

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

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Volume 6 | Issue 5

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2023

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# A Critical Analysis on the Role of ADR in Solving Sports related Disputes

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SWIKRITI MAHAJAN<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) twirls and pirouetting around the traditional judicial system to settle conflicts. It's a go-to option when athletes, coaches, and teams need disputes to be settled quickly and effectively. The efficiency and low cost of ADR make it a powerful tool in the fight against disagreements. However, ADR, like any other approach, has its own set of restrictions that make it inappropriate for specific disputes.*

*The capacity to save money compared to the lengthy judicial process is a shining example of the value of alternative dispute resolution. This is especially helpful for athletes and coaches who may not have the financial wherewithal to sustain a lengthy legal battle. As an added bonus, the flexibility of ADR means that disagreements can be resolved more quickly. In tense situations involving sports, this trait is crucial since it allows players and coaches to focus completely on their endeavours.*

*One of the many benefits of alternative dispute resolution is that it encourages open communication between players and coaches. This laid-back setting encourages honest and fruitful conversation, which in turn facilitates the efficient settlement of conflicts.*

*However, ADR is not perfect and can have its drawbacks. Its inconsistency with certain disagreements is a major negative. The legal system is often called upon to resolve matters involving serious crimes or personal injury. Furthermore, alternative conflict resolution may not be sufficient for cases with intricate legal complexities.*

*The lack of binding power is another flaw of alternative dispute resolution. That is to say, if one side is still unhappy with the results of the ADR procedure, they can always go to court. This might spark an expensive and time-consuming court struggle.*

*Finally, it's clear that ADR has what it takes to settle legal conflicts involving sports. It's an attractive substitute to going to court because of its low cost, short processing time, and casual atmosphere. However, its limitations must also be recognised, and its applicability to different conflicts must be thoroughly investigated. To fully examine the value of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the context of sports-related disputes, it is necessary to examine its advantages, disadvantages, and governing legal framework.*

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<sup>1</sup> Author is a student at Department of Law, Jammu University, India.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The term "Alternative Dispute Resolution," or ADR for short, has experienced a meteoric rise in popularity within the realm of the sports industry as a potent instrument for swiftly and amicably settling disagreements and conflicts. Whether it be accusations of doping or disciplinary conundrums, sports-related disputes have a contentious aspect that has the ability to tarnish the reputation of individuals, organisations, and the sports community as a whole. These conflicts range from contractual disagreements between players and clubs to claims of doping. This in-depth investigation's primary objective is to evaluate the crucial part that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) plays in the resolution of sports-related disagreements by investigating its usefulness, the limitations it faces, and the potential effects it could have on the world of sports.

Since the turn of the 21st century, India has established itself as a leading participant in a variety of sports on both the national and international levels, thereby contributing significantly to the expansion of the sporting industry. The sports sector in India has broadened its scope beyond the traditional confines of cricket to include other fast-growing sports like the javelin throw and Kabaddi, amongst others.

When it comes to supporting an Indian sportsperson, regardless of the sport, the nation frequently comes together to show their solidarity in doing so. Over the course of the last few years, the love and support for sports has reached previously unimaginable levels. The growth of sports in India has also resulted in the development of other fields that are related with sports. These fields include sports medicine, legal regulations, media and telecommunication, and a variety of other fields.

Notably, the overall compliance and conformity with all applicable laws and regulations is the most important aspect of the sports industry that needs to be taken into consideration. This is because the sports industry is one of the most competitive industries in the world. Additionally, the industry is prone to substantial issues that might arise throughout the short duration of a sportsperson's career, during which they get enormous sums of pay but are also exposed to significant underlying risks, which can trap them in the web of litigation. These challenges include considerable underlying risks that can trap them in the web of litigation.

Disputes in the sports world might involve everything from strictly economic contractual disagreements to alleged regulatory violations or even quasi-criminal concerns. When a situation like this arises, it is in everyone's best interest to find a method of conflict resolution that is both quick and effective in order to settle any disagreements that may arise around

sporting events. In spite of this, India's sports regulations and the dispute resolution mechanism for sporting competitions are still in the infant stages of development.

