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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 471/2026 & CM APPL. 2321/2026**

AZEEM

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Rizwan Ahmed ,Mr.Himanshu
Gupta, Mr. Shoaib Ansari, Mr. Mohd Tauheed,
Mr. Shah Alam, Mr.Rishibh, Advs.

versus

**JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA THROUGH ITS HONY DIRECTOR
GAMES AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT JMI NEW DELHI 110025
& ORS.**

.....Respondents

Through: Mr Pritish Sabharwal, SC for R1
Mr. Ripu Daman Bharadwaj, Adv. for R3
Mr. Vinay Kaushik, GP

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASMEET SINGH

ORDER

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14.01.2026

CM APPL. 2308/2026

Exemption allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

The application is disposed of.

W.P.(C) 471/2026

1. This is a writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking direction to allow the petitioner to participate in All India Inter-University Shooting 10M Air Pistol & Air Rifle (Men & Women) Tournament for the academic session 2025–26, scheduled to commence from 27th January to 29th January, 2026.

2. The brief facts are that the petitioner is a B. A. (Hons.) student in Jamia Millia Islamia, respondent No. 1. The respondent No.1 conducted trials for All India Inter-University Shooting 10M Air Pistol & Air Rifle (Men & Women) Tournament on 24.12.2025 wherein the petitioner secured



a score of 580/600. The eligibility criteria for the tournament prescribes that the students who are between 17 to 25 years of age as on 01.07.2025 are eligible to participate in the said tournament. The petitioner was born exactly on 01.07.2025.

3. Mr. Ahmed, learned counsel for the petitioner, states that the fact that the eligibility criteria prescribes the age of participant between 17 to 25 years would mean that a candidate up to the age 25 years would be eligible and the petitioner turned 25 years old on 01.07.2025.

4. Mr. Sabharwal, learned standing counsel for respondent No. 1, has drawn my attention to the clarification dated 18.08.2023 issued by the respondent No. 2 to all the universities, which read as under:



डॉ. बलजीत सिंह सेखों
संयुक्त सचिव (वाई ए एंड एस)
DR. BALJIT SINGH SEKHON
Joint Secretary (YA&S)



भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय संघ
ए. आई. यू. हाउस, 16, कॉमरेड इंद्रजीत गुप्ता मार्ग
(कोटला मार्ग), नई दिल्ली - 110002

Association of Indian Universities
AIU House, 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg
(Kotla Marg) New Delhi- 110002

No. S/NUG-2023-24/AIU
August 18, 2023

The Vice Chancellors
Member University AIU.

Subject: Fixation of Upper age limit upto 25 years from this academic session 2023-24 onwards for participation in National University Games.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Greetings from AIU!

As you are aware that the Sports Board in its AGM unanimously decided to enhance the age limit from 25 years to 27 years for the academic session 2022-23 only for participation in National University Games on account of unprecedented Covid-19 situation.

Now, number of queries has been pouring in the office with regard to Age limit for this current academic session and this is to confirm that the upper age limit from this academic session 2023-24 onwards for participation in National University Games shall remain as 25 years. Hence, the eligibility rules for participation in National University Games for the year 2023-24 will be as under: -

- Age Limit of the student shall be minimum 17 years and Maximum upto 25 years from the current academic session.
- A student may be treated as eligible to participate in National University Games "On the Day" the student completes 17 years of age during the academic year in which he/she is admitted/enrolled for a degree or diploma whose examination is conducted by a university or college affiliated to university.
- Further, an athlete may participate if he/she is less than 25 years of age as on 1st July of the current academic year.

Kindly disseminate the same to all and your affiliated colleges, if any for information and compliance.

This may please be accorded top priority.


(Baljit Singh Sekhon)

CC: The Director Sports/Organizing Secretaries, Member Universities AIU for kind information.

E-mail: sports@aiu.ac.in; jointsecretarysekhon@gmail.com; aiusportsaiu@gmail.com
Phone: (011) 23230059, 23231097, 23232429, 23232435, 23232305



5. He also draws my attention to chapter 6 of the eligibility and documents for Inter University Tournament wherein Clause 6.1 reads as under:

“CHAPTER VI - ELIGIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS FOR INTER-UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENTS

6.1 Eligibility for Inter-University Competitions

a) Age:

i) Minimum: 17 years on or before commencement of the tournament;

ii) Maximum: under 25 years as of 1 July of the academic year.

b) Academic Eligibility:

i) Only a bona fide student, who is currently enrolled/registered for a degree or diploma at the University/College whose status is recognized by the appropriate authority of the country, which is of a minimum duration of one academic year and whose examination is conducted by the university, shall be eligible to participate in Inter-University Games and fulfil the following conditions.

ii) Students must be formally registered in program (degree/diploma/certificate/research) of a minimum one-year duration at a recognized institution. and must or

iii) Maximum participation period shall not exceed from 17-25 years of age have passed 10+2 equivalent examination iv) Students in dual degree programs may represent only one



university per academic year, to be declared prior to registration.

iv) The students studying in distance and online mode through proper registration at universities with a minimum duration of a one-year course are eligible to participate in the Inter-University Games.

v) Foreign students are eligible to participate only in the Inter-University tournaments. However, the total number of foreign players in a team should not be more than 10% of the team. For small teams, where the total number of players is less than 10 members, one foreign student can be allowed in the team.

c) Employment Status:

i) Inter-University Tournaments: Full-time government employees are ineligible.

ii) International Tournaments: Employed students may participate if they satisfy FISU/AUSF criteria.

d) Institutional Representation:

i) A student shall not represent multiple universities in one academic year.

ii) Migrated students shall become eligible only after completion of formal admission regularization and issue of Bonafide certification with migration certificate”

6. A perusal of the above letter dated 18.08.2023 and eligibility criteria shows that the participant has to be under 25 years of age on 1st, July of the academic year. The petitioner on 01.07.2025 was not under 25 years but was 25 years old.



7. For the said reasons, though it is a hard case for the petitioner, but the rule does not permit the petitioner to participate.
8. The document handed over in court is taken on record.
9. The petition is dismissed.

JANUARY 14, 2026/AS

JASMEET SINGH, J