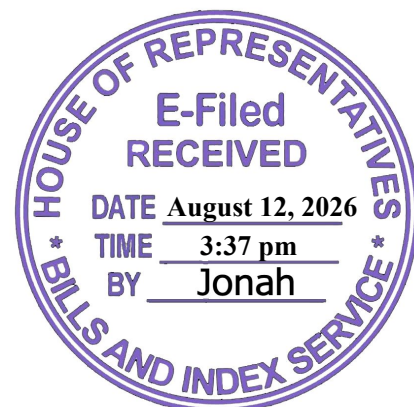




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

20th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10749**



Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sports can change a young person's life.

For many Filipino children and young people, the barangay court, school field, public gymnasium, or community sports program is where confidence begins. It is where discipline is learned, friendships are built, talent is discovered, and dreams of representing the country first take shape.

But talent alone is not enough.

A Filipino athlete may have the ability to compete with the best in the world, yet lose the opportunity because there is no proper coach, inadequate equipment, limited competition exposure, insufficient nutrition, lack of sports science, or no clear pathway from grassroots competition to elite training.

The Philippines therefore needs to stop treating sports development as a collection of short-term programs and start treating it as a long-term national investment.

The Roadmap for Sports Excellence Act establishes a clear national pathway:

Barangay → Municipality/City → Province → National Development → International Competition.

It begins where Filipino talent is first discovered—the community.

The bill strengthens grassroots sports by requiring every barangay, subject to available resources and existing facilities, to maintain or designate an appropriate space for sports and physical activity. It also establishes or designates Sports Development Centers at the municipal, city, and provincial levels to serve as venues for training, talent identification, competition, coaching, and athlete assessment.

At the national level, the bill strengthens Sports Excellence Centers and creates a coordinated system for athlete development, sports science, sports medicine, nutrition, mental wellness, coaching, competition exposure, and education.

Most importantly, the measure recognizes that an athlete is not just a medal-producing machine. Behind every medal is a young person who needs education, health care, mental wellness, protection from abuse, financial guidance, and a future beyond sports.

For this reason, the bill provides for student-athlete protection, athlete scholarships and support, safeguarding mechanisms, and a post-career transition program.

The measure also recognizes that sports excellence must be inclusive.

A child's chance to become an athlete should not depend on whether he or she was born in Metro Manila or in a remote barangay. Young women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous youth, economically disadvantaged athletes, and other underserved groups must have meaningful access to sports opportunities.

The proposed Twenty-Year Sports Excellence Roadmap will therefore provide government with something that Philippine sports has long needed: continuity.

Athlete development takes years. Coaches take years to develop. Sports facilities require long-term planning. International competitiveness cannot be built within a single administration or a single competition cycle.

The country needs a system that survives changes in leadership and remains focused on measurable outcomes.

The goal is not simply to produce more medals. The goal is to build a country where every talented Filipino child has a chance to be discovered, developed, supported, and given the opportunity to compete at the highest level.

A champion does not begin on the international stage.

A champion begins in a barangay.

This measure seeks to build the pathway from that barangay court to the world stage.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ
Representative
Lone District, Calamba City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10749**

Introduced by Honorable Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TWENTY-YEAR SPORTS EXCELLENCE
ROADMAP TO STRENGTHEN GRASSROOTS SPORTS, DEVELOP WORLD-CLASS
FILIPINO ATHLETES, AND PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE PATHWAY FOR SPORTS
EXCELLENCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Roadmap for Sports Excellence Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to recognize sports as an essential component of youth development, education, health, discipline, community building, and national pride.

The State shall establish a long-term, sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based sports development system that begins at the grassroots and provides a clear pathway for talented Filipino athletes to progress toward national and international excellence.

The State shall ensure that sports opportunities are accessible not only to athletes in major urban centers but also to young people in barangays, rural communities, geographically isolated areas, and underserved sectors.

SEC. 3. Objectives. This Act shall:

- a. Strengthen grassroots sports development throughout the country;
- b. Establish a clear and continuous pathway from grassroots participation to elite athletic performance;
- c. Identify and nurture promising athletes at an early stage;
- d. Improve access to qualified coaches, facilities, equipment, sports science, nutrition, and medical support;
- e. Strengthen coordination among the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), local government units (LGUs), national sports associations (NSAs), schools, universities, and private-sector partners;
- f. Develop athletes capable of competing successfully in regional, continental, world, and Olympic-level competitions;
- g. Protect the welfare, education, health, and future livelihood of athletes; and
- h. Establish measurable long-term targets for Philippine sports development.

SEC. 4. Twenty-Year Sports Excellence Roadmap. The Philippine Sports Commission, in coordination with concerned national government agencies, LGUs, DepEd, CHED, NSAs, the

Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Paralympic Committee, athletes' organizations, and other stakeholders, shall formulate and implement a Twenty-Year Sports Excellence Roadmap.

The Roadmap shall be divided into four (4) five-year phases:

Phase I – Grassroots Foundation and Talent Identification;

Phase II – Athlete Development and Competitive Readiness;

Phase III – Elite Performance and International Competitiveness; and

Phase IV – Sustainable Sports Excellence and Global Leadership.

The Roadmap shall be reviewed every five (5) years and updated based on measurable performance, scientific evidence, available resources, and emerging developments in international sports.

SEC. 5. Grassroots Sports Development Program. The PSC shall establish a nationwide Grassroots Sports Development Program in partnership with LGUs, schools, communities, youth organizations, and NSAs.

The Program shall provide opportunities for children and youth to participate in organized sports and shall prioritize communities with limited access to sports facilities, equipment, coaches, and organized competitions.

Existing community sports programs, including those implemented through LGUs and the Sangguniang Kabataan, may be integrated into the Program.