When it comes to resolving disagreements in the sporting world, nations frequently look to arbitration as the most effective form of conflict resolution. Several organisations within the sporting world offer different kinds of alternative dispute resolution (abbreviated as "ADR") as a method for settling disagreements when they arise. The purpose of this blog is to shed light on the mechanism that is used to resolve disputes in sports, as well as to analyse its need, evolution, global perspective, and the way forward.

### **A. WHY ARBITRATION (BENEFITS OF ARBITRATION IN SPORTS DISPUTES)**

When opposed to litigation, arbitration has been shown to be more cost effective and time efficient. The parties involved in the dispute present it to one or more impartial individuals with the purpose of obtaining a final and legally binding decision (which is documented and referred to as a "award"). Arbitration is designed to be swift, practical, and cost-effective in the resolution of disputes. This process is private and confidential.

The role of arbitration in sporting competitions is becoming increasingly important. The requirement that conflicts be settled through arbitration is being incorporated into the criteria of an increasing number of regulatory agencies. Arbitration can either be conducted in an institutional setting or on an ad hoc basis. In institutional arbitration, a body that is so determined in the agreement gives arbitration services to ensure that the arbitration process runs smoothly and successfully. On the other hand, in ad hoc arbitration, it is up to the parties to organise the arbiter on their own.

In the world of sports, reasonableness ought to invariably serve as the measuring stick for value. In general, maintaining a level playing field is the primary manner of reasoning behind the determined battle against doping of competitors. In any event, the application of even the highest possible standards is susceptible to errors caused by humans. Judging and scoring are inherently subjective processes, and this is especially true in sports that place a priority on style, feel, or general presentation. Figure skating, acrobatics, synchronised swimming, and free-form skiing are some examples of these types of sports. If this is the case, then how can there possibly be any complete confirmation of reasonable play and neutrality in judging? While such certification is obviously impossible, there is still need to improve the clarity and instant feedback on decisions as much as feasible.

## **B. NEED FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN SPORTS**

The business of sports is notorious for getting involved in contentious conflicts for no good reason. Once a sportsperson is involved in any kind of argument or controversy, regardless of his or her innocence, he or she would have to suffer the cost of it damaging his or her primary years of career. This would be the case even if the dispute or controversy was completely unjustified.

As a result, it is absolutely necessary that disagreements of this nature be resolved as quickly and effectively as is humanly possible. As was just mentioned, disagreements in the sporting world are typically of a commercial, contractual, or regulatory nature, and they can even verge on becoming quasi-criminal at times. Nevertheless, the impact on one's career can be rather negative, and thus the quick resolution of the argument becomes crucial. This is true regardless of the form of the disagreement.

At the moment, most sporting disagreements in India are settled either through the National Sports Federations (often known as "NSF") or through legal proceedings in the country's various courts. Nevertheless, in the event that the situation is resolved through the judicial system, it is highly unlikely that the case will be resolved in a short length of time, regardless of how serious it is. The adoption of an alternative dispute resolution mechanism (ADR) could be advantageous to the athlete in this kind of scenario.

The rising reliance on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for the resolution of disputes in practically every area enables the same approach to be applied to the sports industry, allowing for issues to be resolved in a more expedient manner. ADR makes it possible to have a hearing promptly, maintains the confidentiality of the procedures, has lower expenses than litigation does, and has a higher access rate.

### **1. COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)**

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) was founded in the year 1984 in the city of Lausanne, Switzerland, with the purpose of resolving sports-related disputes that arose in international competition through the use of arbitration and mediation. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is the organisation that is accountable for the appointment of members to the Court of Arbitration for Sports as well as the amendment of the statutes that govern the Court of Arbitration for Sports. As a result, the IOC was the driving force behind the establishment of the International Council of Arbitration for Sports (ICAS), which is superior to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) and serves as an Administrative and Financial Authority. In addition, the judgement of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) is final and the parties to

the dispute are required to abide by it if the disagreement falls under the jurisdiction of CAS.

As long as both parties to a dispute have a valid arbitration agreement, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has jurisdiction over all sports-related issues, regardless of the manner in which the disagreement was brought to their attention, whether it was directly or indirectly. It is also essential to take note of the fact that any sporting organisation, such as the BCCI, or any sportsperson may approach this court in order to have their dispute resolved. This is an essential point that must be emphasised here. CAS was able to find a resolution to the recent controversy that included the Indian athlete Dutee Chand.

