

# Longboarding sport

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**In news**– The death of Anas Hajas, a 31-year-old skating enthusiast from Kerala, while ‘longboarding’ has raised serious concerns about adventurous solo trips undertaken using the skateboard.

## **What is ‘longboarding’ sport?**

- **A longboard is similar to a skateboard, which is a long plank or board made of wood, plastic, or even heavier materials, balanced on top of small wheels.**
- Players often perform impressive stunts and move downhill from a height on the boards, doing tricky movements even when suspended mid-air.
- The sport **originated in the US around the 1950s, and in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, skateboarding was included as a competitive category for the first time.**
- A longboard is **naturally longer but flatter when compared to skateboard boards**, which have upward-curving ends usually.
- There are other technical differences in wheel sizes and distance between wheels. It is believed that longboards are generally sturdier and better suited for longer rides.
- **Longboarding is one among many sports that come under the category of Roller Sports.** Park Skateboarding, Street Skateboarding, Longboarding (downhill), and freestyle skateboarding are some **other popular examples.**
- **The style which was being followed by Anas Hajas comes in the category of Freestyle Skateboarding.**

## **What are the rules for solo longboarding trips?**

- **The Roller Skating Federation of India(RSFI) is the governing body for skateboarding and roller sports in India, registered in 1955, and affiliated with World**

Skate, the parent body of the sport since 1971.

- It was accorded recognition by the Government of India in September 1990 and later **recognised by the Indian Olympic Association.**
- According to RSFI, **solo longboarding trips fall in the category of adventurous activities.**
- The person keen on such solo trips should inform his/her parent state government, which will give the green signal and further inform other states which will be crossed by the riders.
- **Either the rider's associates or the concerning state police are to escort the rider from the front** and rear whenever the rider moves on the road. There also needs to be a surety of emergency assistance round-the-clock for the rider.
- Adventure Club of India used to organise such downhill skateboarding solo trips in a very professional manner till 2005. These trips were organised in Himachal Pradesh.