

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

Petition No. 8 of 2026

Arising out of

W.P. No. 1020 of 2026

Muhammad Hanif Qureshi
Versus
Federation of Pakistan & others

Date of Hearing: 09-06-2026

ORDER

1. This order shall decide Petition No. 8 of 2026, arising out of W.P. No. 1020 of 2026 titled *Muhammad Hanif Qureshi versus Federation of Pakistan & others*, referred to this forum vide letter No. 7-53/2020-PSB(NF) dated 04-06-2026 pursuant to order dated 19-05-2026 passed by the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court, Islamabad, whereby Pakistan Sports Board was directed to place the matter before the competent appellate authority for decision strictly in accordance with law.
2. The petitioner, Mr. Muhammad Hanif Qureshi, claiming himself as President of Chess Federation of Pakistan, challenged the Extraordinary General Body Meeting of Chess Federation dated 01-02-2026, the resolutions passed therein including his impeachment and PSB Endorsement Notification No. 7-53/2020-PSB(NF)-001 dated 18-02-2026. The petitioner alleged that the EGBM was convened by unauthorized persons, attended by invalid members, held in violation of court orders and endorsed by PSB without lawful authority.
3. Notice was issued to all concerned parties. The matter was fixed for hearing on 09-06-2026. The petitioner appeared in person and also submitted written statement. Mr. Omer Khan, Mr. Kashif Saleem, Mr. Raja Gohar Iqbal and other concerned parties appeared and submitted their respective statements/replies. Representatives of Pakistan Sports Board produced relevant record, whereas Mr. Saif ur Rehman Rao, Legal Advisor PSB, assisted this forum. All parties were heard at length and the available record, pleadings, replies, statements, court orders, constitutions and relevant documents were carefully perused.
4. The first question requiring determination is whether PSB has regulatory jurisdiction in matters concerning the Chess Federation of Pakistan. The answer is in the affirmative. PSB is a statutory body constituted under the Sports (Development and Control) Ordinance, 1962 and governed by the Pakistan Sports Board Constitution, 2022. Article 3 of the PSB Constitution recognizes PSB as the governing body for regulation, administration, management and promotion of sports in Pakistan. Article 7 empowers PSB to regulate, monitor and supervise National Sports Federations. Article 16 makes affiliation and continued recognition subject to compliance with PSB's constitutional and regulatory framework. Article 17 provides the mechanism of Election Commission for transparent elections of National Sports Federations. Article 21 empowers PSB to take action in cases of irregularities and non-compliance, whereas Article 23 provides the dispute resolution/adjudicatory mechanism.
5. Article 22 of the Pakistan Sports Board Constitution, 2022 further provides that any sports organization desirous of regulating and controlling sports in Pakistan, using the name "Pakistan", representing Pakistan within or outside Pakistan, or availing benefits and recognition from PSB, is under legal obligation to comply with the laws of the land, policies and regulatory framework prescribed by PSB, and maintain registration under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017. In case of non-compliance, such organization may forfeit its right to use the name "Pakistan", regulate the sport concerned, or represent Pakistan in national and international sports events and forums.

