



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5432



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SPORTS VARSITY TEAMS IN ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Due to the ever changing and fast phase world of technology, children and youth these days are most of the time stuck to their phone or laptops or any other gadget. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Philippines ranked second in the world with the most physically inactive adolescents. The same study provides that the Philippines had a physical inactivity prevalence of 93.4%¹.

The 1987 Constitution² provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. It also provides that all educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.

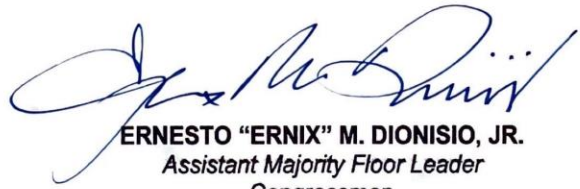
It is the duty of the State to protect and promote the wellness of the children and the youth. There are many laws enacted to promote physical activity and the health of the youth, an example of which is Republic Act No. 5708 otherwise known as The Schools Physical Education and Sports Development Act of 1969, it mandates the integration of physical education and sports development program in all schools in the Philippines³.

This bill aims to institutionalize sports varsity teams in elementary and secondary schools. It aims to develop and enrich the physical activities and health of the children and the youth. Further, through the sports varsity teams system, student-athletes will have a better chance and opportunity to train and play athletically at a higher level and will also result in the improvement of training of young athletes.

¹ WHO: PH youths 2nd most "inactive," next to S. Korea available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1193821/who-ph-youths-2nd-most-inactive-next-to-s-koreans> (last accessed on September 26, 2022).

² Article XIV, Section 19, 1987 Constitution.

³ Section 1, R.A. No. 5708.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Sports Varsity Teams in Basic Education Act.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote physical education and to ensure the development and promotion of the health of the youth. It is also hereby declared the policy of the State to encourage sports programs, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of the youth. Towards this end, the State shall provide opportunities for the development of Filipino athletes by expanding the base of student athletes, increasing the time and frequency for their early exposure, training and competition through the institutionalization of sports varsity teams in the basic education cycle.

Sec. 3. Organization of Sports Varsity Team. - To ensure the optimal and long-term development of Filipino athletes, public and private elementary and secondary schools shall, as far as practicable, organize and develop sports varsity teams. The school shall endeavor to gradually expand the number of sport events that holds according to the school’s after-school sports program, and the interests of the students, coaches and the community.

The establishment of varsity teams in traditional and indigenous games, dances and sports shall also be encouraged.

Sec. 4. Identification of Athletes. - The Department of Education (DepEd) shall provide a sports varsity selection and admission system to be implemented in all elementary and secondary schools.

All K-12 learners who are officially enrolled in Elementary, Junior High School, Senior High School, Open High School and Alternative Learning Systems, especially those who participate in the after-school sports programs (ASSP) and who can meet the following requirements shall be able to join the school's sports varsity teams:

- a. Must have passed the physical fitness tests and skill tests;
- b. With parental consent; and
- c. In good academic standing.

Sec. 5. Selection and Deployment of Competent Coaches. - It shall be the responsibility of the school administration to secure the services of competent coaches. Teachers, including sports coordinator, trained in sports coaching shall be the priority in the selection of coaches.

Former outstanding athletes from among the parents or community residents may be tapped to serve as volunteer coaches in the sports where they excel and gained national or international recognition. Students and graduates of the Sports Track in the Senior High School (SHS) shall also be tapped to provide assistance in the training of Sports Varsity Teams.

The Sports Varsity Teams may also serve as a venue for the practicum and/or immersion of students in the Sports Track.

Sec. 6. Recognition and Training of Coaches. - DepEd shall create a mechanism to provide incentives and/or recognition to volunteer coaches. The DepEd shall also establish an system of accreditation for coaches deployed to schools.

DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, Philippine Olympic Committee and the private sector, shall also develop programs to train varsity coaches to become certified trainers based on international standards.

Sec. 7. Time and Frequency of Training. - The implementing school has the discretion to determine the time and frequency of training of the varsity teams; provided, that the trainings shall be conducted after the regular class hours and shall not interfere with relevant academic activities of the students/

Sec. 8. Competitions. - Aside from the calendar of regular sports competitions conducted by the DepEd, private and public schools shall organize varsity match with neighboring schools. A league may be composed of public and private schools.

Elementary and secondary schools may also partner with existing stadiums and sports centers in the community to host varsity matches.

Sec. 9. Equipment for Sports Varsity. - It shall be the responsibility of the school administration to secure the equipment necessary to sustain the training of sports varsity teams. Such equipment may be sourced from regular budget and extra-budgetary means such as donations from the community.

The DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, shall be responsible for maintaining a databank of standard facilities and equipment, their technical specifications, suppliers and indicative prices of these facilities and equipment for every sport covered in international competitions.

Sec. 10. Performance Profiling of Student Athletes. - There shall be a school-based profiling of student athletes. In case a student-athlete transfers to another school, it shall be the responsibility of his/her former coaches to transmit his/her athletic profile to the new school to ensure his/her proper recognition and continuous training and development. The profile of the student-athlete shall show results of his/her previous competition/s and improvement in clocking in the case of measurable sports.

All elementary and secondary schools shall register and update their student athletes' profile from time to time.

Sec. 11. Registry of Student Athletes. - DepEd shall maintain a registry of student athletes and shall make this accessible to colleges and universities, Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, Philippine Olympic Committee and other private sport groups and organizations, subject to the requirements of the Philippine Data Privacy Act of 2012. The registry shall be used solely for identification of potential inclusion to varsity teams in colleges and/or universities, or in the case of the Philippine Sports Commission, for the selection of national athletes who shall represent the Philippines in international sporting events.

Sec. 12. Appropriation. - The funds necessary for the institutionalization of sports varsity teams, especially the provision of equipment, in elementary and secondary schools, shall come from the regular appropriation of DepEd.

Sec. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd Secretary and the Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 14. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 15. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this bill is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or provisions hereof shall remain in force.

Sec. 16. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (150 days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,