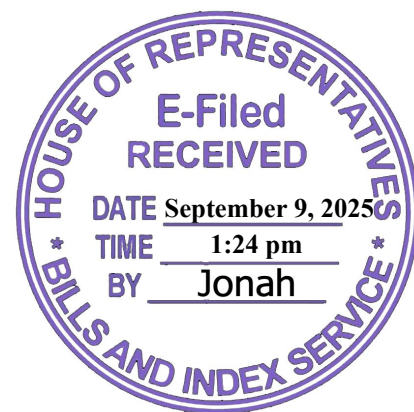


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4459



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

AN ACT
REDEFINING THE CRIME OF GAME-FIXING AND PRESCRIBING
STIFFER PENALTIES THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 19 of Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs and competitions to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of healthy and alert citizenry.

Sporting events inculcate values of perseverance, respect, commitment, hard work, humility, among many other moral virtues, especially to the youth. However, reported incidents of dishonest practices, unscrupulous schemes, and nefarious tactics defeat the purpose of fair competition. Game-fixing, point-shaving and game machinations undermine the goals of genuine sportsmanship.

This bill aims to redefine the crime of game-fixing and impose heavier penalties therefore. It proposes longer jail time and heftier fines for those who will be found guilty of game-fixing. Moreover, it perpetually disqualifies the offender from participating in any sports in any capacity. Perhaps, the biggest

deterrent could be the revocation of their license, removal from the sports teams and roster of sports associations, and ban from participating in any local or foreign competition.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is recommended.



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



BRYAN B. REVILLA

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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 “*Anti Game-Fixing Act*”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the growth and development of sports in the country and protect the youth from the influence of persons who, through fraudulent schemes and machinations, engage in the practice of game-fixing, point-shaving and other nefarious practices that subvert the spirit of sportsmanship and competitive sports among Filipino athletes.

Sec. 3. *Game-Fixing.* – Game-fixing refers to any act or series of acts, wherein any person or persons maliciously conducts or causes to be conducted any professional or amateur sports other than on the basis of honest playing skill or ability of the players or participants.

It shall include any arrangement, agreement or scheme wherein the skill or ability of any player or participant in a game, sport, race, or sports competition, shall be limited deliberately in order to influence the process or to produce a predetermined result.

The payment or receipt of money or valuable consideration shall constitute a *prima facie* evidence of game-fixing.

Sec. 4. *Other Forms of Game-Fixing.* – Game-fixing as defined in Section 3 hereof shall likewise include the following acts:

- a. *Point-shaving* refers to an such arrangement, combination, scheme, or agreement by which the skill or ability of any player or participant in a game, race or sports competition to make points or scores shall be limited deliberately in order to influence the result thereof in favor of one or the other team, player or participant therein; and
- b. *Game machinations* refer to any other fraudulent, deceitful unfair or dishonest means, method, manner or practice employed for the purpose of influencing the result of any game, race or sports competition.

Game-fixing in any of the forms defined in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act is hereby declared unlawful.

Sec. 5. *Proposal, Attempt and Conspiracy to Commit Game-Fixing.* – A proposal, attempt or conspiracy to commit game-fixing shall be punishable with the same penalty prescribed under this Act.

Sec. 6. *Covered Sports.* – As used in this Act, game-fixing may only be committed in the following sports:

- a. *Professional sports* shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contests, bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete is paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as regular

salary or prize for participation, which are licensed, accredited and recognized by the Games and Amusements Board; and

b. *Amateur Sports* shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contests, bouts, tournaments or competitions, including collegiate leagues conducted by public or private school athletic associations, whereby the participant is engaged largely or entirely without remuneration: *Provided however*, That local government unit (LGU)-sponsored, sanctioned or organized sports events or competitions shall not be covered in this Act.

Sec. 7. Penalties. – The following penalties are hereby imposed on the acts of game-fixing as herein described:

a. The penalty of imprisonment from three (3) years to six (6) years or a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed on any person found guilty of any offense found herein;

b. The penalty of imprisonment from six (6) years to twelve (12) years or a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, when the offender is an athlete, promoter, referee, umpire, judge, coach in the game, race or sports competition or any other sports official; and

c. The maximum penalty provided shall be imposed upon any person who pays or receives money or any other valuable consideration in furtherance of the crime of game-fixing.

Provided, That if the offender is a public officer, whether elected or appointed, an additional penalty of perpetual disqualification from holding any public office or employment, shall be imposed: *Provided, further*, That if the violation is committed by a partnership, corporation, association, or any juridical

entity, the partner, president, director, manager, trustee, estate administrator, or officer, who consents to or knowingly tolerates such violation, shall be held criminally liable as a principal: *Provided, finally*, That if the offender is an alien, the same penalties shall be applied and the offender shall be deported only after service of sentence.

Sec. 8. *Perpetual Disqualification from Participation in Amateur and Professional Sports.* – The following persons shall be perpetually disqualified to participate in any capacity in any sports in the country:

- a. Those engaged in professional sports if found guilty of game-fixing; and
- b. Those engaged in amateur sports are found guilty of game-fixing for the second time.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Games and Amusements Board (GAB), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and other concerned agencies shall be served copies of the decision and order disqualifying a person from participation in any capacity in any sports in the country.

Sec. 9. *Role of Concerned Agencies.* – The following agencies and instrumentalities shall be tasked to do the following in implementing Section 8 of this Act:

- a. The Games and Amusements Board (GAB) shall revoke the license of professional athletes and other sports officials;
- b. The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) shall remove athletes from the national team, including coaches and other sports officials, and ban athletes from participating in any amateur sports competition locally and abroad;

- c. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall ban primary and secondary student-athletes, including coaches and officiating staff, from participating in *Palarong Pambansa* and other DepEd-sponsored, sanctioned and organized sports events or competitions;
- d. The Philippine Olympic Committee/National Sports Associations shall remove athletes, coaches and other sports officials from their respective rosters;
- e. Athletic associations shall disqualify athletes, coaches and other sports officials from participating in any inter-school athletic programs and competitions; and
- f. Schools shall disqualify athletes, coaches and other sports officials from representing the school to any sports event.

The concerned agencies shall coordinate and monitor the strict implementation of the accessory penalty provided under Section 8 of this Act.

Sec. 10. *Immunity from Prosecution and Punishment.* – Any person who voluntarily discloses, testifies or assists in the prosecution of any of the offenses penalized herein shall be exempted from prosecution or punishment prescribed herein: *Provided*, That any person who has witnessed or has knowledge or information on the commission of a crime and has testified or is testifying or about to testify before any judicial or quasi-judicial body, or before any investigating authority, may be admitted into the “Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Program” as provided under Republic Act No. 6981.

Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – The provisions on game-fixing, point-shaving and game machinations in sports contests under Sections 1 to 4 of Presidential Decree No. 483, as amended, pertinent provisions of Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1602, and all other laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,