The conflicts that have been brought before the CAS can be split into two categories:

- Conflicts in the Disciplinary System
- Commercial Disputes

It begins with the Disciplinary conflicts and focuses primarily on the cases involving doping, violence, racism, and other such issues. CAS acts as an appellate court over these many organisations whenever there is a disagreement involving disciplinary action taken against an offender or player by the sporting authorities that administer the event or the particular sport in question. Only the player's case will be accepted at CAS if there is an international arbitration agreement and the athlete has pursued all of the legal options available to them in their home country to no avail. Another category is called "Commercial Disputes," and it includes disagreements regarding the execution of contracts such as media rights, broadcasting rights, merchandising and licencing for sporting events, Agency relationships between athletes, clubs, coaches, and agents, and disagreements regarding civil liabilities such as accidents involving athletes while they are competing.

## **2. SPORTS ARBITRATION CENTRE OF INDIA (SACI)**

On September 26, 2021, India opened its very first sports arbitration centre with the goal of settling disputes that were associated with sports. In the state of Gujarat, it was kicked off by the current Minister of the Law, Kiren Rijju. The SACI will have far-reaching effects on India's sports industry, as stated by Kiren Rijju at the launch event: "The SACI will create a reputation and establish credibility for itself through the provision to settle disputes and other issues and concerns of the sports sector in a fast, transparent, and very accountable manner."

Throughout its long and illustrious history, India has never had a sports jurisprudence that could support its players and manage the sports in a manner that was dedicated. Athletes who went to the courtroom for resolution of their disputes came back disheartened the majority of the time,

ultimately leading to the loss of their time and money. Time is one of the most important factors in the life of a sportsperson, as a career in sports lasts for only a few years at most. If we look at the history of sports disputes in India, we can see that athletes who went to the courtroom for resolution of their disputes came back disheartened the majority of the time. Athletes Narsingh Yadav and Dutee Chand had a stressful wait since they were involved in disciplinary problems with other athletes. And as a result of their participation in the conflicts, it became clear to them that they have a lengthy wait ahead of them before the judges would be able to compete once more in the field. Regardless of the verdicts, each and every athlete harbours the hope that their concerns will be taken into consideration by the appropriate authorities.

SACI's primary concern is ensuring that athletes have access to the justice system. Because having outstanding legal disputes in front of the courthouse ongoing with large media coverage is a kind of mental distraction that ultimately impacts the performance of the athlete and may lead to the demise of his or her career, SACI will help athletes seek swift justice in their disputes. This is because having pending legal disputes in front of the courtroom ongoing with wide media coverage is a mental distraction. Another significant issue that will be investigated by SACI is the Time Factor, which refers to the length of time it takes to resolve the problems that the athletes are experiencing. For any athlete who is currently engaged in their sport, having time taken away from their profession or having the ability to compete in tournaments that they had previously qualified for taken away wrecks their career prospects.

Even if there is not a lot of clarity about the hierarchical mechanism and the workings of SACI at the moment, one of the highlights of SACI is "Specialists at Work," which means that SACI will use specialists to arbitrate disagreements amongst athletes. However, this is one of the highlights of SACI. However, it is a praiseworthy initiative to use specialised arbitrators to decide the issues in accordance with the applicable laws. The list of arbitrators who would be looking into the issues has been compiled through a joint effort between SACI and Transtadia Pvt. Ltd. The organisation will be responsible for providing a venue and all of the required facilities for the beginning of arbitral proceedings, which will be based on the International Sports Law.

Udit Sheth, the creator of Transtadia and the business's current Managing Director, stated that "The SACI will list out a few known arbitrators who are independent, and it has nothing to do with the company." These arbitrators can be selected, and then the disputing parties can pay them directly. They can then decide the disputes. We do nothing more than supply this centre and the process in order for it to proceed through a process that is governed by the international regulations of sports.

## **II. APPLICABILITY OF ADR IN SPORTS**

According to Simon Gardiner, who argues that "The sports world is a small one, everyone seems to know the other people," the effectiveness of alternative conflict resolution in sports issues may be appreciated by reading his words. Therefore, it is important to maintain both one's relationships and one's reputation. Therefore, with the use of alternative conflict resolution, disagreements can be settled inside the realm of sports themselves.

