

OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER, FOR IRFU SOM ELECTION TO THE IRFU GENERAL BODY 2026

ELECTION NOTIFICATION FOR IRFU SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT (SOM) ELECTION TO THE IRFU GENERAL BODY 2026

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Capitalised terms used but not specifically defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Articles of Association (“AoA”) of the Indian Rugby Football Union (“IRFU”) and the Regulations for the Election of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the General Body of Indian Rugby Football Union (“SOM Election Regulations”).

(a) “**Secure E-Voting System**” means the secure electronic voting system provided by the platform ‘**Right2Vote**’ that permits voting by secret ballot, authenticates each elector, records one (1) vote per elector in each poll for the specific positions as laid out in Section 9 herein, and preserves the secrecy, integrity and auditability of the poll.

(b) “**Final Electoral Roll**” means the Roster of forty (40) SOMs compiled as of 5 October 2026 in accordance with the SOM Application Guidelines dated 24 June 2026, comprising the male SOMs and female SOMs eligible to vote and contest in the SOM Election.

(c) “**Electoral Officer**” means the independent person appointed by the Board under the SOM Election Regulations to conduct the SOM Election.

(d) “**SOM**” means a sportsperson of outstanding merit determined in accordance with the procedures and eligibility criteria prescribed under the NSG Act and Rules, and appearing on the Roster.

Section 1. Election Notification

Through this notification (“**SOM Election Notification**”), the appointed Electoral Officer hereby announces the commencement of the Election Process for the Election of SOMs to the General Body of IRFU (“**SOM Election**”). This SOM Election is conducted under the mandate of the following provisions governing representation of SOMs on the General Body of IRFU:

Article 2.2(d) of the AoA:

“SOM Members: Sports Persons of Outstanding Merit ("SOM Members"): SOM Members shall be such of the SOMs that are nominated/elected as a Member from the roster of SOMs which shall be prepared in accordance with the NSG Act and Rules, it being clarified that the general body shall at all times consist of at least four (4) SOM Members; of which fifty percent (50%) shall be men and fifty percent (50%) shall be women.”

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Article 2.3 of the AoA:

“The manner in which SOM Members shall be nominated/elected to the general body shall be notified by the Board from time to time in accordance with the electoral process laid out in the NSG Act and Rules.”

Rule 3(1) of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 (“NSB Rules”):

“The General Body of each National Sports Body shall include, as voting members, at least four, or any other higher even number, of sportspersons of outstanding merit, of which fifty per cent shall be male sportspersons of outstanding merit and fifty per cent shall be female sportspersons of outstanding merit.”

Section 2. Posts for SOM Election

As prescribed under Regulation 3.2 of the SOM Election Regulations:

*“**Four (4)** SOM Members shall be elected to the General Body, of which **two (2)** shall be male SOM Members and **two (2)** shall be female SOM Members.”*

Section 3. Eligibility Criteria and Disqualifications

To be eligible to contest for the post of SOM Member on the General Body, a candidate must be validly included in the Final Electoral Roll and meet the specific gender category requirements for the seat being contested. Furthermore, candidates must satisfy the following statutory eligibility and non-disqualification criteria quoted in full below:

A. General Eligibility Criteria for SOMs (Schedule I, paragraph 1 of the NSB Rules, 2026):

“Any person seeking to be designated as a sportsperson of outstanding merit shall be —

(a) an Indian citizen;

(b) of sound mind;

(c) not less than twenty-five years of age; and

(d) retired from active sports and should have not participated in any competitive sport event which leads to selection to represent a district, State or India for at least one year prior to date of application [...].”

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B. Disqualification as Member (Article 2.5 of the IRFU AoA also in line with Rule 11 of the NSB Rules, 2026):

“2.5 Disqualification as Member: No person shall be eligible to be a Member if such person is:

(a) declared insolvent under Applicable Law, and such disqualification shall be applicable for the period of such insolvency; or

(b) subject to a conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction in India for an offence, followed by a sentence of imprisonment, provided that such disqualification shall be for the period of one (1) full term of the Board after the completion of such sentence; or

(c) subject to a ban from holding any such position by an order of the Ethics Committee, and such disqualification shall be applicable for the period of such ban; or

(d) if such person is a member of any other National Sports Body other than the National Olympic Committee (as defined under the NSG Act and Rules); or

(e) where such person has not completed the cooling off period of one term after having held the position of President, Secretary General or Treasurer in any other National Sports Body.”

