

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

Petition No. 14/2025

Syed Fakhar Ali Shah
Versus
Director (NF), Pakistan Sports Board

ORDER

Dated 11-05-2026

1. The instant petition/appeal has been filed by Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, former Secretary General, Pakistan Federation Baseball, against the order dated 21-10-2025 passed by Pakistan Sports Board, whereby a ban was imposed upon him from participating in, representing, or associating with any sports-related activity, federation, organization or body recognized or affiliated with PSB.
2. Briefly, the case of PSB is that under Rule 7(1)(xxxiii) of the Constitution of Pakistan Sports Board, 2022, no athlete or team of any National Sports Federation, Sports Organization, Association or Club can travel abroad without prior permission/NOC of PSB. It was alleged that the Pakistan Federation Baseball, under the role and responsibility of the Petitioner, participated in events held in Malaysia and Chinese Taipei in August 2025 without obtaining the requisite NOC. It was further noted by PSB that the Federation had previously submitted a forged NOC purportedly issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which matter has already been referred to FIA. A Show Cause Notice dated 18-09-2025 was issued to the Petitioner, his reply dated 25-09-2025 was considered unsatisfactory and consequently the impugned order dated 21-10-2025 was passed.
3. The Petitioner, through learned counsel Mr. Shahzad Siddique Alvi, Advocate High Court, has mainly contended that there was no willful or deliberate violation of PSB rules; that the delay occurred due to late issuance/renewal of passports of U-15 players and other administrative difficulties; that participation was necessary to save Pakistan's ranking, qualification pathway and international standing; that the team used "PFB" uniforms instead of "Pakistan" in order to avoid misrepresentation and that the Federation acted under WBSC/BFA obligations. It was further contended that the alleged forged NOC matter is pending before the competent

forum/FIA and no finding has been recorded against the Petitioner personally. The Petitioner also submitted replies to the questionnaire issued by this Authority, along with certain documents including passports, photographs, prior NOCs, WBSC/BFA correspondence, MOFA diary receipts, police complaint and inquiry-related material.

4. On the other hand, Mr. Saif-ur-Rehman Rao, Legal Advisor PSB, assisted this Authority and submitted that the requirement of prior NOC is mandatory and binding upon all National Sports Federations and their office-bearers. He argued that neither international ranking concerns nor administrative difficulties could authorize any Federation to bypass the PSB Constitution. It was further submitted that admittedly the team travelled and participated without PSB NOC and therefore the violation stands established from the Petitioner's own reply.
5. I have heard the learned representatives of both sides and examined the available record. The basic and admitted fact is that the Pakistan Federation Baseball participated in international events in Malaysia and Chinese Taipei in August 2025 without prior NOC from PSB. The Petitioner has not produced any formal NOC issued by PSB for the said events. His explanation is essentially based on urgency, passport delays, ranking requirements and international obligations. However, such grounds cannot override the clear and mandatory command of Rule 7(1)(xxxiii) and Rule 22 of the PSB Constitution, 2022. Once the rule requires prior permission/NOC, participation without such permission remains unauthorized, irrespective of the reasons advanced.
6. The plea that the team wore "PFB" uniforms instead of "Pakistan" also does not cure the defect. The event was an international baseball event, ranking points were claimed for Pakistan and the Federation itself relied upon Pakistan's international standing and qualification pathway as justification for participation. Therefore, the participation was, in substance and effect, connected with Pakistan's sports representation. Similarly, reliance upon WBSC/BFA obligations cannot defeat domestic regulatory requirements imposed by PSB under its Constitution. International federation requirements and PSB approval process must operate harmoniously; one cannot be used to bypass the other.

7. As regards the allegation of forged NOC, this Authority is mindful that the matter is stated to be pending before FIA and therefore, no final finding on criminal liability is being recorded herein. However, the existence of such allegation and the history of controversy surrounding NOC-related documentation were relevant considerations for PSB while assessing regulatory compliance and institutional discipline. The present decision is primarily based on the admitted violation of participation abroad without prior NOC.
8. The Petitioner was issued a Show Cause Notice, submitted a written reply, filed an appeal, appeared through counsel, was given time and was further afforded opportunity to respond to a detailed questionnaire. Therefore, sufficient opportunity of hearing and explanation was extended. The plea of violation of natural justice is accordingly not made out.
9. In view of the foregoing, it is held that the Petitioner failed to justify participation in international events without prior NOC of PSB. The violation of Rule 7(1)(xxxiii) and Rule 22 of the PSB Constitution, 2022 stands established. Consequently, the appeal/petition is dismissed and the impugned order dated 21-10-2025 passed by Pakistan Sports Board is maintained.
10. Announced accordingly.

(Senator Pervaiz Rasheed)
Adjudicator
Pakistan Sports Board