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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 9360/2025, CM APPL. 39595/2025, CM APPL. 39594/2025**

DIVYANSHI KHANNA

(MINOR) THROUGH HER LEGAL GUARDIAN & ORS.

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Uttam Datt, Sr. Adv. along with
Mr. Abhishek Mishra, Ms. Sonakshi
Singh, Mr. Kshitij Arora and Ms.
Megha Singh, Advocates.

versus

HOCKEY INDIA & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Abdhesh Chaudhary, Ms.
Geetanjali Setia and Mr. Nishi Kant
Singh, Advocates for R1.

Mr. Hemant Raj Phalpher, Adv. for
R2/Hockey India.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA

ORDER

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09.07.2025

1. The present petition has been filed by a group of sub-junior hockey players, represented by their legal guardians, seeking appropriate orders / directions in view of the uncertainty / difficulties surrounding their participation in 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025, scheduled to be held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
2. The background of the matter is that between July and August 2024, respondent no. 1/ Hockey India issued show cause notices to respondent no. 2/ Delhi Hockey. It is submitted that the said show cause notices culminated in the filing of W.P.(C) No. 13836/2024 by respondent no. 2 before this Court. The said writ petition was disposed of by this Court vide order dated



01.10.2024, directing as under –

“6. Since there is a consensus between the parties with respect to the aforesaid issue, the present petition is disposed of with the following directions:

6.1 The Petitioner is permitted to give a response to the clarificatory notice dated 25th August, 2024, within a period of three weeks from today.

6.2 The show cause notice dated 24th July, 2024 read along with clarificatory notice dated 25th August, 2024, and the response thereto shall be examined and enquired into, by the FFC, in accordance with law.

6.3 The Petitioner shall be afforded a personal hearing by the FFC prior to rendering a final decision.

6.4 The FFC shall furnish its report as well as recommendations/corrective measures, if any, to the Respondent.

6.5 The Respondent shall then take a final view in the matter and decide on the Show Cause Notice. In case the said decision is adverse to the Petitioner's interest, they shall be free to take recourse against the same, in accordance with law.

7. The Court has not examined the merits of the case. All rights and contentions of the parties are left open, including those urged in the present case.

8. With the above directions, the petition is disposed of along with pending applications.”

3. It is submitted that the petitioners being unaware of the aforementioned events, continued to train and participate in official trials organized by respondent no. 2. On 04.07.2025 the petitioners were selected to represent the Delhi Hockey Team in the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025.

4. However, on 06.07.2025, the petitioners were informed that respondent no. 2 has been taken off the official online portal maintained by respondent no. 1. It is submitted that this portal is a crucial for registration of Member units, Players, Coaches and Officials.

5. It is submitted that the petitioners were orally informed by officials that their participation in the national championship stood cancelled on account of Delhi Hockey being taken off the Hockey India online portal.



6. Accordingly, although the participation of athletes from Delhi under the aegis of Delhi Hockey was considered while setting the schedule and fixtures, on account of the aforesaid circumstances, the concerned team selected by Delhi Hockey could not proceed for the purpose of participation in the aforementioned championship.

7. Learned counsel for Hockey India submits that although a show cause notice dated 20.06.2025 was issued to Delhi Hockey seeking an explanation as to why disciplinary action should not be taken, and Delhi Hockey was even disaffiliated from Hockey India, it was made clear by the order dated 05.07.2025 that hockey players participating in the ongoing 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025 at Ranchi, Jharkhand, shall not be precluded from participating on account of such disaffiliation.

8. Learned counsel for Delhi Hockey submits that the aforesaid show cause notice/order came to be received only on 08.07.2025.

9. Be that as it may, learned counsel for the Hockey India has very graciously submitted that even at this stage, arrangements will be made for participation of players affiliated with Delhi Hockey in the ongoing 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025 at Ranchi, Jharkhand. It is submitted that even though the players from Delhi missed the fixtures scheduled for 08.07.2025 and 09.07.2025, it shall be ensured that both fixtures are re-scheduled on 10.07.2025. It is further submitted that the rest of the championship schedule shall also be modified/tailored accordingly. The said statement is taken on record.

10. This Court appreciates the aforesaid stand taken by Hockey India.

11. It has been further agreed that for the purpose of aforesaid fixtures scheduled tomorrow, the flight/travel arrangements for the petitioners and



other members of the team, shall be made by Delhi Hockey. The amount incurred by Delhi Hockey for the same, shall be reimbursed by Hockey India in the due course.

12. The above redresses the grievance of the petitioner in the present case. Accordingly, the present petition is disposed of in the above terms. Pending applications also stand disposed of.

13. Let a copy of this order be given *dasti* under the signature of the Court Master.

SACHIN DATTA, J

JULY 9, 2025/at