

Rekha Palli

Senior Advocate

(Former Judge, Delhi High Court)

OFFICE : C - 587, Defence Colony

New Delhi - 110024

Ph. : 011 - 41614208

Email : avrp0903@gmail.com

To All Concerned,

Subject: Postponement of Elections 2026 and Notification of Revised Election Schedule


1. Upon objections being received to the electoral college dated 13.04.2026, a hearing was scheduled through virtual mode, for which a link was sent to all objectors as also to Ski and Snowboard India ("SSI") who was represented through its counsel, Ms Neha Singh.
2. During the hearing, Ms Mahejbeen Akhtar, Mr Roop Chand Negi, Mr Rauf Trambooo representing Winter Games Association, Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Harshmani Vyas representing Winter Games Association, Uttarakhand, Mr Vikrant Thakur, Mr Ludar Thakur, Mr Arif Khan and Mr Anand Lahoti, President, Ski and Snowboard Association, Maharashtra were heard and their primary grievance was that the electoral college dated 13.04.2026 comprises of States who are mostly non snow states and do not contribute in any manner to the promotion of Ski in India. They, therefore, prayed that the membership of SSI be reviewed and such states be excluded and the Association from States where skiing is one of the major sports be included.
3. Keeping in view the limited mandate given to the undersigned by the Hon'ble High Court for conducting of elections of the SSI, the undersigned has proceeded on the basis of the electoral roll which was used for holding

JUSTICE REKHA PALLI (Retd.)
Electoral/ Returning Officer
Ski and Snowboard India
Elections 2026

 12/4/2026

the elections of the SSI in November 2023 wherein an observer was appointed by the Indian Olympic Association. Further, the names of Puducherry Amateur Ski & Snowboard Association, Ski and Snowboard Association, Uttarakhand and Ski and Snowboard Association, Madhya Pradesh in terms of the decision taken in the Annual General Meeting of the SSI on 16.11.2025 were also included. In these circumstances, the grievances regarding the membership of the SSI cannot be considered by the undersigned and the elections are therefore to be conducted by taking into account only the existing members of the SSI.

4. Besides the above submissions, Mr. Anand Madanlal Lahoti who is the President of Ski and Snowboard Association, Maharashtra had joined the proceedings and submitted that though he is the President of the aforesaid member association, he received no notice regarding filing of nominations. He further submitted that the purported nominations sent by Mr Pradeep Ashok Rathod, General Secretary of the Ski and Snowboard Association, Maharashtra were without his knowledge and consent and appear to have been sent only in connivance with the General Secretary of the Ski and Snowboard India.
5. On the other hand, Ms Neha Singh, Advocate appearing on behalf of the SSI vehemently denies this allegation of connivance and submits that this objection raised by Mr Lahoti pertains to the internal working of the Ski and Snowboard Maharashtra and therefore cannot be a ground to ignore the two nominations already received from the said association. Even though there is merit in Ms. Singh's submission that the SSI may not be at fault for accepting the nominations received from the General Secretary, Ski and Snowboard Maharashtra, I am of the view that the grievance raised by the President of Maharashtra cannot be simply brushed aside as it raises serious objection regarding the filing of nominations. It would, therefore, be in the interest of justice to grant Mr Lahoti four weeks' time, i.e., till 18.05.2026 to


18/4/2026
JUSTICE REKHA PALLI (Retd.)
Electoral/ Returning Officer
Ski and Snowboard India
Elections 2026

file fresh nominations on behalf of Ski and Snowboard Association, Maharashtra after following the prescribed procedure of the said association. Consequently, the elections are required to be postponed by at least two to three weeks.

6. Further taking into account that elections are required to be postponed due to the aforesaid reasons, the association of Himachal Pradesh Winter Games Association and Winter Games Association of Kashmir, who are already members of SSI and did not file their nominations for the reasons explained during the hearing, are also granted time till 18.05.2026 to file their nominations, if they so desire. Any other member association of SSI who has a grievance regarding the nomination already received and mentioned in the electoral college published on 13.04.2026 may also submit their fresh nominations on or before 18.05.2026 and the elections will accordingly now be held at the same venue, ie, the Meriton Hotel, New Delhi on 31.05.2026 between 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. The following revised Election Schedule is now being notified hereunder:

REVISED ELECTION SCHEDULE NOTIFICATION

(For Conduct of SSI Elections -2026)

S. No.	Particulars	Date
1.	Filing of Revised Nominations	On or before 18.05.2026 (Monday)
2.	Announcement of Draft List of Nominations Received	20.05.2026 (Wednesday)
3.	Objections to Draft List of Nominated Candidates	21.05.2026 (Thursday) To 24.05.2026 (Sunday)


JUSTICE REKHA PALLI (Retd.)
Electoral/ Returning Officer
Ski and Snowboard India
Elections 2026

4.	Scrutiny and Disposal of Objections	25.05.2026 (Monday) to 26.05.2026 (Tuesday)
5.	Publication of Final List of Nominated Candidates	27.05.2026 (Wednesday)
6.	Withdrawal of Nominations	28.05.2026 (Thursday)
7.	Publication of Final List of Contesting Candidates	29.05.2026 (Friday)
8.	Polling and Declaration of Results	31.05.2026 (Sunday)

7. It is however made clear that in case no fresh nominations are received from the Ski and Snowboard Maharashtra and other member associations on or before 18.05.2026, the nominations already received on 11.04.2026 will be treated as valid.

8. Needless to state that since the undersigned is not dealing with the grievances raised during the hearing by some of the objectors regarding their wrongful exclusion from the membership of SSI or the wrongful inclusion of associations who are purportedly not associated with the sports of Ski, this order will not preclude these persons to take appropriate steps for redressal of their aforesaid grievances as per law.

JUSTICE REKHA PALLI (Retd.)
Electoral/Returning Officer
Ski and Snowboard India
Elections 2026


18/4/2026
Justice Rekha Palli (Retd)
Electoral/Returning Officer
Ski and Snowboard India Elections 2026
18.04.2026