The implementation of alternative dispute resolution in sports may be traced back to the decade of the 1980s, which witnessed a consistent rise in the number of sports-related disputes with worldwide significance.

At a meeting of the International Olympic Committee held in Rome in the year 1982, it was resolved to establish a Court of Arbitration for Sports, also known as CAS, which would be responsible for mediating and arbitrating sporting disputes. And in the year 1984, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially ratified about the foundation of CAS and began the activities of the organisation.

Now, let's have a better understanding of what Mediation and Arbitration are as well as how they function in the context of sports conflicts.

In most cases, mediation is utilised as a method of conflict resolution once the parties involved have a close relationship with one another. According to Black's Law Dictionary, mediation is a technique of non-binding conflict resolution that involves a neutral third person who tries to assist the disputing parties in arriving at a solution that is mutually acceptable to all parties involved.

There are several foundational tenets of mediation that need to be respected at all times, including the following:

- **Participation of the Parties Is Completely Voluntary:** It is essential for the parties involved in the dispute to participate in the mediation process of their own volition and without being coerced in order for the process to be successful. It is up to the parties involved to decide whether or not they wish to take their dispute to court or participate in the mediation process. Additionally, when individuals are aware that they are at liberty to withdraw their participation in the process as a whole, they are more likely to engage in open and enthusiastic cooperation. For instance, a player and a club are at odds with one another and wish to find a way to reconcile their disagreement. To ensure that the procedure as a whole is carried out as efficiently as possible, neither of these components should have an undue influence on the other.



- The procedure need to be kept in strict confidence. Any and all information that is disclosed in the course of the mediation has to be kept in strict confidence, and the mediator is expected not to disclose it in any other setting.
- It is essential for mediators to maintain their objectivity and neutrality: It is anticipated of the third party, often known as the mediator, that they will remain neutral and impartial. Before offering counsel or making any kind of comment on anything, he or she needs to take the time to carefully consider all of the relevant facts and problems.
- All parties involved must be content with the terms of the settlement in order for it to be finalised: The mediator is responsible for ensuring that both sides of the argument are happy with the resolution. The parties, on the other hand, are the ones who are accountable for defining the issue at hand, deciding what should be discussed, and reaching a consensus on the mediator's proposed resolution. In addition, the mediator has the authority to terminate the mediation at any point during the process if he has the impression that the parties are becoming more antagonistic towards one another and that the conflict is growing more heated.

### **Illustration**

Let's pretend that there are two different football clubs in the world and their names are FC Tottenham and Atletico Roma. The aforementioned organisations are taking part in the Open Window Transfer of players for the following season. A disagreement regarding the payment terms has surfaced in connection with the trade of a player named Timothy Morgan.

Because of this, rather than going to court, both parties would want to settle the disagreement through mediation because it would take less time and this will facilitate with speedy disposal of the problem before the following season.

Let's move on to the next topic and discuss about arbitration.

Arbitration is simply one of many different methods that fall under the umbrella of alternative dispute resolution. The private and judicial resolution of a dispute through the participation of a third party who is impartial is known as arbitration. An lone arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators may preside over a hearing associated with an arbitration dispute.

There are also certain guiding principles for arbitration, which are as follows:

- The parties are fully responsible for how their issue should be addressed.
- Judicial Courts must not interfere in the arbitration process.
- The goal of arbitration is to resolve the dispute by an impartial third party without incurring undue fees or delay.

In the same vein as mediation, arbitration focuses primarily on resolving commercial disagreements that arise out of sports business transactions.

#### **A. WHY IS SPORTS ARBITRATION IMPORTANT?**

1. **Speedy Resolution of Disputes** – The fact that it is one of the most important aspects of any arbitration proceedings is one of the primary reasons why athletes and other sportspeople favour arbitration over litigation. In contrast to arbitration, which can resolve a dispute within a matter of weeks or months at most, the drawn-out and time-consuming process of litigation can take years to reach a conclusion for a single case.
2. **Transparency** – The authorities make every effort to keep the proceedings of the arbitral tribunal as open and accessible to the public as they possibly can in the interest of conducting fair trials in all cases.
3. **Confidentiality** – Everyone who is present at the arbitration procedures, including the arbitrators and staff members, is under an obligation to maintain complete confidentiality regarding the proceedings of the arbitration.
4. **Expertise** – In the course of the arbitration processes, the arbitrators come from a variety of specialisations, each holding direct knowledge of and experience working in the relevant industry. In the event that there is a disagreement over football, the arbitrator who will begin the hearing will be a professional arbitrator who specialises in the football niche. This arbitrator will not be an arbitrator for any other type of sporting event. This helps the athletes settle their issue in a better manner because a specialised arbitrator can decide the dispute in a more simplified approach, which is not the case with the Judges of the Courtroom. This helps the athletes resolve their dispute in a better manner because of this.

