



Game, Set & Match Monthly

Gaming and Sports Law Newsletter (July 2025)

GAMING NEWS UPDATE

1. SIKKIM'S ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMING

The Sikkim State Lotteries Directorate, with state police and MeitY, has begun cracking down on illegal online gaming sites preying on Sikkim residents. These unlicensed, mostly foreign sites lure users with initial small payouts but often withhold large winnings, causing significant financial loss and social harm, including recent reports of suicide. Authorities stress that only government-licensed platforms like Golden Gaming are legal, urging the public to avoid unauthorized sites. Complaints are being collected to support legal action under the Sikkim Online Gaming (Regulation) Act and Rules. Citizens are advised to play responsibly and report any fraud.

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2. KARNATAKA MOVES TO OUTLAW ONLINE GAMBLING, REGULATE SKILL GAMES

The Karnataka government is set to introduce comprehensive legislation to ban all online games of chance and establish a licensing system for skill-based games. The upcoming bill will classify online games into skill and chance categories, games of chance will be strictly prohibited, while skill games may operate under regulated licenses. Key features include mandatory age checks, grievance redressal, player support services, and strong penalties: up to three years' imprisonment and a ₹5 lakh fine for gambling operators, and six months' jail with a ₹10,000 fine for promoting banned services.

A new regulatory authority will oversee compliance. The move marks a reversal from Karnataka's 2021 blanket ban on online gaming, which was struck down in 2022 for overreaching into skill games. The latest push follows high-level consultations with major industry groups and comes as the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a pivotal GST case on gaming. Offshore betting and regulatory ambiguities remain concerns, but the state's new "consumer-first" policy aims to strengthen protections and responsible gaming.

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3. CALIFORNIA DECLARES DAILY FANTASY SPORTS ILLEGAL

The California Attorney General, in an official opinion dated July 3, 2025, has declared that daily fantasy sports

(DFS) games are illegal in California if offered to players physically located in the state. The opinion holds that both "draft style" and "pick'em" DFS formats constitute unlawful sports wagering under Penal Code section 337a, since participants pay entry fees for the chance to win prizes based on actual athlete performances—making these payments equivalent to bets.

The ruling clarifies that the prohibition applies regardless of where game operators are based or how much skill is involved, as California law does not require chance to outweigh skill for conduct to be considered gambling. Since the state has not enacted legislation regulating or licensing DFS, such contests remain outside authorized gambling activities. The opinion also aligns with similar decisions in states like Arizona, Texas, and Mississippi, though some states such as New York have chosen to legalize and regulate DFS. DFS operators accepting entries from within California now risk legal enforcement under this new guidance from the Attorney General.

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4. MAHARASHTRA LAWMAKER CALLS FOR COMPLETE BAN ON ONLINE GAMBLING

Raising urgent concerns in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, MLA Jyoti Eknath Gaikwad demanded a total ban on online gambling and betting in the state, warning such platforms are driving youth addiction, financial ruin, and family distress. Gaikwad also urged strict penalties for celebrities who endorse gambling apps, highlighting their profound influence on young people.

Her strong appeal reflects increasing political momentum for stricter controls, with additional legislators citing links between online gaming, cybercrime, and financial exploitation. The government has responded by confirming work on new legislation to regulate online money gaming, aiming to combat fraud and protect vulnerable users.

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5. ED INVESTIGATES CELEBRITIES FOR PROMOTING ILLEGAL BETTING APPS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against 29 celebrities including actors Vijay Deverakonda, Rana

Daggubati, Prakash Raj, and various social media influencers for allegedly promoting illegal online betting platforms. The probe follows a police complaint by a businessman who accused the celebrities of endorsing betting apps via social media and pop-up ads.

High-profile figures such as Nidhi Agarwal, Pranitha Subhash, Manchu Lakshmi, and well-known influencers are named in the investigation, suspected of endorsing apps like Jungle Rummy, JeetWin, and Lotus365 in return for celebrity fees. Some have claimed ignorance of the apps' functions and denied any intent to promote illegal activities. The ED plans to record their statements as the investigation examines further complaints and gathers more evidence from potential victims.

