

IN THE OFFICE OF MR. SHAKIL DURRANI ADJUDICATOR
PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD

Petition No. 8 of 2025

AND

Petition No. 13 of 2025

(Pursuant to order of the honourable Peshawar high court
In writ petition No.1145-P/2024) order dated

ORDER

Date: 01-01-2026

Present:

Mr. Raja Gauhar Iqbal, Secretary Finance, Chess Federation of Pakistan appeared in person.

Mr. Omer Khan, Secretary General, Chess federation of Pakistan through Mr. Muneer Sadiq, Advocate

Mr. Hanif Qureshi, President, Chess federation of Pakistan appeared in person

Mr. Waqar, Finance Assistant, Chess Federation of Pakistan

Mr. Saif Ur Rehman Rao Legal Advisor Pakistan Sports Board

Order of the Adjudicator on the allegations/charges by the President and Finance Secretary of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) against each other.

An administrative dispute arose in Oct 2023 between the President, Mr. Hanif Qureishi and the Finance Secretary, Raja Gauhar Iqbal of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) which has been referred to the undersigned Adjudicator (former Chief Secretary KP, Sindh and AJK and currently serving as the Executive Director Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology) on 8th Oct 2025 by the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB). The central issue revolves around the suspension, and later the dismissal of the petitioner/respondent Raja Gauhar Iqbal, the Secretary Finance/Treasurer of the CFP by the President CFP on alleged 'serious charge of irregularities, malpractices, violation of constitution, disregard of byelaws/ directive' and 'blemishing the name of Federation of Pakistan'. The other issue needing adjudication concerns the exact clause in the CFP constitution under which office bearers can legally proceeded against in disciplinary and administrative cases.

As Adjudicator I wish to emphasize that it is a sad reflection on the state of affairs in the country's sports sector that despite the passage of nearly two years the present issue remains unresolved. An intense antagonism has been noticed between the President Mr. Hanif Qureishi and the Finance Secretary Raja Gauhar Iqbal which results in frequent taunts and quarrelsome behaviour between the two and it is hardly surprising that this dispute has assumed such serious proportions. How much the sports sector has suffered as a consequence can only be imagined as efforts are made to shift this dispute from one forum to another to suit the parties. The Pakistan Sports Board and the Government need

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to be provided sufficient powers under law to deal with such disputes and the accruing delays; indeed justice delayed is justice denied.

The central issue raised by the petitioner against the President CFP Mr. Hanif Qureishi concerns the power of suspension of office bearers under Article 8 b of the CFP constitution which states 'The President in consultation with the General Body may suspend any member(s) /functionaries /office bearers /players on serious charge of irregularities, malpractices, violation of constitution, disregard of byelaws/ directive or any other charge of blemishing the name of Federation of Pakistan'. However, no meeting of the General Body was held since the elections in June 2022 except the one called by the PSB on 15th July 2024 when the petitioner was restored. The petitioner Raja Gauhar Iqbal raises legal objections to his suspension stating that the President did not raise this matter with the General Body and that the President admits that he only 'consulted' the 'Executive Committee' before ordering his suspension. Article 8 b states that the 'consultation' has to be with the General Body under the law and that this was not done by the President as he needed to 'consult' the General Body before suspension ' on serious charges of 'irregularities, malpractices, violation of constitution, disregard of byelaws' etc.

This cause of action resulted in the lodging of civil case in court of law and the Peshawar High Court which has referred the issue to the Pakistan Sports Board under Article 23 of the PSB. The PSB took cognizance of the matter as empowered by its Constitution and in accordance with the PHC court ruling dated 21st Nov 2025 directing the petitioner and respondent to approach the established existing forum available before they move courts of law. The ruling directed that the PSB 'shall decide the matter in terms of Article 23 of the Constitution of PSB within a period of two months. It is further submitted that another petition pertaining to the Chess Federation of Pakistan, is already pending adjudication before your good office'. (Annex)

It may also be mentioned at the outset that the President has repeatedly stated that he was not provided the petition copies and the charges of Raja Gauhar Iqbal along with the related documents while the Legal Adviser of the PSB maintains that copies of the petition were originally forwarded to the respondent President, Mr. Hanif Qureishi. To resolve this ambiguity, if any, the copy of the petition and charges of Raja Gauhar Iqbal were again provided by the office of the Adjudicator to the representative of the President by hand and yet again by WhatsApp on 27th Oct 2025. When the respondent once again stated before the Adjudicator on 16th Dec 2025 that he had not received the petition and that he wanted it sent on email it was again forwarded to him on 17th Dec 2025 by the Adjudicator. To deal with the present case of the suspension from office of the petitioner Raja Gauhar Iqbal by the President CFP 20th Oct 2023 an enquiry committee was constituted by the PSB on April-May 2024 to examine the issues involved. The General Body thereafter through a majority vote restored Raja Gauhar Iqbal to his office as Finance Secretary of CFP on 2nd July 2025 in accordance with the findings of the enquiry committee. As a result, he states that he withdrew his petition from the civil court. The parties have informed the Adjudicator that no courts have stayed any alternate proceedings such as the present one. bx

However, according to Raja Gauhar Iqbal the President CFP refuses to permit him (Raja Gauhar Iqbal) to resume office after the acceptance of his appeal by the General Body of CFP and PSB and consequently the PSB has blocked and barred the President and office

bearers of the CFP from operating their official CFP bank accounts by PSB's letter dated November 30, 2023. The President CFP in his response has stated that due to the PSB's blocking the banks' account they are unable to carry out their activities, including representing Pakistan at international events and have requested relief with permission to operate these. On the other hand, the respondent President of CFP, Mr. Hanif Qureishi has stated that Raja Gauhar Iqbal was suspended and later removed from his position by the General Body of CFP allegedly on 'various charges, including financial irregularities, forgery, and the unauthorized withdrawal of funds from the CFP bank account'. Additionally, serious allegations have been made against Raja Gauhar Iqbal concerning the fabrication of NOCs for participation in international championships such as the World Schools Championship, which has allegedly 'tarnished the reputation of Pakistani sports on the global stage' and attempting to open a bank account of Chess Association of Punjab without due sanction.

Mr. Hanif Qureishi has also taken the position that as President of CFP he is empowered under 8b of the constitution of the CFP to suspend and remove the petitioner after 'consultations' with the General Body of the CFP which according to him is the competent forum for deciding such matters. The President however, admits that his 'consultations' were with the Executive Committee of the CFP and not with the General Body as was required by the constitution. As for what constitutes 'consultation' the President claims that 'consultation' was enough and that no 'approval' was required as the President is authorized to suspend, dismiss or restore an office holder. However, no explanation on what constitutes a meaningful 'consultation' has been provided which places a question mark of the validity of the suspension and removal.

The President CFP in his letter dated 19th August 2024 to the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad had stated that 'Chess Federation of Pakistan operates under its own constitution, which governs our internal processes. The General Body meeting on 2nd July 2024 was held in accordance with our constitutional provisions. and the minutes of this meeting have been duly submitted to PSB. with a copy enclosed herewith'. The subsequent meeting on 15th July 2024, organized allegedly under 'questionable circumstances', does not conform to CFP's constitutional requirements. This meeting sought to exonerate individuals allegedly involved in serious financial, ethical and criminal violations, actions which CFP cannot condone. The CFP according to the President's statement has adhered to the highest ethical standards and international best practices, ensuring that all actions taken against individuals involved in serious issues, such as financial embezzlement, forgery of signatures, and issuance of forged NOCs of PSB, followed due process. Upholding these principles he states that 'we stand by the decisions taken in our General Body meeting on 2nd July 2024 and urge PSB to respect our autonomy in line with the highest international standards set forth by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the international Olympic Committee (IOC), and the UN General Assembly resolution on the independence of sports organizations dated 27th November 2023'. Further the President states that CFP operates under its own constitution and is a recognized body within the international chess community. He further stated that the formation of committees by PSB to interfere in his internal affairs raises concerns about the legal and constitutional basis for such actions. These concerns have been raised in previous correspondence, yet according to him, these remain inadequately addressed and unanswered by the PSB inquiry committee. He further states it was crucial that PSB respects CFP's autonomy and support him in upholding the highest international practices and ethical standards, with zero tolerance for corruption. The President also

mentions that the issues that the PSB inquiry committee addressed 'are sub judice upon the cases filed by Raja Gauhar Iqbal and others', and now pending or even decided before the court of law. The President states that any interference with the honorable courts amounts to the contempt of court orders. However, neither party has provided any stay orders from the courts.

The Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) has also on 13th June 2024 raised two main questions about the jurisdiction and legal mandate of PSB to conduct the inquiry. He had also quoted Article 9 of the CFP constitution under which the CFP is an autonomous body. Otherwise, CFP considers it an interference into the internal management affairs of CFP with an attempt to sideline CFP Executive Council and General Body which are fully mandated as per the CFP constitution, and not any other organization, to enquire.

The President has also levied allegations of corruption against PSB Enquiry Committee held under the convenorship of Mr. Nasrullah Rana, Director NF of PSB alleging that the officers conducted this inquiry in haste and 'have connections with the people who were suspended and removed by this federation for very serious charges of forgery and financial embezzlement' but without providing any proof and therefore this charge would not be commented upon. He has also criticized the formation of the enquiry committee. The President quoted Article 9 of the CFP constitution through which the CFP was an autonomous body and considers it an interference when PSB monitors the disputed internal management affairs of CFP.

However, the Pakistan Sports Board is mandated under its Constitution to perform the following functions which have a direct bearing on this case, namely:-

- (i) promote, develop, supervise and maintain general control on all forms of domestic and international sports;
- (ii) regulate affiliation of national sports federations and to determine criteria, conditions and fee for the grant of such affiliation and to monitor and regulate the functioning and compliance of the same and make regulations and provisions for admission, affiliation, monitoring and control of its affiliated sports federations;
- (iv) make codes relating to matters of efficiency and discipline, anti-corruption, anti-doping and issues related to the activities involving sports on and off the field and take measures for their implementation;
- (vi) provide for maintenance and enforcement of discipline amongst its affiliated national sports federation, all sports organizations and persons under the control of the same;
- (xxvi) prescribe by regulations terms and conditions of service of its officers, employees, advisers and other servants and officials and make rules for players, affiliated federations or organizations;
- (xxix) generally, do all such acts and things and take measures as deemed necessary or appropriate to advance the interests of Pakistan sports or for carrying out its objectives and functions including delegation of any of its powers or functions;
- (li) approve the annual audited accounts of the Board;
- (liv) take any other financial, administrative or management decision and measures required for effective functioning and operation of the Board;



- (xiv) appoint the election commissioner and determine his terms and conditions of appointment.

