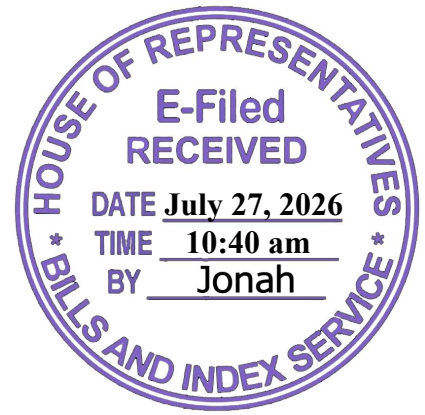


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10234**



Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sports play an important role in promoting the holistic development of the youth by improving physical health, strengthening mental and emotional well-being, fostering discipline, and developing teamwork and leadership. Beyond individual growth, sports also promote unity, camaraderie, and community participation, while serving as an avenue for discovering and developing talented Filipino athletes.

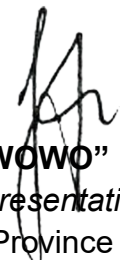
The Philippines has continuously produced athletes capable of competing and excelling at the highest levels of competition. However, many promising young athletes, especially those in local communities, continue to face challenges due to limited access to proper training facilities, sports equipment, financial assistance, and organized development programs. These barriers prevent many talented individuals from maximizing their potential and pursuing opportunities in competitive sports.

While existing programs support national sports development, there remains a need to further strengthen grassroots initiatives that directly benefit young athletes, local sports clubs, associations, and community-based organizations. Providing adequate resources and support at the local level will help create a stronger foundation for identifying, training, and developing future athletes who can represent the country in national and international competitions.

Therefore, this bill seeks to strengthen local sports development programs by providing financial assistance to young athletes, supporting local sports organizations, and improving access to sports facilities and equipment. Through the creation of dedicated support mechanisms, greater youth participation in sports is encouraged and athletic opportunities are made more accessible and inclusive.

Ultimately, this bill aims to develop a healthier and more active citizenry, empower young Filipino athletes, and build stronger communities through accessible and sustainable grassroots sports programs.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ATTY. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.
Representative
Second District, Province of Sorsogon

Twentieth Congress of the
Republic of the Philippines
Second Regular Session

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10234**

Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL SPORTS PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP
YOUNG ATHLETES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SEC. 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the Constitution 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.

Pursuant to the aforementioned policy, the State shall appropriate funds for the upgrade of sports facilities and extend financial assistance in the form of sports vouchers to mitigate the cost of participation in a sports club, recreation club, sports association, or sports organization of their choice: *Provided*, That the sports club, recreation club, sports association, or sports organization is duly accredited or recognized by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

SEC. 2. *Program Funds.* – To further promote sports and its benefits among the youth, the PSC shall allocate adequate resources to financially support the affiliation of young athletes, including those with disabilities, who cannot afford to join any local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization by reason of financial constraints. For this purpose, the PSC shall manage and administer three (3) separate funds, as follows:

- a. *Get Started Fund.* – The fund shall be used to assist young athletes, including those with disabilities, with a discount voucher of up to three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) annually to help pay for their membership, registration, participation, training, or general fees, including the purchase of sports equipment and uniforms. The vouchers can be redeemed at any sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization that is duly accredited or recognized by the PSC and has facilities and activities which can provide the

proper, well-equipped, safe, healthy, comfortable, and accessible venue, and opportunities for training and competition: *Provided*, That the voucher providers are registered with the program;

- b. Get Going Fund. – The fund shall be used to support local sports clubs, recreation clubs, sports associations, and sports organizations with funding of up to fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) annually for the sustainability of existing projects and programs that promote grassroots sports development; and
- c. Get Playing Fund. – The fund shall provide up to five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) annually in order to assist local sports clubs, recreation clubs, sports associations, and sports organizations in improving sports facilities and encourage more young athletes to become actively involved in the sports activity of their choice.

SEC. 3. *Eligibility Criteria.* – To avail of the sports voucher, the young athlete must be:

- a. Under the age of eighteen (18) and is actively engaged in any sports;
- b. A member of any local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization duly accredited or recognized by the PSC; and
- c. A resident in the locality where the sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization is located.

SEC. 4. *Conditions for the Use of the Voucher.* – The use of the sports voucher shall be governed by the following terms and conditions:

- a. It shall not be redeemable for cash;
- b. It is non-transferrable to any person except to another PSC-accredited or recognized local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization: *Provided*, That the transfer can be done only once a year: *Provided, further*, That the transfer must be applied before the actual use and enjoyment of the sports facilities;
- c. It cannot be reused once redeemed by any PSC-accredited or recognized local sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization; and
- d. Only one (1) voucher shall be payable to an eligible athlete per calendar year.

SEC. 5. *Sports Vouchers Providers.* – To be eligible under the program, the sports club, recreation club, sports association, or organization must be affiliated with a National Sports Association, duly recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the PSC.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PSC. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSC shall, in consultation with various national sports associations, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,