

GAHC010129652026



THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : I.A.(Civil)/2161/2026

PEOPLE S ARMWRESTLING FEDERATION OF INDIA
HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT FLAT NO. A/605, 6TH FLOOR,
PIONEER HERITAGE RESIDENCY-III PLOT I, DAULAT NAGAR, SANTACRUZ
WEST, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA - 400 054, INDIA REPRESENTED BY DR.
PRAVEEN KUMAR SINGH JADON, GENERAL SECRETARY

VERSUS

MR RYAN THOMAS BOWEN
S/O MR WAYNE BOWEN, A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF 8 BROADFORD
STREET SPRING MOUNTAINS 4300 AND PRESENTLY RESIDING AT HOUSE
NO 16, HOCKEY STADIUM ROAD, SURUJMUKHI PATH, SAWKUCHI,
GUWAHATI, ASSAM

Advocate for the Petitioner : MR M GOSWAMI, MR R SINGHA,MS S PATOWARY,MS. A SHARMA

Advocate for the Respondent : MR. S MITRA, A R ANSARI,N CHAUDHURY,MR A K BORO

BEFORE
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MRIDUL KUMAR KALITA

ORDER

Date : 25.06.2026

1. Heard Mr. M. Goswami, the learned senior counsel assisted by Mr. R. Singha, the learned counsel for the applicant. Also heard Mr. K. N. Choudhury, learned senior counsel assisted by Mr. S. Mitra, learned counsel for the respondent.

2. This interlocutory application, under Order 39 Rules 1 and 2 read with Section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, has been filed by the applicant in connection with FAO No. 34/2026 praying for grant of temporary injunction against the opposite party by restraining him from publishing, uploading, circulating or broadcasting any material, post, video, reel or story, audio message or communication in any form or on any platform concerning the applicant, its office bearer or its regulatory decisions or any order or proceeding of this Court in FAO No. 34/2026 or in WP(C) No. 3069/2026.

3. Mr. M. Goswami, the learned senior counsel for the applicant has submitted that the applicant has preferred a statutory appeal under Order 43 Rule 1(r) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 against the order dated 13.05.2026 passed by the Court of learned Civil Judge (Senior Division) No. 1, Kamrup(M), Guwahati, in Misc.(J) Case No. 531/2026 in connection with Title Suit No. 298/2026 whereby an *ex-parte ad interim injunction* was granted in favour of the present respondent at the time of issuance of notice to the present applicant/appellant in that case. By the said order dated 13.05.2026, the trial court has suspended the operation of the directive issued by the present applicant on 21.09.2025, whereby all State Associations, District Associations, Affiliated Clubs and PAFI (People's Arm-wrestling Federation India) athletes were restrained from any form of engagement, collaboration or association with the respondent, Ryan Bowen with immediate effect. The trial court also stayed the operation of official intimation dated 24.04.2026 received from the General Secretary of World Armwrestling Federation (WAF), whereby the respondent was placed under suspension and was placed in the WAF list of individuals "*not in good standing*" and not eligible to participate or involved in any official WAF sanctioned activities.

4. The learned senior counsel for the applicant has submitted that a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court, by its order dated 03.06.2026 passed in I.A.(C) No. 1820/2026 in connection with FAO No. 34/2026 has stayed the operation of the impugned order dated 13.05.2026 till 13.07.2026.

5. The learned senior counsel for the applicant submits that the effect of stay granted by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in the aforesaid interlocutory application is that the official communication dated April 24, 2026 as well as the instruction issued by the applicant Federation to its State Association or District Association, Affiliated Clubs and Athletes becomes operational and the respondent shall be treated to be a suspended athlete by the World Armwrestling Federation (WAF) and would be treated as included in the list of individuals "not in good standing".

6. The learned senior counsel for the applicant further submits that the present applicant is a non-profit company registered under Companies Act, 2013 and is affiliated to World Armwrestling Federation (WAF) and Asian Armwrestling Federation (AAF) and plays an important role in organizing and regulating Armwrestling activities in India including encouraging athlete participation, promoting uniform rules and standard and facilitating representation of Indian athletes at various levels.