Additionally, the President CFP has sought clarification on the actions taken against the suspended Finance Secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, particularly regarding the alleged 'issuance of forged NOC and harassment of foreigners. Here it may be mentioned that according to the constitution of the PSB it has numerous powers and authority under law to ensure that the sports Associations and subordinate bodies function in accordance with the stipulations for the benefit of sports and that they do not infringe the rules.

The President of CFP has welcomed the decision to conduct an audit by the Federal Auditor General of Pakistan office, as 'financial transparency is integral' to CFP. He also mentioned that he removed Finance Secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, as he did not provide CFP with any financial statements and records, they are in the process of consolidating the available financial information and record to comply with the audit requirements. A detailed letter he says has been addressed to the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination, Federal Auditor General and PSB regarding this matter.

Raja Gauhar Iqbal, the dismissed and later reinstated Finance Secretary has responded by stating that the allegations against him by the President, Chess Federation of Pakistan, Mr. Hanif Qureshi, are not based on facts and his 'unilateral suspension (of Raja Gauhar Iqbal) through order dated 20 October 2023, was issued in violation of Article 8(b), which mandates "consultation with the General Body." As such without meaningful 'consultation' the order is void. He stated that this was not an 'administrative error but a deliberate-power grab' by the President CFP.

Raja Gauhar Iqbal also mentions that 'internal governance and financial discipline of the CFP, fall squarely within the jurisdiction of the General Body of the CFP which is the supreme forum under its Constitution. The President has chosen to approach the Pakistan Sports Board directly, without first exhausting this constitutional remedy as the CFP Constitution (2004) vests final authority in the General Body under Article 10(c), and provides clear mechanisms for appeal, ratification of financial matters, and disciplinary action under Articles 10 and 26. The President's direct petition to the PSB, while bypassing this internal forum, is procedurally irregular and contrary to the principles of institutional autonomy and subsidiarity.

Raja Gauhar Iqbal stated that the Civil Court he approached, recognizing this prima facie illegality, granted a stay order on 20 December 2023, suspending the suspension. Despite stay order while the court's stay was actively in force, President through allegedly 'a sham inquiry via an illegally constituted committee and, based on its report, issued a Removal Order on 12 May 2024. This was a direct, contemptuous slap to the rule of law'. The matter was taken to the Civil Court and then on additional and procedural grounds to the District Judge. He argues that the President had deliberately rendered the internal remedy dysfunctional by refusing to convene the General Body for over two years, forcing members into costly litigation to access their basic constitutional rights. The PSB Inquiry Report (minutes issued 2 July 2024) 'served as an independent indictment of the President Mr. Qureshi' as it declared his suspension "illegal," and his enquiry committee "illegal". Later under the PSB's directive, the General Body was finally convened on 15 July 2024 under PSB supervision. By a 14/15 majority, it declared his suspension and removal orders against Secretary Finance null and void. "Thereafter, the plaintiff's counsel informed [the court] that in the General Body meeting, the

suspension orders have been declared null and void and the Finance Secretary has been reinstated. Therefore, the plaintiff wishes to withdraw the petition."

Raja Gauhar Iqbal also mentions that decision-taking in CFP is discretionary without following the rules. He mentioned the case of Mr Omar Khan, the General Secretary who was charge-sheeted for forgery and suspended for 'serious discipline violations' on 31 March 2024. Omar Khan was charged for 'gross irregularities, malpractices, constitutional violations, breach of trust, impersonation, deceit by the President. He was also accused of 'unauthorised financial withdrawals exceeding Rs 22 million with joint signatures of Omar Khan and Raja Gauhar Iqbal'. Later he apologized and was then acquitted and restored as General Secretary by President without any enquiry and on 20 Oct 2025 the President CFP withdrew the suspension of Omar Khan and restored him with immediate effect 'in the spirit of reconciliation, unity and reform with the expectation that he will henceforth observe the highest ethical, administrative and constitutional standards in all affairs of the Federation'. Similarly, one Kashif Salim expressed regret over his 'improper conduct and admission of guilt' who was also acquitted by the President CFP. The President states that under the rules he has the authority to reinstate suspended office bearers but what is left unsaid is how and why he arbitrarily suspended the two officials without first enquiring objectively into the charges against them and not referring the matter to the General Body. The President thereafter exonerated them without holding a fair enquiry.

Copies of two letters by Mr. Omar Khan Secretary General of CFP to the President on the same subject have been attached titled 'Request for Lifting Suspension and Commitment to Compliance with CFP Constitution' dated 8 July 2025 and 'Admission of Constitutional Violations, Acceptance of Responsibility and Explanations Regarding Unauthorised Withdrawals' dated 06 October 2025 which apparently have led to the exoneration of Mr. Omar Khan and Mr. Kashif. Accordingly, on 20 Oct 2025 the President withdrew suspension of Omar Khan and restored with immediate effect. The President finds support under the constitution of the CFP under Article 8C which states that a withdrawal of 'suspension of the member(s) /functionaries / office bearers / players may be withdrawn by the President in consultation with the General Body. If the General Body is not in session the Executive Council can reinstate the membership subject to subsequent rectification by the General Body'. I find this sub section of the constitution of the CFP inexplicable because first the President determines on basis of some information or personal knowledge that an official needs to be suspended for alleged wrongdoing or violation of rules but how the same official is restored by withdrawing the suspension without holding an enquiry or providing any written justification appears improper under law. The PSB needs to take stock of such arbitrary powers assigned to the President of CFP.

Raja Gauhar further stated that the Civil Court, recognizing this prima facie illegality, granted a stay order on 20 December 2023, suspending the suspension but despite the stay order 'actively in force', the President through a 'sham inquiry' via 'an illegally constituted committee' and based on it, reportedly issued a Removal Order on 12 May 2024. This was not reportedly brought to notice of the PSB.

Raja Gauhar stated that the CFP Constitution recognizes the General Body as the supreme authority which must approve annual budgets and audited statements (Article 10). It is the only body that can impeach or remove office bearers (Article 26). The Executive Council is the executive body holding control and administers federation funds

(Article 11). The President can approve special expenses up to Rs. 10,000 only (Article 13) and may suspend office-bearers only. General Secretary is the chief financial operator and is the co-signatory for all cheques also responds to Call-Back-Confirmation (CBC) and must ensure financial discipline on accounts (Article 17). He further adds that 'the Finance Secretary is the executor, not approve of financial transaction and makes disbursements only as approved in budget/by Executive Council/or by President (Article 19) and is co-signatory with General Secretary (Article 19) in consultation with the General Body (Article 8). He has no direct authority to operate bank accounts.

Raja Gauhar further testifies 'that contrary to constitutional hierarchy, President Hanif Qureshi established a direct, unilateral approval system, bypassing the General Body and Executive Committee and often documented procedures. He has provided the following matrix in support of his contention:

Date	Evidence	Nature of Approval
3 May 2023	Email from: President attaching Consultancy Agreement with 50% commission clause.	Direct initiation of a major financial commitment without GB/EC approval.
10 June 2023	Email: "PI issue the required amounts." (re: National Schools Championship).	Direct order to disburse funds.
11 July 2023	WhatsApp: "PI transfer the reimbursement funds to this account."	Instruction for immediate transfer without submitted bills/vouchers.
18 May 2023	FS Response: "I need approval... after receiving all details; adopting normal procedures."	Highlights FS's request for due process vs. President's demand for immediate action.
1 Oct 2023	Presidential Directive: "No withdrawal shall be made... except payment of FIDE dues."	Issued after authorizing most yearly expenditures, demonstrating inconsistent and personal control.

Raja Gauhar Iqbal the Finance Secretary further states that he acted solely on the instructions of the President, who was the de facto source of all major financial approvals, often via informal channels. However, according to the President Mr. Hanif Qureshi he (Raja Gauhar Iqbal) did not provide detail expenditure statement of nearly Rs two crore fund and has requested that the new audit of the CFP should check the record and assign liabilities and responsibilities particularly the bank transactions from Oct 2022 - Oct 2023. Raja Gauhar also stated that all transactions were co-signed by the General Secretary 'as required by law' and executed by the Finance Secretary based on approvals documented.

Regarding the opening of the bank account of the Chess Association of Punjab Raja Gauhar Iqbal acknowledged that this effort was facilitated with the approval of Executive Council of Chess Association of Punjab (CAP). However, this issue was unrelated to the present case concerning his removal from the CFP as CAP was a

separate legal entity affiliated with the Punjab Sports Board. The account was never opened and the documents were returned by the bank. The original documents are in the possession of President Hanif Qureshi. No FIR has been filed by the bank or any party. He states that Punjab Chess bank account is not a responsibility of PCF as it was a different jurisdiction. This matter pertains exclusively to CAP, not CFP. The regulatory body for CAP is the Sports Board of Punjab, not the Pakistan Sports Board. It has no bearing on the financial management of CFP or the conduct of its Finance Secretary. He states that this allegation in the issue was a deliberate diversion from the main issue of his removal from office.

Raja Gauhar also mentioned that all withdrawals were approved by President Qureshi via email/WhatsApp/ Verbal Orders through Secretary General or directly. The 'financial records were maintained by Mr. Waqar who was appointed by the President even though this order was opposed by Mr. Omar Khan the General Secretary as it was 'not authorized by CFP constitution' and submitted to the President on 1 Oct 2023. Raja Gauhar also alleged that the 'President himself received multiple transactions and cheques in his personal account (cheque number 42377139 - PKR 2,000,000)'. Further as Secretary Finance he provided his personal bank statements but the President did not. The President Qureshi's personal account was used for CFP-related receipts, which he never disclosed. As for non-submission of laptop and chess pieces the laptop was handed to the General Secretary as recorded while the chess pieces were not purchased with CFP funds; they were personal property used for events.

As for the charge of non-payment of members reimbursements he says President Qureshi approved reimbursements on 9 May 2023 and 6 June 2023 and on various details via email and the record should be available with M Waqar. 'Delays occurred due to my (Raja Gauhar's) demand for "proper filing" and documentation and that WhatsApp message available as evidence'. The audit he states 'was prepared by M Waqar, and submitted by the General Secretary, who is constitutionally responsible under Article 17 and the Finance Secretary had no role in this submission'.