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6. ED FREEZES ₹284 CRORE IN BETTING APP MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen fixed deposits and shares exceeding ₹284 crore of Haryana-based Probo Media Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and its promoters, as part of a money laundering investigation tied to illegal online betting. The action, taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), follows ED searches at four locations in Gurugram and Jind.

Authorities allege that the Probo platform, presented as an "opinion trading" and skill-based app, was in fact conducting illegal betting by luring users with "yes or no" wagers where outcomes depended on chance rather than skill. Victims reported being misled and financially defrauded under the guise of a legitimate skill game, prompting the enforcement action.

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7. SPORTSBAAZI SUSPENDS OPINION TRADING AMID REGULATORY SCRUTINY

SportsBaazi users were notified that the platform's opinion trading feature is "currently unavailable" as the company works to enhance safety and compliance. Although no official statement has been issued, the message suggests an increased focus on regulatory standards.

In May 2025, SportsBaazi halted operations in Haryana following the enactment of the Prevention of Public Gambling Act, 2025, which brought stricter penalties for online gambling and opinion trading. The same month,

the Chhattisgarh High Court ordered SportsBaazi to limit access within the state after a PIL challenged the legal status of real-money gaming platforms.

This suspension highlights the escalating legal pressures on opinion trading and prediction platforms, as more Indian states adopt or update laws to regulate the online gaming sector. The Haryana law notably classifies opinion trading as a gambling offence, with penalties for both operators and users. Chhattisgarh and other states are also increasing oversight, signalling a shift toward tighter control of digital gaming activities at the state level.

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8. EPWA CHALLENGES MADRAS HC VERDICT ON TAMIL NADU GAMING LAW

The E-Sports Players Welfare Association (EPWA) has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court of India, contesting the Madras High Court's June 3, 2025 decision that upheld core provisions of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022, and its 2025 regulations. The contested High Court order sustained rules such as the midnight-to-5 AM access ban on real money games and mandatory Aadhaar-based KYC, emphasizing public health and safety over industry claims of constitutional rights, including trade freedom and privacy.

EPWA argues these restrictions infringe on players' fundamental rights and has escalated the matter to the Supreme Court amid wider industry litigation—especially as the apex court is soon to decide on the 28% GST levy on online money gaming. This latest challenge keeps the constitutional validity and regulatory reach of state-level online gaming laws under national scrutiny, with implications for operators, players, and policy nationwide.

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9. POKER PRO P. VIKRAM KUMAR CHALLENGES TAMIL NADU ONLINE GAMING REGULATIONS IN SUPREME COURT

Internationally recognized poker pro P. Vikram Kumar has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court contesting the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (Real Money Games) Regulations, 2025. Kumar argues the rules infringe on his fundamental rights—restricting livelihood, privacy, and digital autonomy—by mandating midnight-to-5 AM bans on real

money gaming and requiring Aadhaar-based KYC by private companies. He contends the Madras High Court, which upheld these measures on June 3, 2025, erred by dismissing his case on procedural grounds and failing to analyze if the restrictions were necessary or proportionate.

The petition claims the regulations unfairly target online poker and real money games while ignoring similar digital content, violate privacy by making Aadhaar mandatory, and clash with central Information Technology rules. Kumar is seeking interim relief and asks the Supreme Court to declare the rules unconstitutional.

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10. SUPREME COURT CONTINUES GST HEARINGS IN GAMESKRAFT ONLINE GAMING CASE

The Supreme Court resumed landmark hearings in the online gaming GST dispute, with Day 15 of arguments in the Gameskraft cases before Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan. Senior advocate Balbir Singh, representing Winzo and other online gaming firms, argued that taxing all online games at 28% as "betting or gambling" is improper, as neither term applies to games of skill. Citing domestic and international case law, he maintained that imposing retrospective tax demands exceeding ₹1 lakh crore on an industry with a turnover of ₹8,000 crore is unjustified, especially since such games were only reclassified as "online money gaming" after 2023 amendments.

