

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Signed on

29th Day of November, 2013

Between

Department of Sports,

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Government of India

&

Department of AIDS Control,

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Government of India

INTRODUCTION

India has one of the largest numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Given the prevalence rate of 0.27 percent, 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country¹. HIV is driven by a number of socio-economic factors; therefore, health interventions alone are not sufficient to address causes and consequences of the epidemic. It requires a multi-sectoral response. Mainstreaming approaches to HIV have increasingly gained ground with the realization that the non-health sector can play an important and meaningful role in reducing vulnerability to HIV and mitigating its impact on those infected and affected.

Department of AIDS Control (DAC) and Department of Sports are hereinafter referred to together as "the parties"

Article 1

1 DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL

- 1.1** Department of AIDS Control (DAC) is the nodal agency for coordinating response with respect to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in India. Department of AIDS Control has initiated several measures towards mainstreaming and partnership with relevant Ministries.
- 1.2** The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is implemented through 38 State AIDS Control Societies (SACS)/Municipal AIDS Control Societies in States and Union Territories. NACP places importance for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS by a) Enhancing coverage and reach of information on STI/HIV prevention and services b) Integrating services through existing health infrastructure available in Ministries/Departments and its Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and c) facilitating social entitlements and schemes for social protection of people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

Article 2

2 DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS

- 2.1** Department of Sports under Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is responsible for taking various steps to promote good governance practice in management of sports at the national level in pursuance of national sports policies. The department has laid down procedures for effective coordination among various agencies to involve in the promotion of sports and extend required infrastructure, training and other facility to the sports person for achieving excellence in international events.

¹ HSS NACO, 2011

2.2 The Sports Authority of India is an autonomous body set up to promote and broad-base sports in the country, to implement schemes/programmes for achieving excellence in sports, to identify and develop talent, manage the infrastructure and act as an interface between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and other agencies. Some of the schemes are

- National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme
- Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC) Scheme
- SAI Training Centre (STC) Scheme
- Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme
- Centre of Excellence Scheme

Article 3

3 RATIONALE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

- 3.1 The youth in India comprises of 25 percent of the country's population. Youth as a group is considered more vulnerable to STI/HIV due to low awareness, and tendency to experiment. Sports is a good medium for engaging with the Youth, who are most-at-risk of HIV, and the Sports Ministry has a country wide network of institutions through which large populations of youth can be reached.
- 3.2 Recent evidence has clearly pointed out to the relation of vulnerability to HIV with mobility and migration. Since sportspersons are likely to be mobile or staying away from home for long duration, the need for raising awareness levels among them on risk perception and safe sex is of significance.
- 3.3 Although no evidence exists for a risk of transmission of HIV when infected persons engaging in sports have no bleeding wounds or other skin lesions. There is no documented instance of HIV infection acquired through participation in sports. However, there is a possible very low risk of HIV transmission when one athlete who is infected has a bleeding wound or a skin lesion and another athlete has a skin lesion or exposed mucous membrane that could possibly serve as a portal of entry for the virus². Since sportspersons are also vulnerable to cuts and injuries during practice or tournaments, building their awareness about precautionary measures becomes important. Thus the component on "Minimizing the risk of HIV transmission on the sports field" needs to be included in their training and curriculum of educational courses.

² The World Health Organisation (WHO) 1989

3.4 HIV transmission and sports participation: In India, like most countries there is an official policy of non-disclosure of HIV status. Sports participants are not under any obligation to reveal their HIV status, although they are discouraged from participating in sports such as wrestling and boxing. The result of this policy of non-disclosure is that all injuries on the sports field are treated as if the injured person could be HIV positive.

- All injured sportsmen and women who have bleeding wounds are sent off the field until they have been treated and the bleeding has stopped.
- Participation in sport benefits those who are HIV positive. Judicious exercise strengthens the immune system, better equips the body to fight HIV and delay the onset of AIDS. Thus sports can become an important part of positive living.

3.5 Sportspersons are normally seen as positive icons of healthy living and they have the potential to shape the social norms. They can be instrumental in promoting voluntary blood donation and also addressing social stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

Thus, Department of Sports can play a crucial role in supporting the national response to HIV/AIDS through reducing vulnerability among the youth, promote and address social stigma and discrimination.

Article 4

4 SCOPE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

4.1 The United Nations adopted the theme of "Sport for Development and Peace" in its agenda highlighting the close linkage between Sports & Youth development to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly noting that seven out of the eight Millennium Development Goals have outcomes with a direct or indirect bearing on young people, one of them being "combating HIV/AIDS".

Although HIV transmission is technically possible in sports, where there is high personal contact and one of the player may be HIV infected, experts the world over agree that the chances are extremely remote. "Such circumstances are most likely to take place in the boxing ring. Thus, there is scope to integrate information about HIV prevention in the curriculum for Physical and health education, including "Minimising the risk of HIV transmission on the sports field and ensuring all injuries are treated by paramedics who are protected by means of gloves from possible infection. This would help build the capacity of trainers, physical health educators, coaches and sports administrators for prevention of HIV.

Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports can support the objectives of Department of AIDS Control by a) Enhance coverage and reach of information on HIV/AIDS prevention among youth and sports fraternity b) Reduce social stigma and discrimination c) Enhance involvement of sportspersons in HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing rationale and scope, the parties Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are mutually agreed to cooperate and collaborate in the overall goal of halting and reversing of the HIV epidemic in the following areas

Article 5

5. OBJECTIVE OF MOU

- 5.1 Reach large number of youth engaged in sports activities at village, district and state level with information on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and related services.
- 5.2 Build the capacity of sports educators, administrators and coaches on "Minimising the risk of HIV transmission on and outside the sports field".
- 5.3 Involve youth organization, sports federations in HIV/AIDS prevention activities
- 5.4 Promote awareness generation through hoarding and banners at eminent places and sports infrastructure during state / national events and tournaments.
- 5.5 Promote sports as a medium of positive living through encouraging PLHIV.
- 5.6 Involve eminent sports personalities for addressing social stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS

Article 6

6 KEY DELIVERABLES

- 6.1 Inclusion of awareness generation on prevention of HIV/AIDS through sports promotion schemes and activities.
- 6.2 Promotion of awareness generation on prevention of HIV/AIDS through sports related infrastructure.
- 6.3 Integration of component on minimizing the risk of HIV transmission on the sports field in the curriculum of sports education and training material.
- 6.4 Involvement of sportspersons in reducing stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.

Article 7

7.1 Role of Department of Sports

7.1.1 Directive

- Issuance of directive to Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), Lakshmbai National University of Physical Education (LNUPE), National Sports Federations and other sports bodies for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS and prioritise HIV/AIDS activities in various sports events and encourage sports persons to associate with HIV/AIDS awareness programmes.

7.1.2 Information Education and Communication

- Display of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials like hoarding/panel for promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness at the venue of sports events and other major occasions.
- Identify sports personalities to become goodwill ambassadors to reduce stigma and discrimination against PLHIV.
- Encourage Sport personalities to be associated with IEC campaigns of National AIDS Control Programme
- Encourage Sport personalities to promote voluntary blood donation among youth.
- Provide support to successful HIV positive sports persons for promotion of “ sports for positive living” ambassadors
- Wearing red ribbon by players during major sports events to reflect and strengthen commitment to HIV/AIDS program.
- Observation of World AIDS Day, Voluntary Blood Donation Day, Voluntary Blood Donor Day to strengthen national response against HIV/AIDS.

7.1.3 Trainings

- Inclusion of HIV/AIDS as one of the topic in the training programmes for sportspersons, sports trainees and staffs to be conducted by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Sports Federations (NSFs).

7.1.4 Sharing of Information

- Sharing of information on HIV/AIDS activities with Department of AIDS Control or State AIDS Control Society in States.
- Reflection of activities on HIV/AIDS carried out by Department of Sports in annual report and Ministry's website.
- Provision of sharing of web links of Department of Sports in Department of AIDS Control portal for sharing of information and vice-versa.

7.2 ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL

- 7.2.1 Provide technical support in capacity building on HIV/AIDS for sports person, trainees and staff of sports organization and federation.
- 7.2.2 Provide technical support by sharing of IEC materials for awareness generation activities.
- 7.2.3 Provide technical assistance to Department of Sports for inclusion of HIV in ongoing activities

Article 8

8 EXECUTION OF MOU

- 8.1 Parties will set up a joint working group for drawing up an action plan for Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- 8.2 Parties would decide the modalities for execution of the proposal including financial support required for special activities if any as per the MoU, based on the recommendations of the Joint Working group.
- 8.3 Parties agree to collaborate and work closely for fulfillment of objectives set in the MoU
- 8.4 Both the parties would consult each other and review the progress for implementing objectives of this MoU on a biannual basis.
- 8.5 This MOU will be operative with effect from 29th November, 2013 and any alteration or modifications can be carried out with the consent of both parties.

The parties herein have appended their respective signatures the day and the year above stated.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE



SH. LOV VERMA
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS,
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS &
SPORTS



SH. AJIT M. SHARAN
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS &
SPORTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

List of Acronyms

ABSC	Army Boys Sports Companies Scheme
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANC	Antenatal Clinic
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
DAC	Department of AIDS Control
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRG	High Risk Group
ICTCs	Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres
IDUs	Injecting drug users
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
MARPs	Most at-risk Populations
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NSTC	National Sports Talent Contest Scheme
PLHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PPTCT	Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking
SACS	State AIDS Control Societies
SAG	Special Area Games Scheme
SAI	Sports Authority of India
STC	SAI Training Centre Scheme
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TI	Targeted Intervention
ToT	Training of trainers
WHO	World Health Organisation