Raja Gauhar further mentions that the President himself authorized these transactions and later received funds. The General Body in its 15th July 2024 meeting ratified all transactions, nullifying allegations of embezzlement. The same legitimate voters from the 2022 electoral list, confirmed its constitutional legitimacy and supreme authority. Later the memberships were also verified by PSB. However, all statements of the petitioner and the respondent cannot be accepted at face value and the legality and propriety of transactions would only be validated by the audit being conducted by the Auditor General of Pakistan after which the PSB could take appropriate measures where required.

As the Adjudicator of the case I have perused the statements of the parties, heard their respective positions and studied the available record and conclude that the following three main issues require adjudication and necessary orders issued.



i) **Allegations by the President CFP and those of Finance Secretary CFP against each other on the validity of withdrawal and correct utilization of funds.**

The main charge against Raja Gauhar Iqbal the Finance Secretary by Mr. Hanif Qureishi the President CFP for his removal concerns the alleged 'financial irregularities, forgery, and the unauthorized withdrawal of funds from the CFP bank account'. Additionally, allegations have been made against Raja Gauhar Iqbal for facilitating through unlawful means the opening of bank account for the Chess Association of Punjab and 'the fabrication of NOCs for participation in international championships, such as the World Schools Championship, which has tarnished the reputation of Pakistani sports on the global stage'. All these are major accusations and cannot be taken lightly especially as large sums of money is reportedly involved.

On the other hand, Raja Gauhar allegations against the President relate to alleged improper withdrawals from CFP banks and utilization of funds for various purposes. He has also alleged that funds were approved by President Qureshi via email/WhatsApp/ Verbal Orders through Secretary General or directly. Why the approval process was not processed on files or electronically to retain records has not been mentioned. A list of five withdrawals has been placed on record where the President allegedly authorized the withdrawal of funds. Moreover, Raja Gauhar states that the 'financial records were maintained by one Mr. Waqar who was personally appointed by the President by creating a new post for him which order was also opposed by Mr. Omar Khan, the Secretary General of CFP as it was not authorized by CFP constitution. (dated 1st Oct 2023). He also alleged that the 'President himself received multiple transections (sic) and cheques in his personal account (mention of cheque number 42377139 - PKR 2,000,000)'. It also appears that on occasions the Finance Secretary processed funds requests of the President which were not in accordance with the withdrawal of funds rules. Further the Secretary Finance states that he provided his personal bank statements when required but the President did not. However, no mention is made of whether the CFP rules require revealing personal accounts. As Adjudicator I am of the firm belief that in view of the very serious charges of alleged monetary indiscretions, financial irregularities, infringement of rules, forgery and the unauthorized withdrawal of funds from the CFP bank account have been raised by both the President and the Finance Secretary against each other it would be proper that we await the auditing of the accounts of the CFP currently being handled by the Auditor General of Pakistan reveal the facts before issuing further orders by PSB.

In the absence of written records or availability of a credible audit report for the period it is not possible to determine whether the approval of funds for specific purposes was recorded in the approved budget at the start of the year and whether the funds were released by the competent authority and utilized as budgeted and originally approved by the General Body. The PSB informed the Adjudicator that the Auditor General of Pakistan was presently scrutinizing the receipt and expenditure of funds to check whether these conformed strictly to the budget figures. Once the audit report is received it would be possible to determine whether the funds were utilized in the correct major and minor heads of account and expenditure incurred under open and transparent means. For example, all financial authorization must be based on the rules and purchases made through transparent public bidding. Importantly, entries must be made on electronic or conventional hard copy files to ensure appropriate funds utilization. The Finance

Secretary has also alleged that on occasions approvals were given by President on WhatsApp, emails or verbally and to determine whether this was permissible under rules. Also, under CFP rules all transactions need to be co-signed by the General Secretary and executed by the Finance Secretary based on approvals documented.

It is important to mention that a disclaimer has also been placed on record relating to an observation in the Audit Report of Qasim Adeel & Co which reads as follows: Basis of disclaimer of Opinion. We are unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the material miscellaneous admitted on recommendations of Executive Council provided the General Body ratifies such admissions' and whether the President in 'consultation' with General Body may suspend any member on serious charges of irregularities, malpractices, violations of constitution...' Therefore I am of the view that till such time the new audit of the AGP is complete exclusive reliance cannot be placed on the statements of both parties.

As mentioned earlier since the charges of the President and the Finance Secretary against each other are serious and are denied by the other party and no documentary evidence such as a complete and credible audit has been placed before the Adjudicator no definitive order can be passed at this stage. The PSB informs that the Auditor General of Pakistan is presently conducting a complete audit of the transactions since the President and the Finance Secretary's elections to their positions therefore the matter may be looked at after the PSB receives the new audit report. The audit by the AGP would reveal whether the President, the General Secretary and the Finance Secretary were individually or jointly responsible for any deviation from the rules or not.

In view of the foregoing position and the delay caused by the inability to resolve these issues I am convinced that the actual facts on ground may not be fully revealed to the auditors of the AGP office and the PSB by the continued presence of the President, the Finance Secretary and the General Secretary in their offices as their differences have assumed very serious proportions and there is the risk of the record being tampered or removed which would jeopardize the enquiry proceeding and the audit being conducted leading to further harm to the sport.

It is therefore ordered that the officials administratively responsible for the financial matters in the CFP namely Mr. Hanif Qureishi the President of CFP, Raja Gauhar Iqbal the Finance Secretary and Mr Omar Khan the General Secretary be suspended immediately from their positions and barred from the offices of the CFP till the AGP completes its enquiry and the competent authority issues appropriate orders upon the findings. In addition, the services of one Mr. Waqar who allegedly was appointed against an unsanctioned position are also withdrawn.

It is also ordered that all relevant bank and deposit accounts of the CFP should remain blocked till a final decision is taken and action be initiated against those office bearers, if found involved in wrongdoing, after the new audit by AGP is completed. This audit will determine whether rules have been infringed and financial requirements of the CFP and PSB followed or not. However, in order to ensure that the essential responsibilities and obligations of the CFP towards the sport of chess do not suffer further the PSB should notify another impartial office bearer of the CFP or an official of the PSB to perform the essential duties and obligations of the entity, on a case to case basis, to release the required funds to avoid defaulting on responsibilities. Such permissions would address the issue raised by the Peshawar High Court.

ii) **Determination of the Competent entity that decides major financial, administrative and discipline cases of CFP**

The President CFP Mr. Hanif Qureishi and the Finance Secretary Raja Gauhar Iqbal both plead that under the CFP Constitution (2004) the final authority for deciding suspension/dismissal/exoneration of officials is the General Body under Article 10(c), which provides clear mechanisms for appeal, ratification of financial matters, and disciplinary action under Articles 10(d)v and 26. The Finance Secretary objects to the CFP President's direct petition to the PSB, while bypassing this internal forum, which he says is procedurally irregular and contrary to the principles of institutional autonomy. He states that the General Body was fully empowered to examine financial records, approve or disapprove transactions, and take appropriate disciplinary action if needed. However, Raja Gauhar's contention is that the President needs to properly 'consult' the General Body before taking disciplinary action which he has not done. As the Adjudicator I am of the view that merely informing the General Body of his intentions without regard to the available quorum, without eliciting and recording the views of the members and without issuing proper minutes of the meeting may not be construed as 'consultation' and could turn out to be legally and factually disputed. However, when Raja Gauhar Iqbal seeks to justify his own restoration after his earlier dismissal by the General Body he finds the proceeding fair and legal as he states that the same General Body acted legitimately when it decided to restore his services by an overwhelming majority but not when he was suspended and later dismissed. He did mention that his restoration was genuine since he secured a clear majority of the votes of the General Body members.

I also do not find myself in agreement with the contention of the President CFP that he acted in accordance with the rules to suspend the Finance Secretary. He did not consult the General Body while suspending the Finance Secretary and his orders as such were not valid. In view of the different and contested interpretations of the responsibilities of the General Body I believe that the PSB took the correct decision to order an enquiry committee to scrutinize the matter and thereafter decide the matter. The PSB is also legally competent under its constitution to monitor any infringement of the law and rules and to provide protection from arbitrary and unfair orders. (Annex). For the future the PSB needs to reexamine and define the issue of 'consultation' by General Body to remove all ambiguities and should consider replacing or redefining the word 'consult' with the proper word 'approval after due process'. The superior courts in Pakistan have consistently ruled that 'consultation' needs to be unambiguous, clear and meaningful and arrived at under rational parameters which has not been seen in the present CFP case. The PSB needs to address such anomalies quickly.

Similarly, there is ambiguity in the CFP clause where the President during an 'urgency' is authorized to take decisions all by himself subject to ratification later by the General Body or Executive Council. How does one define extreme 'urgency'? This is a dangerous path to follow as any President could take momentous but improper decisions which cannot be recalled. This would make the President all-powerful leaning toward despotism while sports and the sportspersons would suffer. It would be appropriate not to permit the President with wider autocratic and discretionary powers to take decisions under any undefined 'urgency'. In such an eventuality of real urgency the matter should be referred to the PSB to be involved in decision-making as it involves financial and administrative implications.

