

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 797**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018**

**Age fraud in football**

**797. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:**

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether age fraud is pervasive in the football sport;
- (b) the percentage of professional football players who have been found guilty in the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the All India Football Federation to strengthen the age verification procedure?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)**  
**FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS**  
**[COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.)]**

(a): National Sports Federations (NSFs) are responsible for implementation of National Code against Age Fraud in Sports issued by the Government. As informed by the All India Football Federation(AIFF), age fraud has been noticed in some parts of the country but is not pervasive throughout the sport of Football.

(b): The AIFF has informed that only one professional footballer has been found guilty of age cheating.

(c): As informed by AIFF, they have taken the following steps to strengthen the age verification procedure:-

- (i) AIFF has implemented an online player registration system called the Central Registration System, for competitions conducted by it, where it is mandatory for all the clubs and State Associations to register their players in the system. Each player is issued with system generated unique player ID number which will stay the same throughout the player's career.
- (ii) For competitions conducted by AIFF, a player's birth certificate which is registered within one year of his birth is accepted otherwise the player has to undergo medical tests to participate in the competition.
- (iii) Recently, the AIFF Sports Medical Committee, headed by eminent age-verification expert – Dr. Vece Paes, along with AIFF, has made a new plan to curb age fraud.

- (iv) New guidelines regarding Bone-Age determination for youth level football has been implemented from 2018-19 season onwards for certain junior and sub-junior youth leagues and all stakeholders have been advised that for such tournaments AIFF shall only permit and recognize those players who satisfy the AIFF adopted scientific method of determining age.

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