

Draft National Code against Age Fraud in Sports 2025 (NCAAFS-2025)

Why in News?

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has put in the public domain the Draft National Code against Age Fraud in Sports (NCAAFS) 2025 for inviting comments/suggestions from the general public and stakeholders.

- It Addresses Age Fraud, Protects Genuine Athletes and Uphold Sports Integrity.
- **Aim**
 - Ensure fair competition by preventing age fraud, which compromises the integrity of sports.
 - Implement a robust verification system for age determination through a centralized database.
 - Introduce strict penalties for athletes, coaches, and officials found guilty of falsifying age records.
 - Enhance transparency and accountability in sports governance by aligning with international best practices.
- **Features of NCAAFS 2025**
- **Mandatory Age Verification & Digital Locking** - All athletes must submit 3 mandatory documents during the registration process to prevent any future manipulations.
- **Medical Examination for Age Discrepancies**-Medical examinations will utilize the TW3 method, MRI scans, and general physical and dental examination.
- Further, AI-based bone assessments to accurately determine an athlete's age will be done in pilot phase.
- Any disputes arising from these examinations may be appealed through ***designated appellate medical panel*** for further review.
- **Uniform Penalties for Violations** - Strict penalties will be enforced for age fraud violations.
- Athletes found guilty on the first violation will face a 2-year ban from all competitions, along with forfeiture of any titles or medals won.
- A second violation will result in a ***lifetime ban*** and initiation of legal proceedings under the penal code.
- Coaches and other officials found guilty will also face suspension and debarment from their roles.
- **Whistle-blower Mechanism** - A secure and confidential platform will be created for stakeholders to report cases of age fraud anonymously.
- Additionally, a ***reward system*** will be implemented to encourage and incentivize whistle-blowers to come forward with genuine reports.
- **Amnesty Program for Self-Disclosure** - A one-time amnesty window of 6 months

will be provided, allowing athletes to voluntarily declare their correct age without penalties.

- **Two-Tier Appellate Mechanism** - A two-tier appellate mechanism will handle disputes related to age determination.
- Athletes dissatisfied with initial medical examination findings may first appeal to the Regional Appellate Panel.
- If still unsatisfied, athletes may approach the *Central Appeals Committee (CAC)*.
- **Role of Integrity/Compliance Officers** - Integrity/Compliance Officers will be appointed by the National Sports Federations (NSFs) for each competition, and are responsible for ensuring strict adherence to the provisions of the Code.
- **Dedicated National Database** - Portal linked with the National Sports Repository System (NSRS) will be established to securely store all age verification data of athletes.
- **QR-Enabled ID Cards** - Following successful verification, athletes will receive ID cards embedded with QR codes.
- **Public Accountability & Transparency**- A robust monitoring framework will be established to ensure effective implementation of the Code.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will oversee compliance by requiring NSFs and the Sports Authority of (SAI) to regularly submit detailed compliance reports.
- It will be applicable to all athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and support personnel involved in recognized
 - National Sports Federations (NSFs),
 - Sports Authority of India (SAI),
 - Sports Control Boards managed by Central Government departments and Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and
 - NGOs, NSPOs, public/private agencies, and institutions promoting sports development.
- The draft NCAAFS provides that States/UTs may *either adopt this policy or use this as a model framework* to develop their own policy for promoting uniformity nationwide.

References

1. [PIB - NCAAFS-2025](#)
2. [The Indian Express - NCAAFS, 2025](#)