I also wish to mention a piece of evidence placed before me by Raja Gauhar Iqbal relating to the absolute and unchecked discretionary powers being exercised by the President CFP concerning the suspension and restoration of office bearers at his whim and desires. This absolutism must be checked by the PSB with immediate effect in the interest of justice and equity. Raja Gauhar mentioned the case of Mr. Omar Khan, the General Secretary who was charge-sheeted for forgery and suspended for 'serious discipline violations' on 31 March 2024. Omar Khan was charged for very serious offences like 'gross irregularities, malpractices, constitutional violations, breach of trust, impersonation, deceit'. He was also accused of 'unauthorised financial withdrawals exceeding Rs 22 million with joint signatures of Omar Khan and Raja Gauhar Iqbal'. Later, Mr. Omar Khan reportedly apologized and was acquitted and restored as General Secretary by President without any enquiry on 20 Oct 2025 for unexplained reasons. The President CFP on unilaterally withdrawing the suspension of Omar Khan and restoring him with immediate effect justified this action 'in the spirit of reconciliation, unity and reform with the expectation that he will henceforth observe the highest ethical, administrative and constitutional standards in all affairs of the Federation'. Similarly, one Kashif Salim expressed regret over his 'improper conduct and admission of guilt' who was also acquitted by the President CFP. This would mean that the President first acted hastily and arbitrarily in suspending these two without properly enquiring into their conduct and performance which led to their confession and later by ignoring their wrongdoing leading to restoring them without holding a regular enquiry and punishing them for their wrongdoing. It is not clear why the President restored these two officials to their positions even after their confessions. Such contradictory orders do not behove the head of an organization. The PSB needs to ask for the explanation of the President CFP through a separate charge sheet and take appropriate action.

iii) **Allegation against Raja Gauhar Iqbal relating to attempted opening of bank account of Punjab Chess association**

Regarding the opening of the bank account of the Chess Association of Punjab, the petitioner Raja Gauhar Iqbal acknowledged that this effort was 'facilitated' by him with the approval of Executive Council of Chess Association of Punjab (CAP). However, he says this issue was unrelated to the present case concerning his removal from the CFP as CAP was a separate legal entity affiliated with the Punjab Sports Board. He further mentioned that the account was never opened and the documents were returned by the bank. The original documents are in the possession of President Hanif Qureshi. No FIR has been filed by the bank or any party. He states that Chess Association of Punjab's bank account is not a responsibility of CFP as it was a different jurisdiction. This matter pertains exclusively to CAP, not CFP. The regulatory body for CAP is the Sports Board of Punjab, not the Pakistan Sports Board. Raj Gauhar Iqbal has also stated that this allegation being outside the purview of the present hearing should not be commented upon. He however does not mention whether he sought advice or permission from the office bearers of CFP or not. In addition, there is an allegation of forgery by the President against Raja Gauhar Iqbal and further that he did not observe proper protocol and caused embarrassment involving foreigners, but no details have been mentioned. I would therefore not delve upon these accusations but I feel that when serious aspersions have been cast by the President of the CFP against the Finance Secretary's intentions or conduct and in particular regarding the alleged 'forgery' in the bank signatures the CFP and the PSB should take immediate notice of the accusation through a separate enquiry



and take appropriate action accordingly. The personal conduct and character of everyone must remain beyond suspicion whether relating to the affairs of CFP or not.

- i. Having taken stock of the allegations and the evidence produced before me there is little doubt that the affairs of the CFP are in a crisis mode for nearly two years and it appears that some top officials have not paid due attention to their responsibilities under rules to adequately serve the cause of sports. Repeated recourse to administrative, media, judicial and even investigative fora do not reflect well on dealing with such cases. To sum up I therefore, order that the three officials administratively responsible for the financial matters in the Chess Federation of Pakistan namely i) Mr. Hanif Qureishi the President of CFP, ii) Raja Gauhar Iqbal the Finance Secretary and iii) Mr. Omar Khan the General Secretary be suspended from their positions and barred from the offices of the CFP for the reasons mentioned above till the AGP completes its enquiry and the competent authority issues appropriate orders upon the findings. In addition, the services of one Mr. Waqar who allegedly was appointed against an unsanctioned position be also withdrawn. It is also not understood why the President CFP did not proceed to finalize administrative and disciplinary action against Mr. Omar Khan and Mr. Kashif when both had reportedly confessed to wrongdoings but were exonerated by the President. His explanation may be called by the President and action under rules be taken if found responsible.
- ii. The PSB must ensure that in future all sports associations and entities under it must mention and record budgetary provisions under major and minor budgetary heads of accounts. Expenditure must be sanctioned only by the competent authority in writing on conventional files and/or electronic recording. No financial transaction be allowed on verbal, telephonic or WhatsApp orders or requests. Failure to do so would be the personal and joint responsibility of the concerned office-bearers. The Finance Secretary must also explain why he released funds on the directions of the President's verbal or telephonic requests if he found this route illegal as alleged by him; his failure to abide by the rules on the subject make him equally responsible for deviation or violation of the rules for which he is also answerable along with the President and the Secretary General. The PSB should consider sending at least one observer to all budgetary meetings of the sports associations to ensure that rules are strictly followed.
- iii. The PSB should issue clear orders to ensure that the essential responsibilities and obligations of the CFP towards the sport of chess does not suffer in any way till the finalization of the new audit and any action following the submission of the audit report. The PSB may notify another impartial office bearer of the CFP or an official of the PSB to perform the essential duties and financial obligations of the President, the Finance Secretary and Secretary General with permission, on a case to case basis, to release the required funds to avoid defaulting on responsibilities. Such permissions would address the issue raised by the Peshawar High Court and a copy of this order may also be sent to the Peshawar High Court.



ANNEXURES

Date: 06.10.2025

To:
Mr. Hanif Qureshi
Chairman Executive Council
President Chess Federation Pakistan (CFP)
Islamabad

Subject: Admission of Constitutional Violations, Acceptance of Responsibility and Explanation Regarding Unauthorized Withdrawals

After reviewing the CFP Constitution (2004) and reflecting on the findings of the inquiry, I accept that some of my actions were inconsistent with my constitutional responsibilities as General Secretary. I did understand the relevant provisions but, at times, failed to enforce them and thereby indirectly facilitated irregularities committed by the then Finance Secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal.

1 | Unauthorized Affiliation Letters

I acknowledge that I issued affiliation letters to certain provincial/regional associations without prior approval of the President or Executive Council. These actions were not aligned with Articles 17(a) and 17(b), which require the General Secretary to act strictly on the directions of the President and obtain prior approval before any correspondence or agreement on behalf of the Federation. I take full responsibility for this lapse and attach as Annex A (list of such letters for record).

Letter from Omer Khan to CFP President Hanif Qureshi

Date: July 8, 2025
Mr. Hanif Qureshi
President, Chess Federation of Pakistan

Subject: Request for Lifting of Suspension and Commitment to Compliance with CFP Constitution

Dear Mr. Qureshi,

I acknowledge that some of my past actions may not have fully aligned with the provisions of the CFP Revised Constitution 2004. I deeply regret any instances where my conduct may have caused concern or appeared to deviate from the standards expected of an Executive Council member. It is my sincere intention to rectify these matters and ensure that my future actions are in complete harmony with the constitution and the objectives of the CFP.

Written Statement of Mr. Omer Khan

(To be placed before the Chairman and Members of the Executive Council on 9 October 2025)

Date: 06.10.2025

To:
Mr. Hanif Qureshi
Chairman Executive Council
President Chess Federation Pakistan (CFP)
Islamabad

Subject: Admission of Constitutional Violations, Acceptance of Responsibility and Explanation Regarding Unauthorized Withdrawals

After reviewing the CFP Constitution (2004) and reflecting on the findings of the inquiry, I accept that some of my actions were inconsistent with my constitutional responsibilities as General Secretary. I did understand the relevant provisions but, at times, failed to enforce them and thereby indirectly facilitated irregularities committed by the then Finance Secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal.

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EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY ISLAMABAD, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 PART II Statutory Notifications (S.R.O.) GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN MINISTRY OF INTER PROVINCIAL COORDINATION

NOTIFICATION S. R. O. 174(I)/2022.— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 read with sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Sports (Development and Control) Ordinance, 1962 (XVI of 1962), the Federal Government is pleased to reconstitute as under the Pakistan Sports Board and provide for the powers and functions thereof, namely:— 1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This instrument shall be called the Constitution of the Pakistan Sports Board. (2) It shall come into force at once. 2. Definitions— In this Constitution, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,— Islamabad, the 20th January, 2022 PART-I GENERAL 295 (1— 25) Price : Rs. 40.00 [7111(2022)/Ex. Gaz.] 295(2) THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN. EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 [PART II (i) "Board" means the Pakistan Sports Board constituted under paragraph 3; (ii) "chief financial officer" means chief financial officer of the Board; (iii) "commencing day" means the day on which this Constitution comes into force; (iv) "Constitution" means the constitution of the Board; (v) "Director General" means a whole-time Director General of the Board appointed under the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board (Appointment) Rules, 2020; (vi) "election commission", means the election commission appointed by the Board under this Constitution; (vii) "executive committee" means the executive committee of the Board constituted under this Constitution; (viii) "National Paralympic Committee" means National Paralympic Committee of Pakistan; (ix) "national sports federations" means the governing bodies of the respective sports constituted on a national basis for controlling and promoting sports and recognized as such by or affiliated to the Board; (x) "national team" means any team representing Pakistan in any sports event or tournament whether within or outside Pakistan recognized by the Board; (xi) "Ordinance" means the Sports (Development and Control) Ordinance, 1962 (XVI of 1962); (xii) "Patron" means the patron of the Board; (xiii) "President" means the President of the Board; (xiv) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules or regulations; (xv) "rules and regulations" means the rules and regulations respectively made under section 5 of the Ordinance; PART II] THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN. EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 295(3) (xvi) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Board; (xvii) "subordinate offices" means National Sports Training and Coaching Centres, operating in Lahore, Quetta,

Karachi and Peshawar and any other office within the purview of the Board; (xviii) "sports organizations" means the sports organizations or bodies functioning in Pakistan using the word "Pakistan" and having the international character and meaningful role in the arena of sports; and , (xix) "Vice President" means the Vice-President of the Board.

PART-11 PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD 3. Pakistan Sports Board.- —(1) There is hereby constituted a Board to be known as the Pakistan Sports Board. The affairs of the Board shall be managed and regulated subject to and in accordance with this Constitution. (3) The Board shall be the autonomous governing body of sports in Pakistan and its primary aim shall be to regulate, administer, manage and promote the sports in Pakistan. The Pakistan Sports Board shall neither an industry nor a manufacturing unit and shall not engage in any commercial, business and industrial activities. The Pakistan Sports Board shall be non-profit autonomous body which shall operate independently and in a transparent manner and ensure that all decisions are made on merit and in the interest of Pakistan sports. (4) The Board shall have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of corruption or dishonest behavior by any of its officers or any player or other person associated with the game and shall have in place and implement appropriate systems to address this menace.