Senior advocate Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, for Delta Corp, challenged the government's basis for GST calculation, Gross Bet Value (GBV), and argued for taxation on Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR), which better reflects actual operator income. Singhvi asserted that the government's approach leads to taxation on amounts never actually received and violates constitutional protections under Article 14.

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11. SUPREME COURT TAKES UP PILS SEEKING BAN ON OPINION TRADING PLATFORMS

The Supreme Court has transferred to itself four Public Interest Litigations (PILs) from the Bombay, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh High Courts, all seeking a ban on opinion trading platforms for allegedly facilitating illegal betting and gambling. The order, issued by Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, came in response to a transfer

petition by Probo Media Technologies Pvt Ltd, a prominent operator in the sector.

Rejecting a request to consolidate the petitions in a single high court, the Supreme Court directed all case records be sent to its registry for centralized adjudication. The PILs had raised concerns over the legality of platforms that allow users to stake money on predictions of real-world events, a process similar to betting, where users wager on "yes" or "no" outcomes in return for potential payouts.

This move consolidates national scrutiny on the burgeoning opinion trading sector, as courts weigh the platforms' legal status and regulatory obligations under India's gambling laws. Further hearings are now to be notified by the Supreme Court.

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12. GOOGLE APPEARS BEFORE ED IN ONLINE GAMBLING ADS PROBE

In a significant step in India's crackdown on illegal online gambling, Google appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 28 as part of a money laundering investigation into the promotion of unlawful betting and gambling advertisements. Meta, also summoned in the case, did not send a representative.

The ED alleges both companies facilitated the promotion of illegal online betting platforms by selling prime advertising slots and expanding their reach, helping these apps, often disguised as skill-based games, defraud users and launder money through complex financial networks. Investigators estimate this illegal betting ecosystem generated illicit funds worth hundreds of crores, routed via hawala channels, leading to major tax evasion.

Google stated its commitment to user safety and platform security, emphasizing cooperation with the authorities and policies prohibiting illegal gambling ads. The ED's investigation continues to scrutinize the role of large tech firms in enabling digital advertising for these illicit operations, as well as the broader surge of online gambling across India.

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13. ED SUMMONS FOUR TOLLYWOOD STARS IN PROBE OVER ILLEGAL BETTING PROMOTIONS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Tollywood celebrities Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay

Deverakonda, and Manchu Lakshmi in its ongoing investigation into endorsements of illegal online betting platforms. Appearances before the ED begin July 23 with Daggubati, followed by Prakash Raj (July 30), Vijay Deverakonda (August 6), and Manchu Lakshmi (August 13). This marks Deverakonda's second appearance before the agency in under two years.

The summons, issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, relate to payments allegedly received for promoting offshore betting platforms operating illegally in India and suspected of financial crimes, including money laundering. These cases follow earlier reports of the ED naming 29 celebrities, with over ₹50 crore traced as promotional payments and ongoing examination by the GST Department into whether appropriate taxes were paid on such endorsements.

Authorities are investigating both criminal and tax law violations, as well as the use of intermediary and offshore payment structures. Legal experts warn that celebrity endorsements for illegal betting apps may result in liability under Indian law, regardless of whether services were provided through agencies. This high-profile probe signals a watershed moment for digital advertising and influencer accountability in the gaming sector.

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14. SUPREME COURT HEARS STATE VS. SKILL GAME OPERATORS IN GST & REGULATION CASE

The Supreme Court resumed hearings in the Gameskraft batch of cases, examining GST on online gaming and States' constitutional authority to regulate games for stakes. Representing Tamil Nadu, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal argued that online games differ fundamentally from physical formats, citing concerns over fairness, 24x7 access, and algorithmic play as grounds for stricter State intervention. He asked the Court to broadly interpret the State's powers under "public order" and "betting and gambling," urging a distinction between betting and gambling for regulatory purposes.

