

- 11.1 The Electoral Officer shall take up the counting of votes, post-wise and category-wise, as soon as may be, after the polling process is complete.
- 11.2 Every contesting Candidate can nominate one authorised representative who shall be entitled to be present at the place of counting of votes, and other than such authorised representative, only the Electoral Officer and members of the Hockey Maharashtra's executive or administrative team, as specifically approved by the Electoral Officer, may take part in the count.
- 11.3 Every ballot paper on which a vote has been recorded shall be treated as one vote for the Candidate for whom it has been validly marked.
- 11.4 The following ballot papers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected by the



Electoral Officer:

- i. Those that do not bear the official distinctive marks defined by the Electoral Officer.
 - ii. Those that bear any words other than the names of the Candidates.
 - iii. Those that are illegible or have been defaced.
 - iv. Those that bear identifying marks.
 - v. Those that include votes for more Candidates than permitted in a particular poll.
- 11.5 The Electoral Officer shall write on the back of any invalid ballot paper, in red, the reasons for its invalidity and confirm the same with a signature.
- 11.6 The votes validly cast for each of the contesting Candidates shall be counted post-wise, and category-wise where applicable, and recorded in the descending order of the votes so cast for each Candidate in accordance with **Form 8** appended to these Election Rules.
- 11.7 The Electoral Officer shall thereafter ascertain the result of counting and the Candidates who have secured the maximum number of votes in the said descending order, post-wise and category-wise, where applicable, equal to the number of seats to be filled for each Elected Post or category of Elected Posts, where applicable, shall be deemed to have been duly elected to those Elected Posts.
- 11.8 After completing and verifying the count, the Electoral Officer shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately, and the Hockey Maharashtra's shall keep these envelopes and shall retain them at least until the declaration of results of the immediately subsequent Election of the Executive Committee, or till the pendency of any legal proceedings relating to such Elections, whichever is later.

12. Declaration of Results

- 12.1 Once the count has been completed and verified, the names of contesting Candidates who shall be deemed to have been elected at the Elections shall be declared by the Electoral Officer at the general meeting.



- 12.2 The results of the election shall be declared in accordance with **Form 9** appended to these Election Rules, and published on the official website of Hockey Maharashtra within 24 (twenty-four hours) of completion thereof.
- 12.3 If, after the counting of the votes, an equality of votes is found to exist between any Candidates, and the addition of 1 (one) vote will entitle any of those Candidates to be declared elected, the Electoral Officer shall forthwith decide between those Candidates by lot, and proceed as if the Candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.

13. Sanctions and Complaints

- 13.1 All administrative matters relating to any election not covered by the Act, these Election Rules or Hockey Maharashtra's bye-laws shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Officer.
- 13.2 In the event of a breach of these Election Rules, the Electoral Officer may refer the same to Hockey India's Ethics Committee, who may make observations to the Candidate in question, which may be made public.
- 13.3 In the event of a breach of these Election Rules, the Ethics Committee of Hockey India may issue a warning to the Candidate in question, which shall be automatically made public on the official website of Hockey Maharashtra.
- 13.4 If a Candidate or a voting member has any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections, he may bring the same to the notice of the Electoral Officer.
- 13.5 Any decision by the Electoral Officer under these Election Rules shall be final and binding, and any petition relating to conduct or outcome of election shall be limited only to any violation of the provisions relating to the process of conduct of election under these Rules.

Provided that any such petition shall be filed after a period of 30 (thirty) days from the declaration of results of any election.