7. Powers, duties and functions of the Board.— (1) The Board shall have the following functions to perform, namely:- (i) promote, develop, supervise and maintain general control on all forms of domestic and international sports; (ii) promote and regulate all formats of sports excluding cricket; (iii) regulate affiliation of national sports federations and to determine criteria, conditions and fee for the grant of such affiliation and to monitor and regulate the functioning and compliance of the same and make regulations and provisions for admission, affiliation, monitoring and control of its affiliated sports federations; Part II] THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN, EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 295(7) (iv) make codes relating to matters of efficiency and discipline, anticorruption, anti-doping and other issues related to the activities involving sports on and off the field and take measures for their implementation; (v) make regulations for the smooth operations and functioning of internal matters of the Board; (vi) provide for maintenance and enforcement of discipline amongst its affiliated national sports federation, all sports organizations and persons under the control of the same; (vii) provide for affiliation or cooperation with domestic, regional and international organizations; (viii) coordinate and promote activities in respect of the sports in all manners and ways, for the holding and organizing of sports events at national and international matches within Pakistan or abroad; (ix) receive or generate funds and utilize them for a lawful purpose in a transparent manner for achieving its objectives; (x) ensure proper and transparent application of money received or generated by the Board; (xi) market, dispose of, or deal with any rights and assets owned by the Board; (xii) regulate by rules selection and composition of national sports teams and their officials for participation in sports events and other sports competitions both within and outside Pakistan; (xiii) take measures for the welfare and fitness of players and for the welfare of officers, employees and other servants of the Board; (xiv) appoint, engage or hire managers, coaches, physiotherapists, trainers, grounds-men, doctors, experts, adjudicators and such other persons as considered necessary for, the development of the sports on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by regulations; (xv) regulate and finance by rules as deemed appropriate, arrange the visits and tours abroad of national sports teams and their affiliated national sports federation's members; 295(8) THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN, EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 [Part II (xvi) standardize, maintain and control for match referees, umpires and scorers and other sports support personnel; (xvii) establish, own and operate properties, facilities and services including but not limited to libraries, museums and archives etc. in connection with or related to the sports; (xviii) subject to the applicable laws, establish sports based

television or radio channels, web portals or any other presence on the web or in cyber space, print or electronic media to achieve the objects of the Board; (xix) organize and hold matches and other events, inter alia, for the benefit of current or former sportsmen, umpires, support personnel or for any charitable purpose; (xx) develop the sports infrastructure in Pakistan and in this regard to undertake any act deemed appropriate for the same including but not limited to hold, own, acquire, deal with, obtain or lease moveable and immovable property or assets of the Board or any right or interest of whatsoever kind therein, acquire, transfer or issue any license, construct, upgrade, maintain or develop sports stadia, grounds, sports training and coaching Centres, academies and develop such other structures, venues and property as may be expedient; (xxi) raise any structures, commercial or otherwise, for the purpose of fulfilling the objective of promoting sports in Pakistan; (xxii) arrange and secure foreign and domestic training facilities and scholarships for players, umpires, coaches, support personnel and other officials; (xxiii) grant, transfer, lease, encumber, charge, mortgage and deal with moveable and immovable property in such manner and on such terms as deemed appropriate; (xxiv) invest subject to the applicable laws, any available funds of the Board in either securities or instruments of the Government of Pakistan or any entity controlled by the Government of Pakistan or in such other instruments or assets or investments as may be deemed appropriate and as prescribed or authorized by the Board; (xxv) raise funds or loans domestically or internationally and to receive financial aid or grants and for this purpose to encumber or charge any property' of the Board; Part II] THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN, EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 295(9) (xxvi) prescribe by regulations terms and conditions of service of its officers, employees, advisers and other servants and officials and make rules for players, affiliated federations or organizations; (xxvii) enter into contracts, incorporate any subsidiary or undertake any joint ventures as may be deemed appropriate to advance the interests of Pakistan sports or for the purpose of fulfilling any of its objectives; (xxviii) constitute such committees as may be deemed appropriate to assist the Board in exercise of any of its functions; (xxix) generally, do all such acts and things and take measures as deemed necessary or appropriate to advance the interests of Pakistan sports or for carrying out its objectives and functions including delegation of any of its powers or functions; (xxx) to promote and develop standards of national fitness as well as standards of competition, comparable to the international standards; (xxxi) to implement and monitor sports policy in conformity with national objectives and to recommend measures for designing and development of sports policy; (xxxii) to make the public sports-conscious and to encourage their participation in the national and international sports events; (xxxiii) to affiliate, recognize, assist and guide the national games and sports organizations in executing their programmes of sports activities: Provided that no sports organization would be affiliated with the Board unless its constitution is in conformity with the model constitution to be provided by the Board: Provided further that the sports organization which is not affiliated with Pakistan Sports Board shall not use the word Pakistan with its name: Provided also that no athlete or team of any National Sports Federation, Sport Organization, Association or Club shall travel abroad without permission of the PSB. (xxxiv) to encourage training and coaching of sportsmen at all levels for national teams; 295(10) THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN, EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 [P a r t II (xxxv) (xxxvi) (xxxvii) (xxxvi ii) (xxxix) (xl) (xli) (xlii) (xlili) (xliv) to appoint sub-committee as and when it thinks fit and their terms of reference; to receive any money or financial grants-in-aid from the Federal Government, the Provincial Governments, local bodies, any statutory or non-statutory corporations or bodies; to collect, accept or otherwise receive from any person, body, association or organization, any subscription, donation, assistance or help either in money, land or by transfer in favour of the Board; to encourage, promote and undertake all such measures as would assist in the development of sports in Pakistan; to give grants-in-aid and subsidies from time to time to the national games and sports

organizations affiliated to the Board and deserving sportsmen; to consider and recommend the affiliation of the national games and sports organizations to international sports associations and federations; formulate and approve vision and mission statements, strategic objectives, rules, regulations, codes, operation manuals and to devise policies relating to efficiency, discipline and recruitment or any other matters for the players, player support personnel, Board's employees or those affiliated with or controlled by the Board; approve the affiliation of the national games and sports organizations and associations to the Board and to ensure that the managing body of each of the national games and sports organization functions in the best interest of that particular games for the promotion and development of which the organization is responsible and to issue such directives in this behalf as may be deemed necessary; take effective measures for carrying out the objects, powers and functions of the Board; formulate and ensure the implementation of best corporate governance practices that promote ethical culture in the Board and prevents conflict of interest in their capacity as member of the Board; (xlv) appoint the election commissioner and determine his terms and conditions of appointment;

Part II] THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN, EXTRA., FEBRUARY 2, 2022 2 95(11)
(xlv) manage the affairs of the Board in accordance with rules and regulations; (xlvii) constitute audit committee, human resource committee, formulate and approve their composition and terms of reference; (xlviii) appoint the adjudicators and determine his terms and conditions of appointment. (xlix) ensure that a system of transparent internal control is established, implemented and maintained at all levels within the Board, and appoint an internal auditor of the Board on the recommendation of the audit committee; (l) ensure that the programmes formulated and resolutions passed by the Board or executive committee are faithfully carried out; (li) appoint a chartered accountant firm as the external auditors of the Board for a financial year and to fix their remuneration, subject to no external auditor being appointed for more than three consecutive years; (H) approve the annual or supplementary budget estimates of the Board and of the election commissioner's office and adjudicators; (liH) approve the annual audited accounts of the Board; (liv) take any other financial, administrative or management decision and measures required for effective functioning and operation of the Board; (lv) create and make functional any entity to meet the domestic and international obligations for control and promotion of sports including Anti-Doping and the same shall be registered under the relevant law; and (lvi) make rules and regulations to carry out its objectives.

13. Maintenance audit and submission of accounts.- (1) The accounts of the Board and the subordinate offices shall be maintained in proper books of accounts with respect of:- (a) all sums of money received and expended and the matters in respect of which the income and expenditure take place; (b) all assets and liabilities of the Board and subordinate offices; (c) the accounts of the Board and subordinate offices shall be audited annually by a chartered accountant within the meaning of the Chartered Accountant Ordinance, 1961 (X of 1961) to be appointed by the Executive Committee; (2) The Federal Government may issue directions to the Auditor General of Pakistan to inspect the accounts of the Board and report thereon as and when the Federal Government considers necessary; (3) The audited statement of accounts and balance sheet together with the annual report of the Board for the proceeding years shall be submitted to the Federal Government.

14. Withholding of grants, etc.- If any national games and sports organization proves inefficient or fails to carry out the directives of the Board, the Executive Committee shall be competent to withhold such grants to that organization at its discretion.

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Findings of the Enquiry Committee of PSB 25. 6.2024 (Annexure)

I, ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix...xii

Recommendations of PSB Enquiry i-v

8 a ii ('exceptional circumstances members can be expense disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

Basis of disclaimer of Opinion. ' We are unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the material miscellaneous admitted on recommendations of Executive Council' provided the General Body ratifies such admissions' and b (The President in consultation with General Body may suspend any member on serious charges of irregularities, malpractices , violations of constitution...'New membership.

13 (ii) Powers and Duties of President. Deal with any matter for urgency between meetings of EC/GB and issue directives in this regard. Wide discretionary powers of President from 13 iii to vi.

Why Honorary VP? Mirza Nadeem Hafiz. Saleem Akhtar SVP chair of CFP enquiry report 2024

Findings of the Enquiry Committee of PSB 25. 6.2024 (Annexure)

I, ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix...xii

Recommendations of PSB Enquiry i-v

The General Body in its 15 July 2024 meeting ratified all transactions, nullifying allegations of embezzlement.

The General Body meeting of 15 July 2024 comprised the same legitimate voters from the 2022 electoral list, confirming its constitutional legitimacy and supreme authority.

Later the members were also verified by PSB.

Findings of the Enquiry Committee of PSB 25. 6.2024 (Annexure)

I, ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix...xii

Recommendations of PSB Enquiry i-v

Submission of Response to Adjudication Questionnaire Allegations by President, Chess Federation of Pakistan

Dear Mr. Durrani,

I am in receipt of the Adjudicator's questionnaire dated 2nd November 2025, calling for my response to the allegations raised by Mr. Hanif Qureshi, President of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP).

GI: The President has chosen to approach the Pakistan Sports Board directly, without first exhausting this constitutional remedy.

As you are aware, the CFP Constitution (2004) vests final authority in the General Body under Article 10(c), and provides clear mechanisms for appeal, ratification of financial matters, and disciplinary action under Articles 10(d)v and 26. The President's direct petition to the PSB, while bypassing this internal forum, is procedurally irregular and contrary to the principles of institutional autonomy and subsidiarity.

In light of this, your office may consider whether this matter should be entertained at all, given the availability of an alternative and competent forum within the CFP itself. The General Body is fully empowered to examine financial records, approve or disapprove transactions, and take appropriate disciplinary action if needed.

Financial records were maintained by Mr. Waqar (appointed by the President) and submitted to the President on 1 Oct 2023.

• The President himself received multiple transactions & cheques in his personal account (e.g., Cheque No. 42377139 - PKR 2,000,000).