In response, Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Gameskraft, defended the Madras and Karnataka High Court rulings that struck down State laws banning skill

games like rummy for stakes. Singhvi stressed longstanding Supreme Court precedents establishing rummy as a game of skill, a category that should not fall under gambling bans. He argued the right to offer skill games is protected by Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, and any restriction must be reasonable and based on concrete evidence of harm.

Singhvi underscored that licensed online operators already employ robust consumer protections, including KYC, age-gating, and anti-bot protocols. He maintained that only games of chance, not skill, can be regulated or banned outright, and criticized the lack of empirical harm shown from licensed skill-based gaming. The hearings continue this week, with representatives for online gaming firms set to conclude soon and government arguments expected next.

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15. PAYTM, ONE97 BOOKED IN HYDERABAD FOR ENABLING GAMBLING APPS

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have filed an FIR against Paytm and parent company One97 Communications, alleging facilitation of illegal gambling app distribution via unauthorized APK files. The complaint, lodged July 24, cites breaches of the Information Technology Act and Telangana Gaming Act, naming unregulated platforms like MPL Cards and MPL Rummy.

According to investigators, Paytm's digital ecosystem enabled APK downloads not listed on official app stores, promoted as recently as June 28, 2025, allowing bypass of regulatory oversight. Authorities are examining digital logs, servers, and payment channels to assess the extent of violations.

Cybersecurity experts warn that distributing APKs outside trusted stores exposes users to data theft and malware, compounding the financial and social risks of unregulated gambling. The case renews scrutiny on fintech due diligence, with further enforcement actions pending forensic analysis.

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SPORTS NEWS UPDATE

1. NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE BILL, 2025 INTRODUCED IN THE LOK SABHA

On July 23, 2025, the Indian Government introduced the 'National Sports Governance Bill' in the Lok Sabha. After President's assent the Bill will be called 'National Sports Governance Act, 2025'. The provisions of the Act are expected to create safeguards for athlete welfare, promote ethical conduct, and strengthen governance mechanisms across recognised sports bodies.

Key points of the National Sports Governance Act:

- a) The drafted Act comprises 11 detailed chapters, each focusing on key aspects of governance, ethics, dispute resolution, financial transparency, and athlete welfare within India's sports ecosystem.
- b) It mandates the establishment of core national governing bodies for sports including: National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, National Sports Federations, Regional Sports Federations.
- c) Each National Sports Body will consist of General Body, an Executive Committee, an Ethics Committee, a Dispute Resolution Committee and such related authorities. The Executive Committee, comprising up to 15 members with gender and athlete representation will be elected for a maximum term of four years, that includes sportspersons of outstanding merit and uphold inclusivity and representation.
- d) The National Sports Board ('NSB') will be created, as a statutory authority empowered to grant recognition, conduct inquiries, suspend or cancel affiliations, formulate ethics and safety policies, and oversee compliance with governance standards.
- e) The Act establishes a National Sports Tribunal ('Tribunal'), a quasi-judicial entity vested with civil court powers under Section 215 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Tribunal verdicts are appealable only before the Supreme Court.
- f) The Tribunal will serve as the judicial backbone of the new regime, delivering independent, swift, and cost-effective dispute resolution. It will be comprising of: A Chairperson with High Court or Supreme Court credentials and two members eminent in sports, law, or public administration.

The BCCI, which operates as an autonomous body under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, has long resisted classification as an NSF, citing its financial independence from government funding. However, once the Bill becomes law, the BCCI will need recognition from the National Sports Board and will fall under its jurisdiction in matters related to governance and dispute resolution.

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2. NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 INTRODUCED IN THE LOK SABHA

The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya, aiming to overhaul India's anti-doping legislation in line with international standards and to address serious objections raised by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The amended bill features three major reforms:

- Establishment of an independent Appeals Panel.
- Removal of financial sanctions on athletes caught doping.
- Assurance of institutional and operational independence for the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

The original bill, introduced in 2022 by then minister Anurag Thakur, had been passed by both Houses of Parliament but was criticized by WADA for enabling excessive government control over NADA and its appellate processes. Under that version, the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports, a body with members appointed by the government, had oversight of NADA and the Appeals Panel, raising concerns about conflict of interest and lack of autonomy.

WADA emphasized in its revised anti-doping code that National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) must operate independently from their respective governments. It threatened to disaffiliate India as a WADA member and to derecognize the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) in Delhi if reforms were not implemented.

Following consultations between WADA and India's sports ministry under Mandaviya, the amended bill:

- Removes government oversight over the Appeals Panel.

- Scraps the clause that previously allowed for financial sanctions or cost recovery from athletes found guilty of doping.

Retains limited procedural oversight by the Anti-Doping Board, stating that it may issue directions only to ensure “procedural efficiency” of disciplinary and appeals panels, but without interfering in their decision-making.

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3. CAS OVERRULES AIFF: INTER KASHI DECLARED I-LEAGUE 2024-25 CHAMPIONS

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has declared Inter Kashi the rightful champions of the 2024-25 I-League, overturning the All India Football Federation’s (AIFF) earlier decision to award the title to Churchill Brothers. This ruling brings to a close a prolonged controversy over player eligibility and federation procedures that had overshadowed the season. The I-League trophy was originally handed to Churchill Brothers in April 2025, three weeks after the final round of matches. However, this decision was contested after Inter Kashi was penalised for fielding an allegedly ineligible player, which had dropped them from first to second place. Inter Kashi challenged this decision at CAS, which has now ruled in their favour, instructing the AIFF to immediately declare them champions.

The dispute began on January 13, 2025, when Inter Kashi lost 2-0 to Namdhari FC. Inter Kashi protested the result, alleging that Namdhari had fielded an ineligible player, Cledson Carvalho da Silva (Dé), who they claimed had accumulated four yellow cards, including one that led to a sending-off. After over a month of deliberation, on February 24, 2025, the AIFF’s Disciplinary Committee ruled in favour of Inter Kashi, overturning the result and awarding them a 3–0 win. This decision put Inter Kashi above Churchill in the I-League standings.

Namdhari immediately appealed the verdict, arguing that the AIFF’s official portal did not indicate the player’s suspension. On March 27, 2025, the AIFF Appeals Committee suspended the earlier ruling, reinstating Churchill Brothers at the top. The committee scheduled a further hearing for April 28, 2025, well after the season had ended. Despite the uncertainty, Churchill secured a 1 point lead over Inter Kashi on the final day of the season, finishing with 40 points to Kashi’s 39. Inter Kashi hoped a favourable appeal ruling would allow them to reclaim the top spot. The Appeals Committee rescheduled the hearing to April 12, 2025, and after reviewing the case,

sided with Namdhari. As a result, Churchill was officially declared champions on April 20, 2025.

Inter Kashi appealed to CAS on June 23, 2025. After a hearing on July 15, 2025, CAS set aside the AIFF’s May 31, 2025 decision, ordering a fresh adjustment of the points table. The AIFF, acknowledging the CAS ruling, congratulated Inter Kashi and will now have to retrieve the trophy from Churchill Brothers and present it to the new champions.

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4. AIFF PRESIDENT ASSURES ISL WILL BE HELD DESPITE MRA-LINKED DELAY

On July 24, 2025, All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey confirmed that the Indian Super League (ISL), currently on hold, will be held this season, though he refrained from announcing a start date. He cited scheduling pressures such as the international calendar, FIFA windows, and home and away matches, which must be considered before confirming timelines. The temporary suspension of the ISL stems from issues related to the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) signed in 2010 between the AIFF and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which manages the league. The current MRA is set to expire on December 8, 2025, which would typically be mid-season.

On July 11, 2025 FSDL announced that the 2025–26 season was “on hold” due to uncertainty over MRA renewal, following a Supreme Court directive barring AIFF from renegotiating the MRA until a final judgment is passed in the AIFF draft constitution case.

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5. CASTER SEMENYA WINS PARTIAL VICTORY IN HUMAN RIGHTS COURT OVER TESTOSTERONE RULE DISPUTE

Two-time Olympic gold medallist Caster Semenya secured a partial but significant win in her prolonged legal battle against World Athletics’ sex eligibility rules, following a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The court’s highest chamber, comprising 17 judges, voted 15-2 to declare that Semenya’s right to a fair hearing was violated during proceedings at Switzerland’s Supreme Court.

Semenya, who won gold in the 800m event at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics, has been at the centre of a controversy due to her differences of sex development

(DSD), a condition in which her body naturally produces higher testosterone levels than most women. Although legally identified as female, she was required by World Athletics to medically suppress her testosterone levels to compete in women's races. Semenya refused to do so, leading to her exclusion from events like the 800 meters, effectively halting her elite career.

Semenya's initial appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) failed, and when she escalated the matter to Switzerland's Supreme Court, it upheld the CAS decision, prompting her to move to the ECHR. The ECHR ruled that Switzerland's Supreme Court had failed to ensure a fair hearing, thereby violating Semenya's human rights. The court did not, however, take up several other components of her appeal, notably whether she faced discrimination in the Swiss legal process. The court ruled these matters were outside Switzerland's jurisdiction, though four judges partially dissented, suggesting a divide in opinion.

While the verdict does not invalidate World Athletics' rules, it awards Semenya €80,000 for legal costs and sets the stage for her case to return to the Swiss Federal Court in Lausanne.

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6. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SUES CALIFORNIA OVER TRANSGENDER ATHLETES IN GIRLS' SPORTS

The Trump administration has filed a federal lawsuit against the state of California, challenging its long-standing policy of allowing transgender girls to compete in girls' school sports. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Los Angeles, alleges that California's practices violate Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in educational institutions receiving federal funding.

The Justice Department, led by Attorney General Pam Bondi, claims that California's policy is both "deeply unfair" and "illegal under federal law", arguing that transgender participation undermines equal opportunities for cisgender women and girls. This legal challenge is part of a broader campaign by the Trump administration to restrict transgender rights, including a February 2025 executive order stripping federal funding from schools that permit transgender girls or women to compete in female sports categories.

California has permitted transgender girls to compete in girls' sports for over a decade, with little national

backlash until recent years, when Republican lawmakers and anti-LGBTQ+ groups elevated the issue. The Education Department recently found California in alleged violation of federal law and suggested stripping transgender athletes of their records, awards, and future eligibility.

The lawsuit cites only five instances of transgender girls competing in school sports in a state with nearly 6 million public school students, according to California's data. Nevertheless, it seeks a court order to bar all schools under the California Interscholastic Federation from allowing transgender girls to participate in girls' competitions. It also seeks the establishment of a compensation process for any cisgender female athletes allegedly "harmed" by the policy.

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7. FIFA-FIFPRO TENSIONS RISE OVER PLAYER WELFARE AND EXPANDED CLUB WORLD CUP

The long-standing tension between FIFA and the global players' union Fifpro has deepened following FIFA's surprise announcement supporting mandatory rest periods for elite footballers. While Fifpro welcomed some of the principles, such as a 72-hour minimum gap between games during the season and a three-week summer break, the union was caught off guard by the announcement and reportedly excluded from the key meeting in New York where the decision was made.

As per reports, neither Fifpro nor the UK's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) attended the meeting that led to FIFA's announcement. Though FIFA released a photo showing President Gianni Infantino with several union officials, many of them were either from organizations that had been expelled from Fifpro or were former union leaders no longer in office, raising questions about the legitimacy of the process.

The dispute is taking place in the wider context of FIFA's expanded 32-team Club World Cup, which has triggered concerns over player workload and health risks, especially amid high summer temperatures. In response, Fifpro and the PFA filed a lawsuit with the European Union last year, accusing FIFA of abusing its dominant position by unilaterally expanding the football calendar without sufficient consultation with players' bodies.

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