### **III. ADR FOR SPORTS DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN INDIA**

The government of India is actively working towards the goal of establishing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) as the favoured method for resolving conflicts in the sporting arena. The Sports Arbitration Centre of India (also known as "SACI") was recently formed by the Central Government of India on September 26, 2021. This was done in order to provide a suitable ADR mechanism for the quick resolution of disputes, as well as to address other issues and concerns of the sports industry in a transparent and accountable manner.

Taking into consideration the element of time, the primary mission of the SACI is to ensure that sportspeople in India have adequate opportunities to access the justice system. The SACI strives

to provide effective conflict resolution in as little time as is humanly possible. The fact that all of these disagreements would be sent to specialised Arbitrators who had expertise and experience in the field of sports as well as the relevant national and international sports law rules is another important feature of SACI.

The NSF also has internal dispute resolution mechanisms for handling disagreements within the sports community. On the other hand, the ADR body of the NSF has not been able to satisfactorily resolve such conflicts due to a lack of inherent authorities and safeguards to prevent bias in decision-making.

The Indian Olympic Association formed the Indian Court of Arbitration for Sports in 2011 for the purpose of resolving issues pertaining to sports on the basis of the draught Sports Tribunal of India Act, which was passed in 2010. Dr. A.R. Lakshmanan, who had previously served as a judge on India's highest court, presided over the Indian Court of Arbitration for Sports. However, despite its best efforts, the Indian Court of Arbitration for Sports has not been able to establish itself within the sports business as a favoured conflict settlement authority.

In 2011, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") created and put into effect the National Sports Development Code, 2011 (hereinafter referred to as "the Code"), which continues to be in effect to this day. The Code mandates that the NSF operate in a manner that is consistent with the Olympic Charter and publish explicit rules for the resolution of disputes that arise within the realm of sports. On the other hand, the vast majority of NSFs have not yet complied with the same.

The Ministry published "Guidelines" in 2016 with the purpose of "safeguarding the interests of sportspersons and providing an effective grievance redressal system in the constitution of national sports federations." The Guidelines strive to develop a grievance redressal system that is both just and open to public scrutiny. They place a strong emphasis on the arbitration of sporting disagreements in a way that is analogous to that of the International Court of Arbitration for Sports ("ICAS").

#### **A. JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE**

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, often known as the "A&C Act," provides legal backing for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in India. Under this law, a dispute can be resolved outside of the court system using an alternative procedure such as mediation or arbitration. In accordance with the A&C Act, the judiciary has limited its interference once such issues go into ADR and has supported ADR by issuing orders in this respect from time to time. This has been done in order to promote more peaceful resolutions to legal conflicts.

In the matter of *Sushil Kumar v. Union of India*, [2016 SCC Online 3660], the Delhi High Court chose not to interfere with the decision made by the NFS since the NFS was an autonomous organisation that was operating within its competence.

The High Court of Delhi emphasised the necessity for Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") Arbitration clauses in the contract signed with sportspersons in the case of *Rajiv Dutta v. Union of India*, [2016 SCC Online Del 265]. The National Legal Services Fund (NSF) and the Government were given an order by the Delhi High Court to contain such clauses, as well as a mechanism for appealing to the CAS.

## **B. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

The use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to settle disagreements in sporting events has been effectively implemented in a number of nations throughout the world. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) is widely recognised as the preeminent international forum for settling disputes involving sports. It was formed in 1984 in Lausanne, Switzerland, with the mission of settling disputes involving sports through alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Only in the event that both parties to a sporting dispute have mutually agreed to do so, can the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) be asked to rule on the matter. However, the Olympic Charter mandates that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) resolve any conflicts that may arise during the Olympic Games. The CAS has been effective in the swift resolution of disputes and the subsequent execution of their decisions.

