

OFFICE OF MR. SHAKIL DURRANI ADJUDICATOR PAKISTAN
SPORTS BOARD

Petition No. 10 of 2025

ORDER

Date: 01-06-2026

- i. Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF)
- ii. Pakistan Sports Board (PSB)

Petition No.10 of 2025 Under Rule 23 of the Constitution of Pakistan Sports Board 2022, read with the Pakistan Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports

Order of the Adjudicator PSB Shakil Durrani

This petition has been filed by Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF) challenging the reprimand issued by Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) in August 2025 on account of alleged misrepresentation of facts regarding the performance of Pakistan Youth Girls Netball Team in the Asian Youth Netball Championship 2025 held in Jeonju, South Korea. The matter has been placed before the undersigned as the Adjudicator in terms of Rule 23 of the Constitution of PSB, 2022, read with relevant provisions of the Pakistan Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports.

1. Facts of the Case

- i. The Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF), vide its letter dated 09.07.2025 (Ref: PNF/PSB/AYNC/2025), informed PSB that Pakistan had secured "1st Position" in the Asian Youth Netball Championship 2025.
- ii. However, upon verification by the PSB it transpired from official records of Netball Asia, that Pakistan was placed 6th overall in the Championship. The PNF, however, later informed that what they actually meant was that the Pakistani team secured first position (Gold Medal) in the Plate Division only. This is only a sub-category of the championship structure and does not equate with the main Asian Youth Netball Championship where Pakistan's position was sixth.
- iii. PSB issued a reprimand to PNF on the grounds of misrepresentation and violation of governance principles.
- iv. Aggrieved, PNF has challenged the said reprimand, asserting that its claim was limited to the Plate Division and was not intended to mislead the media or the people.

2. Contentions of the Parties

The Petitioner (PNF) contends that the Asian Youth Championship comprised two divisions, i.e., Cup Division and Plate Division, as per Netball Asia Rules. They claim that Pakistan legitimately won the Gold Medal in the Plate Division and remained undefeated and the Federation wanted to communicate this achievement only and did not act with any malafide intent. The media coverage and public statements were based on the Plate Divisional achievement. The PNF requests that in view of the explanation offered by the PNF the reprimand by the PSB is unjustified and undermines the morale of athletes.



The Respondent (PSB) contention is that the PNF initially conveyed that Pakistan secured the first position in the Championship," which is factually incorrect as the official standings clearly show Pakistan ranked 6th overall. The subsequent clarification by mentioning the position secured in the subcategory "Plate Division" indicates an inconsistency in PNF's stance. Further it was stated that the PNF had sought cash awards and public recognition which is unlawful and contrary to PSB policy. The reprimand by the PNF is therefore lawful, proportionate, and necessary to uphold transparency and integrity in sports.

3. Issues for Determination

The following issues arise for determination:

- i. Whether the PNF willfully and deliberately misrepresented the facts by claiming that Pakistan had won the top position in the Championship when in fact they had only been placed first in a sub category.
- ii. Whether the reprimand issued by PSB was lawful and proportionate to the alleged misrepresentation and claim.

4. Analysis and Findings

The record establishes that Pakistan secured 1st position in the Plate Division but ranked 6th overall in the Championship. The PNF as a professional sports body should have clearly distinguished between these two categories and the onus was upon them to state the truthful position without creating a misunderstanding leading to a different impression. While no conclusive evidence of deliberate malafide intent is found, the lack of clarity amounts to misrepresentation in effect and falls short of the standards of transparency and accuracy required under the Pakistan Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports.

5. Order

In view of the above I as the Adjudicator am of the view that the PNF did misrepresent the results in violation of governance principles and sporting policy to gain the public's acclaim and appreciation. The PSB was legally correct to rectify the misunderstanding obtaining in the media and amongst the people. I however, feel that a reprimand appears a severe penalty which may discourage the young players when they were not even responsible for the untruthful claims made by the PNF officials. The achievements of the youth netball players was impressive in the Plate Division if not in the whole Championship. The PSB may convey their 'concern' or 'displeasure' to PNF for misrepresenting the results in the media but also to warn them against any repetition of untrue claims. The PSB response should be more in the nature of corrective advice. Cash awards and any other form of recognition should however, be based on actual achievements in the field.

Order announced



Shakil Durrani

Adjudicator PSB

Executive Director SOPREST / GIK Institute.

Former Chief Secretary KP, AJK & Sindh and Chairman Wapda