

Press Release

Training to resume in SAI centers in phased manner, committees formed to create SOP

New Delhi, May 10, 2020: The Sports Authority of India has formed a committee to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure to resume training in all SAI Centers in all sporting disciplines after the lockdown is lifted. All training had been suspended across SAI centers in view of the on-going Corona pandemic. The training will start in a phased manner but the manner of the phasing is yet to be decided with priority given to those athletes who have qualified for the Olympics.

A separate committee has been formed to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure for swimming, since the sport requires athletes to train in water and may have different health risks involved, as compared to other sport.

The recommendations of the Committees are being made in consultation with respective National Sporting Federations and other stakeholders, and will be sent to the Sports Ministry for final approval. All NSFs have been asked to share their recommendation of preventive measures that must be followed in each sport so as to ensure safety of athletes from Covid19.

The first committee, headed by Rohit Bharadwaj, Secretary, Sports Authority of India, will recommend the Standard Operating Procedures describing protocols and preventive measures to be observed by all stakeholders, including trainees, coaches, technical and non-technical support staff, NSFs, administrators, mess and hostel staff and visitors, once training resumes. The SOP will include in detail the guidelines to be followed on entry norms, sanitization guidelines, precautions to be taken in common areas and by athletes while travelling to and from the center. The other members of the committee include Rajesh Rajagopalan, CEO, TOPS, S.S Roy, Executive Director (Operations), S.S Sarla, Col B.K Nayak and Sachin K, Assistant Director, TOPS.

The committee for swimming, headed by Radhica Sreeman, Executive Director, TEAMS Division of SAI, includes Monal Choksi, secretary general of the Swimming Federation of India, senior coaches and doctors. SAI will draw up the guidelines in consultation with coaches and medical practitioners to ensure all preventive measures are put in place before swimmers resume training.

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