

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad: 31st August, 2024: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) categorically denies the baseless allegations by the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) that claim PSB is obstructing funding for the national hockey team's participation in the Asian Champions Trophy in China.

It is necessary to bring on record that the PHF requested an excessive budget of Rs. 55 million plus US \$60,000 in foreign exchange and sought funding for 27 players and six officials—a number far beyond international standards. PSB, adhering to global norms, offered to finance air tickets for 19 players and 4 officials. Despite this, the PHF claimed to have already booked tickets, to which PSB agreed to reimburse upon submission of original receipts.

Contrary to these allegations, the PSB has already released substantial financial support in the recent past, including Rs. 37.5 million and Rs. 59.15 million, to the PHF for various needs. Additionally, the PSB has approved further financial assistance, covering meal charges, accommodation, air tickets, and visa fees for 19 players and 4 officials, as part of our unwavering commitment to promoting hockey in Pakistan. The funds allocated ensure full coverage of all necessary expenses for the team's participation from 6th to 18th September 2024. Moreover, training camp for 3 weeks was also arranged by PSB at Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium including the stay of the players at Sports Complex Islamabad.

It is important to clarify that delays in the release of funds have solely been due to PHF's failure to provide required documentation in a timely manner, including the list of players and officials, computer clearance proformas, undertakings, and surety bonds. The PSB has repeatedly communicated these requirements to the PHF, yet necessary details have often been submitted late or incomplete.

It is crucial to note that under Article 9.5 of the PHF Constitution, the Federation is responsible for raising its own funds. PSB, on the other hand, remains fully committed to supporting the national hockey team and ensuring its successful participation in international tournaments.