

Sodhi might find it difficult to get wildcard

There is no wildcard left with the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) for the Beijing Olympics. That is disappointing news for India's double trap shooter Ronjan Sodhi who might have hoped to get one after winning a gold, equalling the world record, in the Belgrade World Cup Wednesday.

The ISSF has already doled out the 29 wild cards to the countries from where no shooter qualified for the Olympics. And with nine Indian shooters having already qualified for the Olympics, Sodhi's chances of getting a wild card are remote unless someone pulls out.

However, National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) general secretary Baljit Singh Sethi says he is trying his best to get Sodhi a wild card.

"It is a 50-50 chance. We are trying our best to get a wild card for him. But it is tough. We have written to the world body to consider our request because Sodhi has equalled a world record," Sethi told IANS Friday.

In a different situation, Sodhi would have had an outside chance to get a wildcard if no Indian shooter had qualified for the double trap event. But since Athens Olympics silver medallist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has already qualified for Beijing, the NRAI's claim is unlikely to be entertained by the world body.

Sodhi is in brilliant form and his effort Wednesday was a world record equalling final score of 194 out of 200 set by Italian Daniele Di Spigno during the 1999 world championships. Rathore, who also competed in Belgrade, failed to qualify for the final round and finished a disappointing 24th with 134 points.

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