Section 4. Election Schedule

The SOM Election shall be conducted in accordance with the schedule provided below:

Sl. No.	Event	Date & Timeline
1	Call for the Election, invitation for nominations, and release of Final Electoral Roll	8 October 2026 (Thursday)
2	Start of Filing Nominations (Form A)	8 October 2026 (Thursday)
3	Closure of Filing Nominations	10 October 2026 (Saturday), 9:00 PM

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4	Announcement of Draft List of Nominated Candidates	10 October 2026 (Saturday), 10:00 PM
5	Time for Objections to the Draft List of Nominated Candidates	11 October 2026 (Sunday) until 10:00 PM
6	Scrutiny (Virtual Hearings) and Disposal of Objections	12 October 2026 (Monday), Hearings: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM; Disposal by 9:00 PM
7	Announcement of the Final List of Nominated Candidates	12 October 2026 (Monday), 10:00 PM
8	Notice for Withdrawal of Candidature (Form B)	13 October 2026 (Tuesday), until 9:00 PM
9	Announcement of the Final List of Contesting Candidates	13 October 2026 (Tuesday), 10:00 PM
10	E-Voting / Polling Window (on Right2Vote)	15 October 2026 (Thursday), 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
11	Counting of Votes & Declaration of Election Results	15 October 2026 (Thursday), 9:00 PM

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Section 5. Publication and Electoral Roll

In accordance with Rule 6(4) of the NSB Rules, 2026 and Regulation 3 of the SOM Election Regulations, this SOM Election Notification, relevant forms, and the Final Electoral Roll containing the details of forty (40) SOMs shall be officially published and available for download on the IRFU website: <https://rugbyindia.in/som-elections/>

Section 6. Nomination Procedures (Filing Process)

In accordance with Regulation 5.3 of the SOM Election Regulations, the nomination process is as follows:

- **Form Completion:** SOMs that wish to stand as a candidate in the SOM Election (“Candidate”) must complete and submit duly notarised Form A (Annexure I).
- **Proposer and Secunder:** Nominations must be duly proposed and seconded by eligible electors (each a “Proposer” and a “Secunder” respectively) appearing on the Final Electoral Roll. An elector may act as a proposer or seconder for a maximum of one (1) candidate in the Male SOM category and one (1) candidate in the Female SOM category. Once delivered to the Electoral Officer, a Proposer or Secunder may not withdraw their name.
- **Mandatory Attachments:** The nomination must be accompanied by self-attested copies of the Official Government ID of the Candidate, the Proposer, and the Secunder, alongside a declaration regarding membership in any other national sports body (as required by the SOM Election Regulations).
- **Submission:**
 - Scanned, signed copies of completed and duly notarised Form A must be emailed to the Electoral Officer at **electionofficer@rugbyindia.in** on or before **9:00 PM on 10 October 2026**.
 - The physical original notarised copy must subsequently be dispatched to the IRFU Registered Office: **305, Floor-Basement, Plot No. 5, Churchgate Chambers, Vitthaladas Thackersey Marg, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400020**.

Section 7. Notice of Withdrawal

Candidates wishing to withdraw their nomination must:

- Submit duly notarised Form B (Annexure II) scanned and signed via email to the Electoral Officer no later than **9:00 PM on 13 October 2026**.
- The physical original notarised copy must subsequently be dispatched to the IRFU Registered Office (at the address mentioned above).

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Any notice of withdrawal of candidature shall be final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled.

Section 8. Objections, Scrutiny & Dispute Resolution

- **Filing Objections:** Any elector or Candidate may lodge objections regarding the draft list of nominated Candidates in writing with supporting evidence to **electionofficer@rugbyindia.in** by **10:00 PM** on **11 October 2026**
- **Scrutiny & Virtual Hearing:** The Electoral Officer will conduct scrutiny and hold virtual hearings (via video call) between **7:00 PM** and **8:00 PM** on **12 October 2026** to review all objections.
- **Resolution:** All objections will be disposed of through a reasoned order by **9:00 PM** on **12 October 2026**. Under Regulation 8 of the SOM Election Regulations, decisions by the Electoral Officer regarding disputes shall be final and binding.

Section 9. Voting Allocation & Representation

Pursuant to Regulation 4 of the SOM Election Regulations:

- Every person appearing on the Final Electoral Roll is an elector.
- Two (2) separate polls shall be taken simultaneously: one (1) for the male SOM seats and one (1) for the female SOM seats.
- In each poll, there are two (2) vacant seats. Every elector shall cast two (2) votes (one vote per vacant seat, in favour of different SOMs). Every SOM on the Final Electoral Roll must vote in respect of both the male and female SOM Member seats.
- No elector may cast more than one (1) vote in favour of the same SOM in the same poll.
- **Voting by proxy is not permitted.**

Section 10. E-Voting Guide (Right2Vote Platform)

- **Tutorial & Guidance:** A comprehensive tutorial explaining the Right2Vote voting portal will be shared with all electors and published on the IRFU website (at: <https://rugbyindia.in/som-elections/>) prior to polling.
- **Credential Delivery:** Eligible electors will receive their secure voting link and login credentials (OTP) on their registered email ID and mobile number once the poll is live.
- **Accessing the Portal:** On **15 October 2026** between **11:00 AM** and **7:00 PM**, electors must click their unique link to open the Right2Vote portal and enter the OTP.
- **Facial Verification:** To ensure voter identity verification, electors will be required to take a live selfie using their smartphone or computer camera before accessing the ballot.

