



Indian Pickleball Association Athlete Commission

In Alignment with the Guidelines of the Indian Olympic Association

Introduction

The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) is proud to establish its Athlete Commission in accordance with the guidelines of the Indian Olympic Association. This commission aims to represent and advocate for the interests of pickleball athletes in India, ensuring their voices are heard in the decision-making processes of the sport. The commission will work towards fostering a high-performance environment, supporting athlete development, and contributing to the growth of pickleball at both national and international levels.

Objectives of the Athlete Commission

1. **Athlete Representation:** Serve as a liaison between athletes and the governing body of the IPA.
 2. **Development and Support:** Assist in the development of structured training programs and mentorship for emerging players.
 3. **Policy Advocacy:** Provide input on policies that affect athletes, including competition formats, rankings, and qualification criteria.
 4. **Ethics and Fair Play:** Uphold the highest standards of integrity, sportsmanship, and fair play.
 5. **International Engagement:** Strengthen India's presence in global pickleball competitions and partnerships.
 6. **Promotion of Pickleball:** Contribute to the promotion and awareness of pickleball across different age groups and demographics.
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Athlete Commission Members

1) Dhiren Patel

- National Coach of Indian Pickleball Association
- Gold Medalist at the US Open Pickleball Championships
- Victorious in Men's Singles 5.0 Pro 40+ category
- One of India's top coaches
- Winner at the 4th IPA Nationals

2) Aditya Ruhela

- Asia's No. 1 player in Men's Singles
- Winner of multiple international and national events:
 - Gold in the PPA Vietnam Open
 - Silver in English Open 2023
 - Gold in Asia Pickleball 2023
 - Gold in Kinto Cup 2024, Japan
 - National Champion (2025) in Men's Singles Open

3) Nazneen Rahman

- Captain of Assam State Team
- Bronze Medalist in the 4th IPA Nationals for Team Assam
- India No. 2 in 45+ on ITF Master's Tour
- Winner of 12 titles on the ITF Master's Tour

4) Rahul Belwal

- Asia's No. 1 in 35+ Men's Singles
- Coach of top junior players
- Represented India at the ITF World Team Championships:
 - 2025 (35+) held in Turkey
 - 2024 (35+) held in Portugal



- Winner of multiple 35+ events in the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour

5) Dilip Mohanty

- Director of PPR India – a professional coaching program for pickleball coaches
- National Coach of Hong Kong
- Winner of 31 titles in the ITF Master's Tour

Roles and Responsibilities of the Athlete Commission

1. **Advisory Role:** Provide recommendations to the IPA on athlete-related matters.
2. **Athlete Welfare:** Ensure athletes receive the necessary support, including medical, financial, and psychological assistance.
3. **Events & Competitions:** Contribute to the planning and execution of national and international tournaments.
4. **Coaching & Training Programs:** Assist in structuring training modules for upcoming talent.
5. **Recognition & Awards:** Advocate for awards, grants, and sponsorship opportunities for athletes.

Conclusion

The formation of the Athlete Commission marks a significant milestone in the growth and professionalization of pickleball in India. With the guidance and contributions of these esteemed athletes, the Indian Pickleball Association aims to enhance the competitive landscape and provide a robust platform for Indian athletes to excel globally.