The United States Anti-Doping Agency (also known as "USADA") is the major agency responsible for the resolution of sports disputes in the United States. Additionally, USADA is involved in the training of Arbitrators to be appointed in CAS. Even though there is no specific legislation on the subject in the United Kingdom, a number of different methods of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) are available for the resolution of sporting conflicts in conformity with the common law system.

Additionally, Sport Resolutions in the United Kingdom, an impartial, non-profit service that provides arbitration, mediation, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for sports-related problems, may be consulted.

The recently passed National Sports Tribunal Act, 2019, which was just implemented in Australia, provides for the resolution of disputes that are associated with sports. The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada, which operates in a manner analogous to that of CAS and renders decisions in domestic cases, was recently founded in the Canadian nation of Canada.

The International Cricket Council (commonly known as "ICC") has a system for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) known as arbitration, which is assisted by its Dispute Resolution Committee ("DRC"). In the event that there is a disagreement between members of the DRC, the DRC will establish a Dispute Panel that will act as an Arbitral Tribunal and hear and decide on the matter. This will be considered arbitration proceedings. The Dispute Panel is made up of impartial Arbitrators who are not associated with the ICC. The award that the Dispute Panel comes to is final and must be abided by.

In a similar vein, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (better known as "FIFA") also allows for the resolution of conflicts through alternative dispute resolution. The FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber is a quasi-arbitral tribunal that was established to settle disagreements that have arisen in the world of football. Their authority only extends to cases in which a club or association is at odds with one another, or in which a player is at odds with the club or association to which they have transferred to play for.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The various methods of alternative dispute resolution are becoming increasingly significant in today's society, in which everyone prioritises the prompt resolution of disagreements. Because the teams and parties involved want the issues to be resolved as quickly as possible, alternative dispute resolution becomes a significant factor when sports-related disagreements arise.

Both parties need to agree in writing to use ADR before it may be implemented. When drafting the arbitration agreement, one needs to be aware of all the potential sources of contention, and one should draught the clauses after considering all the possible permutations and combinations of those sources of contention. In the event that the arbitration clauses are unclear, the execution time may be prolonged; in the event that such clauses are absent from the contract, the court may provide the award to the other party; alternatively, the award that was granted in favour of the party may be readily contested.

Because of its effectiveness, adaptability, and capacity to maintain connections within the sports community, alternative dispute resolution, sometimes known as ADR, has become a widely acclaimed approach for settling issues involving sports. The capacity of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to give rapid results while maintaining confidentiality makes it a favoured choice for many sports organisations and individuals. This is despite the fact that ADR has several limits. Nevertheless, in order to ensure that decisions are made in a manner that is both fair and impartial, it is essential to select arbitrators and mediators with extreme prudence. The continued growth of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within the sphere of sports has the

potential to positively contribute to a more harmonious and legally secure environment for sporting events.

While India is experiencing significant expansion in the sports and allied industries, the country has been taking measured but consistent moves towards the resolution of sporting conflicts through alternative dispute resolution (ADR), keeping pace with changes occurring throughout the world.

Although India is moving in the right direction towards the application of ADR for the resolution of sports disputes, certain gaps in the system still need to be filled by the legislative branch. The current situation calls for explicit provisions for the resolution of sporting conflicts through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and for the awards to be enforceable, as well as a firm commitment to the execution of these measures.

Since the sports industry has recently been subject to legal and regulatory obstacles, lawmakers are under pressure to address the issues that have arisen as a result and set a course for the growth of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in sports.

Due to the nature of the Indian judicial system being somewhat convoluted and time-consuming, along with the fact that the career of a sportsperson is very brief, there is a pressing need for a way of rapid dispute settlement in the event that a disagreement arises between them. Arbitration is favoured as a dispute settlement tool because it is efficient and quick, and when applied to the realm of sports, it transforms into a lethal combination. The Indian legal system does not appear to have grasped the concept that judges are unable to render decisions on things brought before them in the smallest amount of time possible; hence, the Sports Arbitration Centre of India was established to serve as a rescuer for those involved in the sports industry. Injuries are always something that can be considered to be a part of the game, but even a minor delay in the administration of justice is unacceptable and something that cannot be negotiated.

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