

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3646**

Introduced by **CHRISTOPHER S. CO** and **RODEL M. BATOCABE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to prohibit the participation of minors in competitive full-contact sports such as boxing, mixed martial arts, jujutsu, muay thai, judo, and various forms of full-contact karate.

This bill prohibits the participation of minors only in full-contact sports competition but regulates their participation in leisure, non-competitive sports, and in training. In regulating such sports, parents, guardians, schools and sports associations are required to undertake the necessary protection for the minors in the training place and in their gears and clothing. Prior to participation in such regulated sports, physical examination and clearance by qualified doctors shall be required,

While acknowledging the importance and benefits and the values that can be derived from participating in these sports, this bill also recognizes the paramount need to protect the minors. Such responsibility is imposed on parents, guardians, schools and sports associations because the minors are incapacitated to give consent nor can they waive any right of action for injuries inflicted upon them during and in connection with such activities.

In view of the above circumstances, the swift passage of the bill is earnestly sought

Rep. **CHRISTOPHER S. CO**

Rep. **RODEL M. BATOCABE**

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AN ACT  
BANNING MINORS FROM FULL-CONTACT COMPETITIVE SPORTS,  
IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and it is responsible for ensuring the promotion and protection of their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being.

**Section 2. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act, the term:

(A) “Full-Contact Sports” shall mean any sport for which significant physical impact force, whether deliberate or incidental, on players is allowed for within the rules of the game. It includes but is not limited to boxing, mixed martial arts, jujutsu, Muay Thai, judo, and various forms of full-contact karate.

(B) “Semi-Contact Sport” is any sport involving striking and containing physical contact between the combatants simulating full-power techniques, which are restricted to limited power. Contact sports, which use gears to protect the athlete from injury, shall be considered a semi-contact sport.

(C) “Sports competition” is a contest, whether or not organized by the government or any government-licensed or –authorized entity or authority, for resources and goods, prestige, promotion, recognition, awards, grades, social status, or for leadership. A sports event shall be deemed a sports competition even if the awards to victors or winners are only be nominal.

(D) “Recreational Sports” any sport that is conducted for leisure.

(E) “Non-competitive Sports” any sport conducted that is non covered by a sports competition.

(F) "Training" is the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies with the end of improving an athlete's capability, capacity, productivity, and performance. It may include physical education classes in educational institutions and sports clinics. A training shall be considered a sports competition if trainees are required, permitted, or authorized to engage in a match with the trainor or another trainee for resources and goods, prestige, promotion, recognition, awards, grades, social status, or for leadership

### **Section 3. *Prohibited Acts.***

(A) All minors are hereby prohibited from competing in any full-contact sports competition.

(B) Sports organization, associations, or event-organizers are prohibited from conducting full-contact sports competition participated by minors.

(C) Sports organization, associations, or event-organizers are prohibited from engaging the participation of minors in any full-contact sports competition.

(D) Schools, and sports education institutions are prohibited from inviting and encouraging the participation of minors in a full-contact sports competition.

(D) Parents or guardians are prohibited from authorizing or consenting to the participation of minors in a full-contact sports competition.

Provided, that, in any case, it shall not be a defense that the parent or guardian has consented to the participation of the minor in any full-contact sport competition. Neither shall be a defense that he/she did not know or was not aware of the real age of the minor.

Provided further that, if a partnership or a corporation owns the establishment, the managing partner/s, or the president of the corporation shall be jointly held criminally liable as conspirator with the person admitting or allowing such minor.

**Section 4. *Authorized participation in recreational or non-competitive sports.*** The preceding section is not applicable in semi-contact sports, limited-contact sports, or full-contact sports which are conducted as a recreational or non-competitive sport or for training. Provided, that the following conditions are complied with prior to the participation of the minor:

(A) The parent or guardian shall put in writing a consent form or letter, clearance, or permit which shall be submitted to the school, sports institution, sports organization, associations.

(B) Any sports organization, association, or event organizers, schools, and sports education institutions shall ensure that protective and safety measures are

established in the gymnasium, sports arena, and other areas where the sports are conducted and protective and safety gears are used by all participants.

(C) Any sports organization, association, or event organizers, schools, and sports education institutions shall ensure that the athletes or trainees are clothed with protective and safety gears appropriate for the sport they are engaged in.

(D) The parent, guardian, sports organization, association, or event organizers, schools, and sports education institutions shall ensure that the participating minor has undergone physical examination and has been cleared by a medical doctor for participation in such sports.

**Section 5. *Presumption.*** Unless proven otherwise, a minor who is found participating in any full contact sports competition is prima facie proof that the parent, guardian, sports association, organization, event organizer, school, sports educational institution permitted and consented to the participation of the minor.

**Section 6. *Penalties.***

(A) For 1<sup>st</sup> offense – a fine of P50,000 for violation of any provisions of this Act.

(B) For 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – a fine of P100,000, or revocation of business permit and license to operate, or both, at the discretion of the court

(C) For 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – a fine P200,000, or and closure of the establishment, or both at the discretion of the court.

**Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Department of Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

**Section 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or effect.

**Section 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*