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6. The Constitution of the Chess Federation of Pakistan also recognizes internal constitutional discipline and the authority of the General Body. Article 10(c) provides that the supreme authority of the Federation vests in the General Body. Article 10(e)(ii) permits convening of an Extra-Ordinary General Body Meeting upon requisition signed by one-third of the strength of the General Body. Article 8(b) deals with suspension of members/functionaries/office bearers by the President in consultation with the General Body. Article 13(iv) provides that emergency actions taken by the President must be reported to the General Body or Executive Council and, if not approved by majority, shall stand withdrawn. Article 24 relates to elections under the sports policy duly approved by PSB. Article 26 provides that an office bearer, including President/Secretary General, may be impeached for serious misconduct or lack of interest in promotion of chess activities if charges are approved by two-third majority of the General Body.
7. The petitioner's principal objection is that the EGBM dated 01-02-2026 was convened by unauthorized persons and attended by invalid members. The contesting respondents, on the other hand, submit that the meeting was convened under the CFP Constitution upon requisition by members of the General Body and that the impeachment resolution was approved by the requisite majority. The record shows that PSB did not itself convene, chair or vote in the said EGBM. PSB's role was limited to nomination of an observer for transparency and thereafter issuance of a limited endorsement dated 18-02-2026 only to the extent of the impeachment resolution, subject to compliance with the Constitution of the Federation, applicable law and orders of competent courts.
8. The role of a PSB observer is observational in nature. Presence of an observer does not by itself validate or invalidate a meeting. The legality of any General Body meeting depends upon compliance with the Federation Constitution, applicable law and orders of competent courts. In the present case, PSB examined the minutes and observer material and issued a conditional endorsement. The endorsement was not an executive removal order by PSB and cannot be treated as direct assumption of control over the Federation by PSB.
9. The petitioner has also relied upon the interim order dated 20-01-2026 passed in W.P. No. 225/2026 and contended that all subsequent actions were void. The record shows that the said order related to suspension of operation of the Adjudicator's order dated 01-01-2026 and office order dated 06-01-2026. The said order did not expressly restrain the General Body of the Federation from convening any meeting under its own Constitution, nor did it finally determine the status of all rival claimants. Therefore, the petitioner's argument that the EGBM dated 01-02-2026 stood automatically prohibited by the said interim order is not accepted.
10. The petitioner has further contended that FIDE's position and possible international sanctions required PSB to refrain from recognizing or endorsing any internal action of the Federation. This contention is also not sustainable. Article 4.10 of the FIDE Charter provides that FIDE observes strict neutrality in the internal affairs of its member federations while retaining the right to evaluate compliance with FIDE principles. Article 11(c) requires member federations to comply with their own statutes, rules and regulations. Article 11(q) requires general assemblies and elections to be organized in accordance with the federation's statutes and applicable national legal order. Therefore, compliance with the PSB Constitution, 2022, National Sports Policy, Sports Election Regulations Pakistan, 2024, CFP Constitution and laws of Pakistan is not inconsistent with the FIDE framework. Rather, adherence to national legal order is contemplated by the FIDE Charter itself.
11. The distinction between an internal General Body process and an election process is material. Impeachment/removal, if carried out by the General Body under Article 26 of the CFP Constitution, is an internal constitutional process of the Federation. Subsequent election to fill any vacancy or reconstitute office bearers is a separate election process governed by the applicable PSB election framework, including Article 17 of the PSB Constitution and Sports Election Regulations Pakistan. Therefore, the EGBM dated 01-02-2026 cannot be treated as an election

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conducted by PSB; rather, it was a federation-initiated internal meeting observed by PSB.

12. The statements of Mr. Omer Khan and Mr. Kashif Saleem have been carefully examined. Both statements raise objections regarding membership, legality of the meeting, disputed provincial associations, FIDE concerns and subsequent elections. However, the same statements also demonstrate the existence of continuing factionalism and serious internal governance disputes within CFP. Such disputes, instead of ousting PSB's jurisdiction, justify regulatory oversight under Articles 16, 21, 22 and 23 of the PSB Constitution, 2022. The allegations made by rival parties against each other require examination within the regulatory framework and cannot by themselves render PSB's limited endorsement void.
13. The petitioner's plea that PSB acted mala fide or without jurisdiction is not supported by the record. PSB did not remove the petitioner through an executive order. The impeachment resolution emanated from the General Body process claimed under the CFP Constitution. PSB's endorsement was expressly conditional and limited. The petitioner has failed to establish that PSB acted coram non judice, mala fide, or in violation of any express restraining order of a competent court.
14. It is also relevant that the petitioner has been pursuing multiple proceedings arising from the same continuing dispute, including W.P. No. 225/2026, W.P. No. 1020/2026 and statutory proceedings under the PSB framework. The Hon'ble Islamabad High Court disposed of W.P. No. 1020/2026 on the ground that the statutory appellate/adjudicatory mechanism under the PSB Constitution was available and ought to decide the matter. This forum has therefore examined the record within the scope of the reference and finds no sufficient ground to set aside the EGBM dated 01-02-2026 or PSB Endorsement Notification dated 18-02-2026.
15. The prayer seeking declaration that the EGBM dated 01-02-2026, all resolutions passed therein and endorsement dated 18-02-2026 are void ab initio is therefore declined. However, it is clarified that this order shall not be construed as validating any future election process unless such process is conducted strictly in accordance with the PSB Constitution, 2022, Sports Election Regulations Pakistan, applicable law, CFP Constitution and any order passed by a competent Court/forum.
16. Accordingly, Petition No. 8 of 2026 arising out of W.P. No. 1020 of 2026 is dismissed. All future electoral processes and governance actions concerning Chess Federation of Pakistan shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with law, the PSB Constitution, 2022, Sports Election Regulations Pakistan, the Constitution of Chess Federation of Pakistan, and orders of competent courts/forums.
17. Announced on this ____ day of June, 2026.



SENATOR PERVAIZ RASHID
Adjudicator
Pakistan Sports Board.