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School children moves Delhi HC for direction not to hold sports events during peak pollution time

It sought a direction to the Delhi government's Directorate of Education and School Federation of India Games to schedule the annual sports calendar (including all zonal, inter-zonal, state, and national tournaments, trials and coaching camps) for all outdoor sports in the capital during safer and less susceptible months with verifiably better ambient air quality.

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Prefer



The petitioners said at the time of filing the plea, the city was under the Grade Response Action Plan-III (GRAP-III) emergency plan and risked escalation to GRAP-IV (Express photo by Abhinav Saha/ representative)

A group of school students has approached the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to ensure that tournaments and trials for outdoor sports are not scheduled in the capital during the peak pollution months of November to January and are held during a safer time when air quality is better.

The minors, who have filed the petition through their parents, said they actively participate in state-scheduled sports tournaments, camps and trials in [Delhi](#) and other parts of the country.

They said it is a scientifically established and judicially noticed fact that Delhi faces an annual public health emergency during the winter months and the scheduling of the school, inter-zonal, state and national level sporting events in the city around this period is increasingly becoming a major health issue for children participating in such events.

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It said year after year, authorities continue to conduct these outdoor sporting events at a time when Delhi's air quality is verifiably and foreseeably 'severe' and 'hazardous'.