

**IN THE OFFICE OF SENATOR PERVAIZ RASHID ADJUDICATOR PAKISTAN**  
**SPORTS BOARD, ISLAMABAD**

**Petition No. 11 of 2025**

**Mr. Salman Iqbal Butt**  
**Versus**  
**Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP)**

**Date of hearing: 13 November 2025**

On the dates of hearing, attendance of parties was duly marked as follows:

**Petitioner:**

Mr. Salman Iqbal Butt appeared in person.

**Respondent (AFP):**

Brig. (R) Wajahat Hussain, President AFP  
Mr. Usman Akram, Advocate of AFP

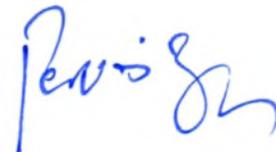
**Pakistan Sports Board:**

Mr. Saif ur Rehman Rao, Legal Advisor PSB, who assisted the Adjudicator during the proceedings.

**ORDER**

The Petitioner, Mr. Salman Iqbal Butt, an internationally recognized athletics coach and Asian Director of Development for World Athletics, challenged the impugned notification dated 12.10.2025 issued by the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) whereby a *lifetime ban* was imposed upon him. The Petitioner contended that the said action was taken without jurisdiction, without due process, and in violation of the PSB Constitution, AFP Constitution, principles of natural justice, and applicable laws. The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) referred the matter to this office under **Article 23 of the PSB Constitution, 2022**. After hearing both parties and examining the record, this Final Order is being passed.

Both sides were granted full, meaningful, and adequate opportunity of hearing. The following procedural safeguards were duly observed. Both parties filed documents/material in support of their respective positions. The matter was heard at length. Documents were confronted to the opposite side. Opportunity for clarification on the documents was afforded. Ample and reasonable time was provided to both



sides to produce all relevant material. This office is satisfied that the proceedings fully complied with fair trial standards and principles of natural justice.

Under **Article 23 of the PSB Constitution, 2022**, any dispute or grievance regarding the working, functioning or performance of a national sports federation may be referred to the Adjudicator. Articles **7, 16(8)** and **20(17)** reinforce PSB's regulatory authority over all national sports federations. Article **22** mandates compliance with national laws and PSB's regulatory framework. Additionally, the **Hon'ble Supreme Court (2012 SCMR 992)** has held that federations affiliated with PSB are bound by PSB's lawful directions. Accordingly, this office holds that it has full and lawful jurisdiction. The respondent's objection to maintainability is overruled.

The record establishes that Punjab Athletics Association (PAA) is an autonomous provincial body affiliated with Punjab Olympic Association and Punjab Sports Board. Under **Article 10(vi)** of the Constitution of Punjab Sports Board, the Board supervises, registers, and oversees elections of sports associations. Under **Clause 10(C)(2)(b)**, the election was duly observed by PSB Punjab's nominated observer, **Mr. Muhammad Hafeez** and Punjab Olympic Association deputed its observer, **Mr. Waqar Ali**. No member raised objections regarding irregularity or illegality. Therefore, AFP's attempt to unilaterally declare PAA's elections as "null and void" is without jurisdiction, as election supervision lies with the provincial authorities and not AFP.

Examination of the AFP Constitution reveals there is no provision authorizing a lifetime ban upon an individual coach. The penalty is therefore ultra vires, excessive, and unsupported by any constitutional authority. Thus, the impugned penalty is illegal and void.

The material on record demonstrates that no formal charge sheet was issued to the petitioner no inquiry report was provided to the Petitioner, no meaningful right of hearing or defence was afforded. The penalty was imposed unheard, violating Articles 4, 10-A and 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Circumstances show elements of bias and arbitrary conduct. A penalty imposed in violation of due process is void ab initio.

**Impact on National Athlete Arshad Nadeem**, The Petitioner has coached Olympian **Mr. Arshad Nadeem** for years, including during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games where Pakistan achieved unprecedented success. Record includes a written endorsement by Arshad Nadeem supporting the Petitioner and opposing AFP's ban.



AFP's actions disrupted Pakistan's high-performance preparations, created uncertainty for a leading Olympic athlete, damaged national medal prospects, risked reputational harm internationally. Such actions are inconsistent with responsible governance of national sports federations.

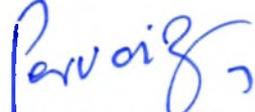
AFP circulated the ban to international bodies including World Athletics and Asian Athletics, resulting in damage to the Petitioner's international standing, adverse perception of Pakistan in global forums. Violation of norms of transparency and responsible international communication. AFP's conduct is found to be improper, premature, and harmful to Pakistan's sporting reputation.

In view of the above findings the impugned notification dated 12-10-2025 imposing a lifetime ban is without lawful authority, unconstitutional, ultra vires, and void ab initio. The Petitioner's submissions regarding PAA elections, his coaching credentials, and the adverse impact on national athletes are supported by the record.

For the foregoing reasons, the impugned notification dated 12-10-2025 issued by the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP), imposing a lifetime ban upon Mr. Salman Iqbal Butt, is hereby SET ASIDE. Accordingly, the lifetime ban has no legal effect and is declared void. AFP shall immediately withdraw all adverse communications sent to any national or international bodies regarding the said ban. All professional rights, status, and privileges of the Petitioner as a national athletics coach are restored. AFP is restrained from issuing defamatory or prejudicial communications regarding the Petitioner in future.

The PAA elections were held lawfully under the supervision of Punjab Sports Board and Punjab Olympic Association, with no objections raised by any member. AFP's attempt to declare those elections invalid was without jurisdiction.

This disposes of the petition.

  
**Senator Pervaiz Rashid**  
**Adjudicator**  
Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad