



Game, Set & Match Monthly

Gaming and Sports Law Newsletter (August 2026)

GAMING NEWS UPDATE

1. SUPREME COURT TO FINALLY HEAR CHALLENGES TO ONLINE GAMING LAW

The Supreme Court has agreed to conduct a final hearing on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2026. The challenge is significant because the legislation imposes a nationwide prohibition on online real-money gaming, without distinguishing between games of skill and games of chance. The Court will also hear a PIL seeking directions against betting and gambling platforms allegedly operating under the guise of social gaming or esports. Parties, including the Union government, have been asked to complete pleadings before the final hearing.

The proceedings could determine the constitutional limits of Parliament's power to impose a blanket prohibition on real-money online gaming and materially affect fantasy sports, rummy, poker and other stake-based skill-game operators. Central questions are likely to include the scope of the freedom to carry on trade or business under Article 19(1)(g), proportionality of the prohibition, and whether the statutory framework adequately differentiates legitimate gaming from unlawful betting.

[Read more here](#)

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR NOTIFIES THE BIHAR GAMBLING (PROHIBITION) ACT, 2026

The Government of Bihar recently notified the Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2026 which establishes a state-wide prohibition on gambling and the operation of common gambling houses, expressly extending its application to online platforms. The Act adopts a broad definition of gambling, covering wagering or betting conducted through physical, online, electronic, digital or virtual means, as well as activities intended to aid, facilitate or promote such wagering.

The Act further provides that where an offence is committed by a company, persons responsible for the conduct of its business may also be held liable, subject to a defence of lack of knowledge or due diligence. Directors, managers and other officers may also be liable where the offence is attributable to their consent, connivance or neglect. The Act also provides for imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to INR 50,000 for contravention of its provisions relating to the dissemination of gambling information.

[Read more here](#)

SPORTS NEWS UPDATE

1. SPORTS MINISTRY SUSPENDS TTFI OVER GOVERNANCE FAILURES

The Sports Ministry has suspended the recognition of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) over repeated governance and compliance failures. The Ministry found TTFI's response to its show-cause notice unsatisfactory and cited its failure to conduct elections within the prescribed timeline, prolonged internal disputes, financial and administrative irregularities, and non-compliance

with government directions. The Ministry also flagged concerns over TTFI's selection policy, including its failure to adequately account for international rankings and provide clear criteria for major events such as the Olympics and Asian Games. As a consequence, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), in consultation with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), will constitute an ad-hoc committee to administer the sport until a compliant governance structure is restored. TTFI will also be ineligible for

government financial grants during the suspension.

TTFI has sought reconsideration of the suspension, arguing that several deficiencies have already been addressed and raising concerns regarding interference with the autonomy of a National Sports Federation.

[Read more here](#)

2. ALLAHABAD HC UPHOLDS UPCA ASSET TRANSFER AND REJECTS CBI PROBE PLEA

The Allahabad High Court has refused to direct a CBI probe into allegations concerning the BCCI's affiliation and financial aid to the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA), holding that the dispute arose from events more than two decades old and essentially concerned a private dispute relating to succession of property of a dissolved society. Dismissing the writ petition, the Bench upheld the transfer of the society's assets, liabilities and functions to the present UPCA, holding that Section 13 of the Societies Registration Act, 1860 did not bar such transfer to a company incorporated under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Court noted that UPCA had functioned as the BCCI-recognised cricket body for Uttar Pradesh for over two decades and continued to enjoy full membership and voting rights in the BCCI. Further, the Court declined to direct BCCI to transfer the liabilities to the petitioner by upholding the legality of the 2005 transition and held that the writ of mandamus could not be issued in the case.

[Read more here](#)

3. KARNATAKA HC EXAMINES CONTROVERSIAL ASIAN GAMES SURFING SELECTION

The Karnataka High Court reserved its order on surfer Ramesh Budihal's challenge to the Surfing Federation of India's decision to select Sivaraj Babu for the men's surfing event at the 2026 Asian Games, while placing Budihal, India's only Asian

Surfing Championship medallist, as the first reserve.

The key issue is the authority of the Federation's Executive Council. During the proceedings, the Federation admitted that its bye-laws do not empower the Executive Council to select Asian Games participants. The selection had instead been made after the selection committee failed to make a recommendation. Budihal argued that the Federation failed to follow its own selection policy, which contemplated selection based on past performance or, where applicable, a coin toss. He opposed the Federation's proposal for a fresh "surf-off", arguing that this mechanism was not provided for under the selection policy.

Budihal has challenged the decision as arbitrary, discriminatory and unreasonable, alleging violations of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. The Court has now reserved its order.

[Read more here](#)

4. ENGLAND & WALES HIGH COURT ALLOWS RUGBY CONCUSSION CLAIMS TO PROCEED

The High Court of England and Wales in London has allowed hundreds of former rugby players to proceed with legal claims against major rugby governing bodies over brain injuries allegedly caused by repeated concussions and head impacts.

The claimants allege that the governing bodies failed to take adequate measures to protect players from the risks of concussion and long-term neurological injury, including by failing to implement appropriate safety protocols and restrictions on playing after head injuries. The case involves hundreds of former players and several major rugby organisations and could have significant financial and regulatory implications for the sport. Importantly, the Court's decision does not establish liability against the rugby bodies; it allows the claims to proceed to the next stages of litigation.

[Read more here](#)

5. CABINET APPROVES REVAMPED KHELO INDIA SCHEME AND ENHANCED FUNDING FOR SPORTS FEDERATIONS

The Union Cabinet has approved a revamped Khelo India Scheme and an enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) Scheme, with a combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31, nearly eight times the previous Khelo India allocation.

The revamped scheme introduces a structured athlete development pathway, covering talent identification, scientific training, international exposure and progression from grassroots programmes to Khelo India and TOPS. A new Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs) category is expected to expand the structured athlete pool nearly ten-fold. The Government will also establish a National Coach Accreditation Board, introduce a unified digital sports platform for athlete, funding and infrastructure data, and strengthen support for women athletes, para-athletes, indigenous sports and domestic competitions.

Separately, the enhanced ANSF Scheme for 2026–31 will fund coaching, sports science, equipment, international exposure, training camps, foreign experts and participation in major international competitions.

[Read more here](#)

6. FIFA IMPOSES DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS FOLLOWING 2026 WORLD CUP INCIDENTS

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee has imposed sanctions arising from incidents during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including the final between Argentina and Spain.

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) was fined USD 321,000 for breaches relating to discriminatory chants and gestures by supporters, team misconduct, non-sporting demonstrations and match security. AFA must also play its next two home matches with only 50% spectator capacity. USD 100,000 of the fine must be invested in an

anti-discrimination programme, while part of the sanction has been suspended subject to probation.

For incidents during the World Cup final, Argentina players Leandro Paredes and Nahuel Molina were suspended for 10 and 7 matches respectively, with fines of USD 90,000 each. Thiago Almada and Pablo Martín Páez Gavira received one-match suspensions and USD 30,000 fines each, while team official Roberto Ayala received a three-match suspension and USD 30,000 fine. The suspensions will carry over to the teams' subsequent international matches.

The decisions remain subject to appeal under the FIFA Disciplinary Code, and the parties have 10 days to request a reasoned decision.

[Read more here](#)

7. UEFA CONSIDERS CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST FIFA PRESIDENT INFANTINO

UEFA is preparing a potential criminal complaint in Switzerland against FIFA President Gianni Infantino over his failed plan to sell a stake in the commercial rights to future World Cups and other FIFA competitions to private investors.

UEFA's lawyers are considering proceedings for "criminal mismanagement" under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code, alleging that the proposed \$4.2 billion valuation for a 20% stake was significantly below market value and that the process was neither competitively tendered nor independently valued.

The proposed FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) was ultimately abandoned following strong opposition from UEFA and other football stakeholders. UEFA has separately approached a US federal court seeking documents and testimony from FIFA-related entities and investors, including Thrive Capital, to gather evidence that could support the proposed Swiss proceedings.

[Read more here](#)



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