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- **Casting the Vote:** The screen will display two ballots (one for Male SOMs and one for Female SOMs). The elector must select exactly two (2) distinct candidates in each ballot.
- **Submission:** The elector will click "Review & Submit". Once submitted, a digital receipt will be generated. The vote cannot be altered.

Section 11. Code of Conduct, Campaign Practices & Neutrality

- **Campaigning Standards:** Campaigns must be conducted with dignity, fairness, and moderation. No appeal shall be made to caste or communal feelings, and criticism must be confined to policies and past records rather than unverified personal allegations.
- **Corrupt Practices:** All unfair means, including bribery, intimidation, impersonation, or distributing gifts and financial incentives to voters, are strictly prohibited.
- **Independence:** Candidates shall not accept mandatory instructions or direct/indirect third-party assistance that could affect the freedom of decision-making for the Elected Post.
- **IRFU Neutrality:** The IRFU executive team and administration shall maintain absolute neutrality. No support or service in relation to a candidature may be requested from or rendered by any IRFU staff member. Voting members are prohibited from publicly announcing their voting intentions.



Namrata Chatterjee

Electoral Officer, IRFU SOM Elections 2026

Email: electionofficer@rugbyindia.in

Date: 8 October 2026

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ANNEXURE I: FORM A

NOMINATION-CUM-AFFIDAVIT FORM FOR ELECTION OF SOM MEMBERS

(To be filled in by the Candidate)

To:

The Electoral Officer,
Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU)

Email: electionofficer@rugbyindia.in

1. Post Contested

Post Name: IRFU Sports person of Outstanding Merit (SOM) Member

Gender Category (Male / Female): _____

2. Candidate Information

Full Name of Candidate: _____

Father's / Spouse's Name: _____

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY): _____

Age as on Date of Nomination: _____

Gender: _____

Residential Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Final Electoral Roll Serial Number: _____

3. Proposer Information

Full Name of Proposer: _____

Final Electoral Roll Serial Number of Proposer: _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Date: _____

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4. Seconder Information

Full Name of Seconder: _____

Final Electoral Roll Serial Number of Seconder: _____

Signature of Seconder: _____

Date: _____

5. Checklist of Enclosures

☐ Self-attested copy of Official Government ID of Candidate

☐ Self-attested copy of Official Government ID of Proposer

☐ Self-attested copy of Official Government ID of Seconder

6. Statutory Affidavit & Declaration by Candidate

I, _____, son/daughter/wife of
_____, aged _____ years, resident of
_____, do
hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:

1. I am an Indian citizen of sound mind (as per Schedule I, paragraphs 1(a) and (b) of the NSB Rules, 2026).
2. I have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years (as per Schedule I, paragraph 1(c) of the NSB Rules, 2026).
3. I am retired from active sports and have not participated in any competitive sport event leading to selection to represent a district, State, or India for at least one year prior to the date of my original application for the Roster (as per Schedule I, paragraph 1(d) of the NSB Rules, 2026).
4. I have not been declared insolvent by any competent court under applicable law (as per Article 2.5(a) of the AoA).
5. I have never been convicted by any Court of Law in India for an offense, followed by a sentence of imprisonment (as per Article 2.5(b) of the AoA).
6. I am not subject to a ban from holding any position by an order of the Ethics Committee of IRFU (as per Article 2.5(c) of the AoA).
7. I declare that I am **NOT** a member of any other national sports body (other than the National Olympic Committee) (as per Article 2.5(d) of the AoA).
8. I confirm that I have completed the mandatory cooling-off period of one term after having held the position of President, Secretary General, or Treasurer in any other National Sports Body (as per Article 2.5(e) of the AoA).

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9. I specifically declare that I am not disqualified under any conditions stipulated in Article 2.5 of the IRFU Articles of Association, Rule 11 of the NSB Rules, 2026, or the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.
10. I voluntarily consent to my nomination for the post of SOM Member on the General Body of IRFU.

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

VERIFICATION & NOTARISATION

Solemnly affirmed and declared before me by the deponent above-named, who is personally known to me / identified by _____, at _____ on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Signature & Seal of the Notary Public / Oath Commissioner:

Registration No.: _____

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ANNEXURE II: FORM B

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE

(To be filled in by the Candidate)

To:
The Electoral Officer,
Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU)

Email: electionofficer@rugbyindia.in

Subject: Withdrawal of Candidature for IRFU SOM Elections 2026

I, _____, a validly nominated candidate for the position of SOM Member (Gender Category: _____), appearing at Serial Number _____ in the Draft List of Nominated Candidates, do hereby give formal notice that I wish to withdraw my candidature for the said election.

I declare that this decision is made voluntarily, without any coercion, undue influence, or inducement from any party, and I understand that in accordance with the SOM Election Notification dated 8 October 2026, this notice of withdrawal of candidature is final and shall not be allowed to be cancelled.

Full Name of Candidate: _____

Final Electoral Roll Serial Number: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

ATTESTATION / NOTARISATION

Signed and executed before me by the above-named candidate, who is personally known to me / identified by _____, at _____ on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Signature & Seal of the Notary Public / Oath Commissioner:

Registration No.: _____