Findings of the Enquiry Committee of PSB 25. 6.2024 (Annexure)

I, ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix...xii

Recommendations of PSB Enquiry i-v

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President CFP

FP/DGPSB-7-24

Dated: 22th April 2024

Director General Pakistan Sports Board Islamabad, Pakistan

Subject: Urgent Action Required to Address Challenges Faced by Chess Federation of Pakistan

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you on behalf of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) concerning critical issues we are currently facing.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the progress made under the current management of CFP since I was elected as CFP President through an election under the auspices of International Chess federation (FIDE). Through dedication, integrity, and hard work, we have achieved notable success, bringing laurels, medals, and respect to Pakistan on the global stage. We have consistently kept the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) informed of our activities, and a detailed report will be shared with you shortly.

However, despite our efforts, we continue to encounter challenges, as outlined in our previous correspondences to PSB (enclosed herewith). Unfortunately, we have not received any response to these communications. Notably, we have taken decisive action within our federation, suspending individuals involved in financial irregularities and conducting a thorough inquiry, the findings of which have been submitted to PSB. Regrettably, due to the PSB's actions blocking account, we are unable to carry out our activities, including representing Pakistan at international events; therefore, we urgently request

the cancellation of PSB's letter dated November 30, 2023 (F.47-10/20 23-PSB (NF)) to release our bank account.

Additionally, we seek clarification on the actions taken against the suspended finance secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, particularly regarding the issuance of forged NOC and harassment of foreign dignitaries.

Dated: 19th August 2024

To:

The Director General, Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad.

Subject: Response to PSB Letter No.F.7-53/2020-PSB(NF) Dated 5th August 2024

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing in response to your letter No.F.7-53/2020-PSB(NF) dated 5th August 2024, concerning the affairs of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP).

CFP operates under its own constitution, which governs our internal processes. The General Body meeting on 2nd July 2024 was held in accordance with our constitutional provisions, and the minutes of this meeting have been duly submitted to PSB, with a copy enclosed herewith. The subsequent meeting on 15th July 2024, organized under questionable circumstances, does not conform to CFP's constitutional requirements. This meeting sought to exonerate individuals involved in serious financial, ethical, and criminal violations, actions which CFP cannot condone. CFP has adhered to the highest ethical standards and international best practices, ensuring that all actions taken against individuals involved in serious issues, such as financial embezzlement, forgery of signatures, and issuance of forged NOCs of PSB, followed due process. Upholding these principles, we stand by the decisions taken in our General Body meeting on 2nd July 2024 and urge PSB to respect our autonomy in line with the highest international

standards set forth by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the international Olympic Committee (IOC), and the UN General Assembly resolution on the independence of sports organizations dated 27th November 2023.

2. Allegations of Corruption Against PSB Inquiry Committee:

It has come to our attention that Dr. Ayoub Natiq, a member of the PSS-endorsed General Body from Balochistan, has publicly accused the PSB inquiry committee of receiving a bribe of Rs. 120,000 from the removed Finance Secretary. The audio evidence of these allegations, circulated in public forums, is enclosed for your reference. Although CFP was unaware of such dealings, these serious allegations demand an impartial investigation to uphold the credibility of PSB and its processes.

3. Concerns About the Integrity of PSB Inquiry Committee:

Given the above allegations and our previous experience with the PSB inquiry committee, we have serious concerns about the impartiality and integrity of this committee. Despite providing extensive documentation and evidence, our concerns were seemingly overlooked, raising doubts about the committee's intentions. We are also aware that external pressures, including political and administrative influences, may have impacted the committee's actions. Therefore, we request an independent forum to scrutinize the work conducted by this committee, ensuring fairness and transparency in the process.

4. Audit and Financial Transparency:

CFP welcomes the decision to conduct an audit by the Federal Audit, as financial transparency is integral to our organization. Since the removed Finance Secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, did not provide us with any financial statements and records, we are in the process of consolidating our available financial information and record to comply with the audit requirements. A detailed letter has been addressed to the Ministry of IPC, FAT of Federal Audit, and PSB regarding this matter. However, the ongoing suspension of our bank account continues to hinder our operations. We believe this action unfairly targets CFP, which has consistently demonstrated high ethical standards and transparency in financial management. We hope to the prompt reinstatement of our bank account following the audit, as CFP is currently in debt and requires operational funds.

CFP operates under its own constitution and is a recognized body within the international chess community. The formation of committees by PSB to interfere in our internal affairs raises concerns about the legal and constitutional basis for such actions. These concerns have been raised in previous correspondence, yet remain inadequately addressed and unanswered by the PSB inquiry committee. It is crucial that PSB respects CFP's autonomy and supports us in upholding the highest international practices and ethical standards, with zero tolerance for corruption.

Dated: 5th July 2024 Director General

Pakistan Sports Board Islamabad.

Subject: Chess Federation of Pakistan's reply on the recommendations of the PSB inquiry committee dated 2nd July 2024.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the formation of the inquiry committee under the convenorship of Mr. Nasrullah Rana, Director NF PSB. We have received the inquiry committee recommendations on 2nd July 2024. The officers conducted this inquiry in a hastily and have connections with the people who were suspended and removed by this federation for very serious charges of forgery and financial embezzlement. Below is our detailed answer to the remediations of the committee.

(1) Perimetry Objections:

A- Almost all issues that the PSS inquiry committee addressed are SUB-JUDICE upon the cases filed by Raja Gauhar Iqbal and others, and now pending or even decided before the court of law. PSB is also made party in those cases, its surprising that under personal interest and political pressures, PSB inquiry committee is issuing orders in the issues which are sub judice. Any such interference with the honorable courts amounts

to the contempt of court orders. following are the details of such cases: (Any Stay Orders?)

Case 1- Raja Gauhar Iqbal vs CFP filed in December 15th December 2023 before Islamabad civil judge 1st class Mr. Zahid Tirmizi challenging his suspension and subsequent removal as CFP finance Secretary. This case was dismissed as withdrawn by the plaintiff on 13th June 2024.

Order of the Adjudicator on the allegations/charges each by the President and Finance Secretary (Treasurer) of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) against each other.

An administrative dispute between the President (Mr Hanif Qureishi) and the Finance Secretary (Raja Gauhar Iqbal) of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) has been referred to the undersigned (Shakil Durrani, former Chief Secretary KP, Sind and AJK, currently serving as the Executive director Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology) by the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB). The central issue has arisen as a result of the suspension, and later the dismissal and removal of the petitioner/respondent Raja Gauhar Iqbal, the Secretary Finance/Treasurer of the CFP on by the President CFP. This cause of action resulted in the lodging of civil cases in different courts of law. The PSB took cognizance of the matter under its rules and in accordance with the court ruling.....directing the petitioner and respondent to approach the established existing forum available before they court move the judiciary. Meanwhile an enquiry committee was constituted by the PSB which upheld the appeal of Raja Gauhar Iqbal against the President CFP and restored him to his office as Finance Secretary of CFP. He in turn withdrew his petition from the court before any final judicial orders were announced. Lately, the Peshawar High Court on.....has directed that since an alternate remedy was available under law and the constitution of the PSB the matter be forwarded for such processing. The parties informed the Adjudicator that no courts have stayed any alternate proceedings. However, the petitioner, Raja Gauhar Iqbal, states that the President of the CFP does not allow him to resume his office despite the orders of the PSB and has sought relief.

On the other hand the President of CFP Mr Hanif Qureishi has stated that Raja Gauhar Iqbal has been suspended from his position allegedly on 'various charges, including financial irregularities, forgery, and the unauthorized withdrawal of funds from the CFP bank account'. Additionally, serious allegations have been made against Raja Gauhar Iqbal concerning the fabrication of NOCs for participation in international championships, such as the World Schools Championship, which has tarnished the reputation of Pakistani sports on the global stage'. Mr Hanif Qureishi has also taken the position that as President of CFP he is empowered under clauseof the constitution of the CFP to suspend and remove the petitioner after 'consultations' with the General Body of the CFP which according to him is the competent forum for such matters. The President in particular mentions that 'consultations' alone are enough (even without approval) with the General Body to suspend and dismiss an office holder. However, no explanation is provided on what constitutes a meaningful 'consultation' is provided.

According to Raja Gauhar Iqbal the President now refuses to permit Raja Gauhar Iqbal to resume office after the acceptance of his appeal by the PSB while in consequence the PSB has blocked and barred the President and office bearers of the CFP from operating their official CFP bank accounts by PSB's letter dated November 30, 2023. The President CFP in his response has stated that due to the PSB's blocking the banks' account they are unable to carry out their activities, including representing Pakistan at international events and have requested permission to operate these.

Additionally, the President CFP has sought clarification on the actions taken against the suspended finance secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, particularly regarding the alleged 'issuance of forged NOC and harassment of foreign dignitaries'.

The President Mr Hanif Qureishi states that the CFP operates under its own constitution which governs its internal processes and that the PSB should not interfere in its internal

administration. He adds that the General Body meeting on 2nd July 2024 which removed Raja Gauhar Iqbal from office of Secretary Finance was held in accordance with the constitutional provisions and the minutes of this meeting have been duly submitted to PSB. He does not accept the decisions of the subsequent meeting of the General Body held on 15th July 2024 which restored the secretary Finance as according to him it does not conform to CFP's constitutional requirements. The President alleges that the charges against Gauhar Iqbal are serious issues, such as 'financial embezzlement, forgery of signatures, and issuance of forged NOCs of PSB'. Upholding these principles, he states that he stands by the decisions taken in the General Body meeting on 2nd July 2024 and urges PSB to respect CFP autonomy in line with the highest international standards set forth by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the UN General Assembly resolution on the independence of sports organizations dated 27th November 2023.

The President has also levied allegations of corruption against PSB Enquiry Committee but without providing any proof and therefore this charge would not be commented upon. He has also criticized the formation of the enquiry committee under the convenorship of Mr. Nasrullah Rana, Director NF of PSB alleging that the officers conducted this inquiry in haste and 'have connections with the people who were suspended and removed by this federation for very serious charges of forgery and financial embezzlement'. Again no evidence was provided. The President quoted Article 9 of the CFP constitution through which the CFP is an autonomous body and considers it an interference when PSB monitors into disputed internal management affairs of CFP.