7. He submits that on the other hand, the respondent is an Australian national and also a professional armwrestler and is visiting India on an e-tourist visa. He submits that though the respondent is staying in India on the basis of e-tourist visa which restricts the activities of the visa holder to only recreation, sightseeing purposes and same is not allowed for any employment, NGO

activities and journalism purposes. However, in violation of the conditions stipulated in visa, the respondent is engaged in hosting and participating in the Eliza Cup scheduled to be held on 05.07.2026 at Guwahati and other armwrestling tournaments, which is in contravention of General policy guideline relating to Indian visa.

8. It is also submitted by the learned senior counsel for the applicant that the respondent is also involved in posting misleading content relating to the present litigation on his Instagram handle and thereby spreading misleading information with regard to a *sub-judice* matter.

9. The learned senior counsel for the applicant further submits that recently on 17.06.2026, the opposite party has actively promoting on his *instagram* handle the "Left Hand supermatch" against one Suhail Khan in Eliza Cup."

10. The learned senior counsel for the applicant further submits that though the Eliza Cup has been ostensibly organized under the aegis of M/s Pound for Pound Private Limited (PPPL). However, the opposite party has himself admitted in one of his Instagram post dated 17.06.2026 that he has invested Rs.35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs) of his own money into Eliza Cup which, the learned senior counsel submits is clear violation of the e-tourist visa conditions, therefore, he submits that the respondent is required to be restrained from uploading misrepresenting facts regarding pending litigation on his Instagram post as well as also restrained from organizing, conducting, hosting and participation in the Eliza Cup scheduled to be held on 05.07.2026 at Guwahati, Assam.

11. On the other hand, Mr. K. N. Choudhury, the learned senior counsel representing the respondent has submitted that some time may be granted to the respondent for filing written objection against the instant interlocutory application. He submits that the instant interlocutory application is not maintainable in absence of a counter-claim by the present applicant in the defamation suit filed by the present respondent before the trial court.

12. He submits that apparently, the Eliza Cup is organized by Pound for Pound Private Limited as well as one Ms. Chetana Sharma, who are not made party either in the suit or in the connected FAO or in the present interlocutory application. He submit that a person who is not made a party in the case and who is not before the Court cannot be restrained by issuing temporary injunction against them on their back. He also submits that the facts stated in the interlocutory application by the present applicant are not admitted by the present respondent and he may be allowed some time to counter the same by filing written objection.

13. I have considered the submissions made by the learned counsel for both sides and have gone through the materials available on records.

14. Issue notice.

15. Since, Mr. K. N. Choudhury, learned senior counsel has already appeared for the sole respondent, no formal notice need to be issued.

16. The prayer of the learned senior counsel for the respondent to enable the respondent to file the written objection on the next date is allowed.

- 17.** Let this matter be listed along with the connected FAO on **13.07.2026.**
- 18.** As regards the prayer for grant of *ad-interim injunction* till the next returnable date is concerned, it appears that there are no materials on record to suggest that name of the applicant federation or that of World Armwrestling Federation has been used for conduct of the Eliza Cup, which is scheduled to be held on 05.07.2026. There is also no indication that the organizers have misused the names of aforementioned federations for organizing the said event (the Eliza Cup).
- 19.** It also appears that the Eliza Cup is also stated to be organized by Pound for Pound Private Limited as well as Ms. Chetna Sharma, who are not made party in the present proceedings, hence, at this stage they cannot be restrained from holding the Eliza Cup as nowhere the name of the present applicant or World Armwrestling Federation has been used therein.
- 20.** However, as regards the present respondent is concerned, since the suit filed by him before the trial court is with regard to directing affiliated associations/ clubs/ athletes of the applicant's federation to refrain from any kind of engagement, collaboration or association with the respondent and since the respondent is apparently on an e-tourist visa which restricts him to undertake activities only for recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends and relatives and attending short-term yoga program, in the event the respondent (Ryan Thomas Bowen) is found engaging in any kind of activities which is in violation of the general policy guidelines relating to Indian visa, the concerned authorities may take appropriate action against him, including the cancellation of his e-visa, as per relevant laws and rules. The pendency of this

case shall not be a bar for the concerned authorities from taking appropriate action if the respondent is found violating the terms of e-tourist visa on strength of which he is presently staying in India.

21. List this matter again on 13.07.2026.

JUDGE

Comparing Assistant