The President of CFP has welcomed the decision to conduct an audit by the Federal Auditor General of Pakistan office, as 'financial transparency is integral' to CFP. Since the removed Finance Secretary, Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, did not provide CFP with any financial statements and records, they are in the process of consolidating the available financial information and record to comply with the audit requirements. A detailed letter he says has been addressed to the Ministry of IPC, FAT of Federal Auditor General and PSB regarding this matter.

Further the President states that CFP operates under its own constitution and is a recognized body within the international chess community. The formation of committees by PSB to interfere in his internal affairs raises concerns about the legal and constitutional basis for such actions. These concerns have been raised in previous correspondence yet remain inadequately addressed and unanswered by the PSB inquiry committee. It is crucial that PSB respects CFP's autonomy and supports him in upholding the highest international practices and ethical standards, with zero tolerance for corruption. The President also mentions that the issues that the PSB inquiry committee addressed 'are sub judice upon the cases filed by Raja Gauhar Iqbal and others', and now pending or even decided before the court of law. The President states that any interference with the honorable courts amounts to the contempt of court orders. However, neither party has provided any stay orders from the courts.

The chess federation of Pakistan (CFP) has also on 13th June 2024 raised two main questions about the jurisdiction and legal mandate of PSB to conduct the inquiry. He had also quoted the Article 9 of the CFP constitution whereas the CFP is an autonomous body. Otherwise CFP considers it an interference into the internal management affairs of CFP with an attempt to sideline CFP Executive Council, enquiry committees and general body which are fully mandated as per the CFP constitution, and not any other organization, to enquire.

/WhatsApp/ Verbal Orders through Secretary General or Directly.

- Financial records were maintained by Mr. Waqar (appointed by the President) and submitted to the President on 1 Oct 2023.
- The President himself received multiple transections & cheques in his -personal account

(e.g., Cheque No. 42377139 - PKR 2,000,000).

Audit Report Qasim Adeel & Co

Basis of disclaimer of Opinion. ' We are unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the material miscellaneous expense disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

8 a ii ('exceptional circumstances members can be admitted on recommendations of Executive Council' provided the General Body ratifies such admissions' and b (The President in consultation with General Body may suspend any member on serious charges of irregularities, malpractices, violations of constitution...)'New membership.

13 (ii) Powers and Duties of President. Deal with any matter for urgency between meetings of EC/GB and issue directives in this regard. Wide discretionary powers of President from 13 iii to vi.

Why Honorary VP? Mirza Nadeem Hafiz. Saleem Akhtar SVP chair of CFP enquiry report 2024

Raja Gauhar Iqbal, the dismissed and later reinstated Finance Secretary has responded by stating that the allegations against him by the President, Chess Federation of Pakistan, Mr. Hanif Qureshi, are not based on facts and his 'unilateral suspension (of Raja Gauhar Iqbal) through order dated 20 October 2023, was issued in violation of Article 8(6), which mandates "consultation with the General Body." As such without meaningful 'consultation' the order is void. He stated that this was not an 'administrative error but a deliberate-power grab' by the President CFP.

Raja Gauhar Iqbal also mentions that 'internal governance and financial discipline of the CFP, fall squarely within the jurisdiction of the General Body of the CFP-the supreme forum under its Constitution. The President has chosen to approach the Pakistan Sports Board directly, without first exhausting this constitutional remedy as the CFP Constitution (2004) vests final authority in the General Body under Article 10(c), and provides clear mechanisms for appeal, ratification of financial matters, and disciplinary action under Articles 10 and 26. The President's direct petition to the PSB, while bypassing this internal forum, is procedurally irregular and contrary to the principles of institutional autonomy and subsidiarity.

Raja Gauhar Iqbal stated that the Civil Court, 'recognizing this prima facie illegality, granted a stay order on 20 December 2023, suspending the suspension. Despite stay order while the court's stay was actively in force, President through 'a sham inquiry via an illegally constituted committee and, based on its report, issued a Removal Order on 12 May 2024. This was a direct, contemptuous slap to the rule of law'. The matter was taken to the Civil Court and then on additional and procedural grounds to the District Judge. He argues that the President had deliberately rendered the internal remedy dysfunctional by refusing to convene the General Body for over two years, forcing members into costly litigation to access their basic constitutional rights. The PSB Inquiry Report (2 July 2024) 'served as an independent indictment of the President Mr. Qureshi' as it declared his suspension "illegal," and his enquiry committee "illegal". Later under the PSB's directive, the General Body was finally convened on 15 July 2024 under PSB supervision. By a 14/15 supermajority, it declared all his suspension and removal orders against Secretary Finance null and void. "Thereafter, the plaintiff's counsel informed [the court] that in the General Body meeting, the suspension orders have been declared null and void and the Finance Secretary has been reinstated. Therefore, the plaintiff wishes to withdraw the petition."

Raja Gauhar Iqbal also mentions that decision-taking in CFP is discretionary without following the rules. He mentioned the case of Mr Omar Khan, the General Secretary who was charge sheeted for forgery and suspended for 'serious discipline violations' on 31

March 2024. Omar Khan was charged for 'gross irregularities, malpractices, constitutional violations, breach of trust, impersonation, deceit. He was also accused of 'unauthorised financial withdrawals exceeding Rs 22 million with joint signatures of Omar Khan and Gauhar Iqbal'. Later he apologized and was then acquitted and restored as General Secretary by President without any enquiry and on 20 Oct 2025 as President withdrew suspension of Omar Khan and restored him with immediate effect 'in the spirit of reconciliation, unity and reform with the expectation that he will henceforth observe the highest ethical, administrative and constitutional standards in all affairs of the Federation'. Similarly, one Kashif Salim expressed regret over his 'improper conduct and admission of guilt' who was also acquitted by the President CFP. On 20 Oct 2025 President withdrew suspension of Omar Khan and restored with immediate effect.

Raja Gauhar further stated that the Civil Court, recognizing this prima facie illegality, granted a stay order on 20 December 2023, suspending the suspension but despite the stay order 'actively in force', the President through a 'sham inquiry' via 'an illegally constituted committee' and, based on its report, issued a Removal Order on 12 May 2024. This was a direct, contemptuous slap to the rule of law. The Civil Court accepted the case but provided no interim relief against 'this contemptuous removal'.

Raja Gauhar stated that the CFP Constitution recognizes the General Body as the supreme authority which must approve annual budgets and audited statements (Article 10). It is the only body that can impeach or remove office bearers (Article 26). The Executive Council is the executive body holding control and administers federation funds (Article 11). The President can approve special expenses up to Rs. 10,000 only (Article 13) and may suspend office-bearers only. General Secretary is the chief financial operator and is the co-signatory for all cheques also responds to Call-Back-Confirmation (CBC) and must ensure financial discipline on accounts (Article 17). The Finance Secretary is the executor, not approve of financial transaction and makes disbursements only as approved in budget/by Executive Council/or by President (Article 19) and is co-signatory with GS (Article 19) in consultation with the General Body (Article 8). He has no direct authority to operate bank accounts.

Raja Gauhar further testifies 'that contrary to constitutional hierarchy, President Hanif Qureshi established a direct, unilateral approval system, bypassing the General Body and Executive Committee and often documented procedures'. He has provided the following matrix in support of his contention: Annexure

Date	Evidence	Nature of Approval
3 May 2023	Email from President attaching Consultancy Agreement with 50% commission clause.	Direct initiation of a major financial commitment without GB/EC approval.
10 June 2023	Email: "PI issue the required amounts." (re: National Schools Championship).	Direct order to disburse funds.
11 July 2023	WhatsApp: "PI transfer the reimbursement funds to this account."	Instruction for immediate transfer without submitted bills/vouchers.
18 May 2023	FS Response: "I need approval... after receiving all details; adopting normal procedures."	Highlights FS's request for due process vs. President's demand for immediate action.

1 Oct 2023	Presidential Directive: "No withdrawal shall be made... except payment of FIDE dues."	Issued after authorizing most yearly expenditures, demonstrating inconsistent and personal control.
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According to the President Mr Hanif Qureshi Raja Gauhar Iqbal did not provide detail expenditure statement of nearly Rs two crore fund but raja Gauhar Iqbal the Finance Secretary stated that he acted solely on the instructions of the President, who was the de facto source of all major financial approvals, often via informal channels. He requested that the new audit of the CFP should check the record and assign liabilities and responsibilities particularly the bank transactions from Oct 2022 - Oct 2023. All transactions were co-signed by the General Secretary (as required by law) and executed by the Finance Secretary based on approvals documented.

Regarding the opening of the bank account of the Chess Association of Punjab Raja Gauhar Iqbal acknowledged that this effort was facilitated with the approval of Executive Council of Chess Association of Punjab (CAP). However, this issue was unrelated to the present case concerning his removal from the CFP as CAP was a separate legal entity affiliated with the Punjab Sports Board. The account was never opened and the documents were returned by the bank. The original documents are in the possession of President Hanif Qureshi. No FIR has been filed by the bank or any party. He states that Punjab Chess bank account is not a responsibility of PCF as it was a different jurisdiction. This matter pertains exclusively to CAP, not CFP. The regulatory body for CAP is the Sports Board of Punjab, not the Pakistan Sports Board. It has no bearing on the financial management of CFP or the conduct of its Finance Secretary. Alleging it here is a diversion.

Raja Gauhar also mentioned that all withdrawals were approved by President Qureshi via email/WhatsApp/ Verbal Orders through Secretary General or directly. The 'financial records were maintained by Mr. Waqar (who was appointed by the President) which order was opposed by Omar Khan as it was not authorized by CFP constitution' and submitted to the President on 1 Oct 2023. He also alleged that the 'President himself received multiple transactions & cheques in his personal account (cheque number 42377139 - PKR 2,000,000)'. Further as Secretary Finance he provided his personal bank statements; the President did not. The President Qureshi's personal account was used for CFP-related receipts, which he never disclosed. As for non-submission of laptop and chess pieces the laptop was handed to the General Secretary as recorded while the chess pieces were not- purchased with CFP funds; they were personal property used for events.

AS for non-payment of member reimbursements President Qureshi approved reimbursements on 9 May 2023 and 6 June 2023 and on various details via email (Record with M Waqar). Delays occurred due to my (Raja Gauhar's) demand for "proper filing" and documentation. (WhatsApp message available as evidence). The audit was prepared by M Waqar, and submitted by the General Secretary, who is constitutionally responsible under Article 17 and the Finance Secretary had no role in this submission .

The President himself authorized these transactions and later received funds.

The General Body in its 15 July 2024 meeting ratified all transactions, nullifying allegations of embezzlement.

The General Body meeting of 15 July 2024 comprised the same legitimate voters from the 2022 electoral list, confirming its constitutional legitimacy and supreme authority. Later the members were also verified by PSB.

Findings of the Enquiry Committee of PSB 25. 6.2024 (Annexure)

I, ii,iii,iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix...xii

Recommendations of PSB Enquiry i-v

Submission of Response to Adjudication Questionnaire Allegations by President, Chess Federation of Pakistan

Dear Mr. Durrani,

I am in receipt of the Adjudicator's questionnaire dated 2nd November 2025, calling for my response to the allegations raised by Mr. Hanif Qureshi, President of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP).

GI: The President has chosen to approach the Pakistan Sports Board directly, without first exhausting this constitutional remedy.

As you are aware, the CFP Constitution (2004) vests final authority in the General Body under Article 10(c), and provides clear mechanisms for appeal, ratification of financial matters, and disciplinary action under Articles 10(d)v and 26. The President's direct petition to the PSB, while bypassing this internal forum, is procedurally irregular and contrary to the principles of institutional autonomy and subsidiarity.

In light of this, your office may consider whether this matter should be entertained at all, given the availability of an alternative and competent forum within the CFP itself. The General Body is fully empowered to examine financial records, approve or disapprove transactions, and take appropriate disciplinary action if needed.

Financial records were maintained by Mr. Waqar (appointed by the President) and submitted to the President on 1 Oct 2023.

• The President himself received multiple transactions & cheques in his personal account (e.g., Cheque No. 42377139 - PKR 2,000,000).

Findings of the Enquiry Committee of PSB 25. 6.2024 (Annexure)

I, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii, ix... xii

Recommendations of PSB Enquiry i-v

Such protection of corrupt practices and forgery are also against the established rules of International Chess Federation (FIDE) International Olympic Organization (IOC) as well as all established rules and laws on corruption and corrupt practices, including the Prevention of Corruption act 1947 of the federal government and all other anti corruption establishment rules.

B- The chess federation of Pakistan (CFP) in its response letter ref number: CFP/PSBIC-1/24 dated 13th June 2024 {copy enclosed} raised two main questions about the jurisdiction and legal mandate of PSB to conduct the inquiry. We had also quoted the Article 9 of the CFP constitution whereas the CFP is an autonomous body. Unfortunately, the committee did not address this crucial issue which has the fundamental importance for furtherance of the inquiry. We again request you to kindly refer the rules and laws under which PSB is conducting this inquiry. Otherwise CFP consider it an interference into the internal management affairs of CFP with an attempt to sideline CFP Executive Council, inquiry committees and general body which are fully mandated as per the CFP constitution, and not any other organization, to inquire.

C- The issues of CFP General Body membership has already been decided by honorable district court Peshawar Judge Ms. Shabeena Noor through a court order dated 27th May 2024. The suit for declaration was filed by plaintiffs Akhtar Langov faction of Balochistan Chess Association, Raja Gauhar Iqbal and Mr. Naeem Rauf of Chess Association of Punjab faction, Agha Waseem and Wasif Nisar of Sindh Chess Association faction and Mr. Noshad of Gilgit Baltistan Chess Association. The honourable court decided against all the above plaintiffs for non compliance of the court orders. The order is in the field and any attempt to add the above mentioned individuals as representing the above-mentioned provincial associations will be considered as an attempt to commit contempt of the court order of 27th May 2024.

D- We had also requested that the complaints received against the Chess federation of Pakistan shall be provided to us for us to understand the issues and adequately responding them. This was a fair request but the committee did not provide the complaints thus raising serious questions about the fairness of the committee's inquiry process.

E- We had submitted comprehensive documents to the inquiry committee and earlier to DG Pakistan Sports Board. The index of these documents presented on 13th June 2024 and received by the inquiry committee is enclosed.

(2) Para-wise response upon the committees' recommendations

1. Background

The question of PSB mandate to conduct such inquiry is crucially important, the constitutional and legal clarity is required about the whole PSB inquiry process to avoid unnecessary legal complications and court litigations. It is important that PSB provide us the legal standing of such inquiry process. It is important to mention here that we had no copies of the complaints and annexure documents which were filed against PSB. In absence of these crucial document we can't provide an adequate response to assist the inquiry committee.

2. The committee talks about some PSB rules and honorable supreme court judgements without quoting the context of such judgments and its utility in the current inquiry. It would have been better for the committee to add the contexts here.

1. Proceedings of the Committee

I had received "notice of inquiry" (copy enclosed) from the committee member on 8th June 2024, I had responded on the same day and sent a letter titled "response to notice of inquiry received on Saturday 8th June by WhatsApp" (copy enclosed) sent by me to committee members. Among other things I requested to deliver us the complaints that the committee has received against Chess Federation of Pakistan. However the inquiry committee never provided us the copies of the complaints received against us. Therefore the statement in the recommendations that "provided the copies of the complaints and directed to submit their replay/ stance in writing" is factually incorrect and raises serious questions about the inquiry committees' professionalism, impartiality and intent.

Also the committee has failed to mention names of the 'faction' appeared before the inquiry committee, travelled all the way from Quetta to Islamabad, it was: Mr. Nawaz Khan, General Secretary Mr. Faheem Anwar
President CFP

i. We strongly disagree with the committees view that the suspension of Mr. Gauhar Iqbal by the President CFP Mr. Hanif Qureshi (20th Oct 2023, copy enclosed) was illegal. Committee did not mention the articles of CFP constitution under which it thinks that the suspension was illegal. Actually the suspension was made under article 19 of CFP constitution read with the articles 8 B and article 13 iv of the CFP constitution. To elaborate this point:

Article 19 "TREASURE (Finance Secretary) states:

"The Treasurer to the Federation will hold the office for a period of four years unless resign or a vacancy is created due to his invalidity / death /removal by the President,"

Article 8 B states:

The president in consultation with the General Body may suspend any member(s) / functionaries / office bearers/players on serious charges of irregularities," malpractices, violation of Constitution, disregard of byelaws / directive or any other charge of blemishing the name of Federation of Pakistan.

Article 13 vi states:

In case of emergency the President shall be competent to take such actions as he deems necessary and shall report the same in the next meeting of the General Body or the Executive Council which in the ordinary course have dealt with the matter. If the decision of the President is not approved by majority of Members of the respective forum such action shall stand withdrawn immediately,

The above-mentioned 3 articles describe the powers of the President CFP whereas he can remove the finance secretary under article 19.

He can suspend any office bearers on serious charges in consultation (not approval) with the general body under article 8 B And in emergency take any action as "deem necessary" under the article 13 VI given that such action must be reported to the Executive Council and General Body as the case may be. In the case of Mr. Gauhar Iqbal he was suspended and later removed for:

Subject: Confirmation of Merit-Based Participation in Mian Sultan Khan National Chess Championship,

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about the upcoming Mian Sultan Khan National Chess Championships, 29 June to 5 July organized by the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP). This championship will feature players who qualified through the provincial qualifier championships organized by the CFP last year.

As per the rules, all qualified players have been invited to compete in this prestigious event. A few did not send their registration form to CFP representatives, they were contacted by CFP team but they seem not available to play. The CFP strictly adheres to the highest standards of merit and transparency under the guidelines of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the Asian Chess Federation (ACF).

There has been a disinformation campaign regarding the exclusion of any qualified player, Therefore I would like to categorically state that these claims are baseless, false, and frivolous. For instance, from Balochistan, Dr. Ayub Natiq has submitted his registration to CFP representatives in Balochistan and will be participating in the event. As of today no departmental request is received by CFP on the official letterhead with NOC of the players.

The CFP is committed to ensuring fair play and equal opportunities for all participants. We remain dedicated to maintaining the integrity of the championship and upholding the values of sportsmanship and merit.

Your support and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated. We look forward to a successful and well-organized championship. that will showcase the best of Pakistani chess talent.

Thank you for your attention and understanding.

Best regards,
Hanif Qureshi
National Chess Master & Olympian,

Advisor H.H Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President Asian Chess Federation
CFP/SIP-2/24

Subject: Urgent Attention Required: Withdrawal of Letter to Block Chess Federation _of Pakistan's Bank Account

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to bring to your urgent attention a matter of utmost importance regarding the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) and its relationship with the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

Firstly, it is imperative to highlight the concerning actions of Mr. Gauhar Iqbal, who formerly

served as Secretary Finance of the Chess Federation of Pakistan.

Despite bringing these issues to the attention of the PSB and initiating inquiries with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), no tangible progress has been made in holding those responsible accountable. Instead of addressing the root causes of these problems, the PSB has taken detrimental actions against the CFP, including sending a

letter to our bank to block our account. This action has resulted in significant losses for Pakistan, as we were unable to participate in prestigious international championships such as the Shanghai Cooperation Council Championship and the Commonwealth Games.

Furthermore, it hampers our preparations for the upcoming National Chess Championship and Pakistan's participation in the World Chess Olympiad.

I urge you to intervene immediately and order the withdrawal of the letter issued to our bank to block our account. The Chess Federation of Pakistan has made significant strides in revitalizing the landscape of chess in Pakistan, including winning the Asian Best Chess Federation award, obtaining Asia and Pakistan's first Grandmaster title in 74 years, and achieving notable successes in international competitions. Our federation is committed to promoting the sport of chess and bringing honor to our country.

Your prompt attention to this matter is crucial to ensure that the CFP can continue its efforts to elevate Pakistani chess on the global stage. We rely on the support of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination to rectify this situation and enable us to pursue our mission effectively.

Thank you for your understanding and swift action in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Hanif Qureshi,
National Chess Master and pian

Advisor to H.H Sheikh Suttan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President Asian Chess Federation.
President Chess Federation of Pakistan.

CFP/DGPSB-7-24

Dated: 22th April 2024

Director General

Pakistan Sports Board
Islamabad, Pakistan

Subject: Urgent Action Required to Address Challenges Faced by Chess Federation of Pakistan

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you on behalf of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) concerning critical issues we are currently facing.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the progress made under the current management of CFP since I was elected as CFP President through an election under the auspices of International Chess federation (FIDE). Through dedication, integrity, and hard work, we have achieved notable success, bringing laurels, medals, and respect to Pakistan on the global stage. We have consistently kept the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) informed of our activities, and a detailed report will be shared with you shortly.

However, despite our efforts, we continue to encounter challenges, as outlined in our previous

...