SEC. 6. Barangay Sports Development. Every barangay shall, subject to available resources and existing facilities, maintain or designate an appropriate space for grassroots sports and physical activity.

The Sangguniang Kabataan, in coordination with the Barangay Government, shall support grassroots sports activities, youth leagues, talent identification, sports clinics, and participation in local competitions.

The PSC and LGUs shall provide technical assistance, training, equipment, and other support subject to available appropriations.

Existing covered courts, school facilities, parks, multipurpose halls, and other suitable public facilities may be utilized.

SEC. 7. Municipal, City and Provincial Sports Development Centers. Every municipality, city, and province shall establish or designate a Sports Development Center using existing facilities whenever practicable.

The Centers shall serve as venues for:

- a. Sports training and clinics;
- b. Talent identification;
- c. Local competitions;
- d. Coaching development;
- e. Athlete assessment;
- f. Sports science and nutrition support;
- g. Equipment and facility sharing; and
- h. Athlete referral to higher levels of competition.

The LGU shall operate the Center in coordination with the PSC and appropriate local sports bodies.

SEC. 8. National Talent Identification and Athlete Development System. The PSC shall establish a national system for the identification, assessment, monitoring, and development of promising athletes.

The system shall provide for appropriate pathways from:

Barangay to Municipality/City to Province to Region to National Training and Development Programs to International Competition.

Athlete identification shall consider performance, potential, physical development, technical skills, sports-specific competencies, and other scientifically recognized indicators.

No athlete shall be excluded solely because of socioeconomic status, geographic location, disability, gender, or lack of access to private sports programs.

SEC. 9. Athlete Development Pathways. The PSC, in partnership with NSAs, DepEd, CHED, TESDA, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall establish development pathways for athletes at different stages of their careers.

The system shall provide, subject to applicable rules and appropriations, access to:

- a. Structured training;
- b. Qualified coaching;
- c. Competition exposure;
- d. Sports science;
- e. Sports medicine;
- f. Nutrition;
- g. Psychological and mental wellness support;
- h. Education and flexible learning arrangements; and
- i. Career and life-skills development.

SEC. 10. National Sports Training and Excellence Centers. The PSC shall strengthen existing national sports training facilities and establish or designate Sports Excellence Centers for priority sports.

These Centers shall provide high-level training, sports science, athlete assessment, coaching development, medical support, and preparation for international competitions.

Priority shall be given to sports with demonstrated potential for international competitiveness and sports with broad grassroots participation.

SEC. 11. Coaches and Sports Professionals Development. The PSC, in coordination with NSAs, educational institutions, and other stakeholders, shall establish continuing professional development programs for coaches, trainers, sports scientists, strength and conditioning specialists, sports psychologists, nutritionists, physiotherapists, and other sports professionals.

The development of qualified local coaches shall be prioritized, particularly in underserved areas.

SEC. 12. Sports Science, Medicine and Athlete Welfare. The State shall strengthen sports science and sports medicine as integral components of athlete development.

Programs shall include, as appropriate:

- a. Injury prevention and rehabilitation;
- b. Sports medicine;
- c. Nutrition and supplementation guidance;
- d. Physical and performance assessment;
- e. Mental health and psychological support;
- f. Anti-doping education and compliance; and
- g. Athlete safety and safeguarding.

All programs shall comply with applicable national and international sports rules.

SEC. 13. Student-Athlete Protection and Education. Student-athletes shall be provided reasonable opportunities to continue their education while undergoing intensive training and competition.

The PSC shall coordinate with DepEd, CHED, schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions to promote flexible and appropriate academic arrangements for qualified athletes.

No athlete shall be compelled to abandon education solely because of participation in high-level sports.

SEC. 14. Athlete Scholarships and Support. Subject to existing laws and appropriations, qualified athletes identified under the national athlete-development system may be prioritized for available scholarships, stipends, training assistance, equipment support, competition expenses, and other forms of assistance.

Priority shall be given to athletes with demonstrated potential for national and international competition and athletes from disadvantaged communities.

SEC. 15. National Sports Competition Pathway. The PSC, in coordination with LGUs, schools, universities, NSAs, and other stakeholders, shall strengthen a national competition pathway that provides regular opportunities for athletes to progress from community and local competitions to national and international events.

The competition system shall promote fairness, athlete safety, age-appropriate competition, and transparent selection mechanisms.

SEC. 16. Sports Facilities and Equipment Modernization. The PSC and concerned LGUs shall develop a national inventory and assessment of public sports facilities and equipment.

The Sports Excellence Roadmap shall establish priorities for:

- a. Rehabilitation;
- b. Upgrading;
- c. Accessibility;
- d. Safety;
- e. Equipment modernization; and
- f. Equitable geographic distribution.

Government shall prioritize the optimal use of existing facilities before constructing new facilities, whenever practicable.

SEC. 17. Inclusion and Accessibility in Sports. Sports-development programs under this Act shall provide equitable opportunities for women and girls, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, economically disadvantaged youth, and other underserved sectors.

The development of adaptive and para-sports shall form part of the national sports-development system.

SEC. 18. Athlete Safeguarding. The PSC and sports organizations receiving government support shall establish and enforce policies against abuse, harassment, exploitation, discrimination, bullying, and other forms of misconduct in sports.

All participating organizations shall provide appropriate reporting, referral, investigation, and protective mechanisms consistent with existing laws.

SEC. 19. Athlete Transition and Post-Career Program. The PSC shall establish an Athlete Transition and Post-Career Program to assist athletes preparing for life after competitive sports.

The Program may include:

- a. Education and scholarship opportunities;
- b. Technical-vocational training;
- c. Entrepreneurship;
- d. Employment assistance;
- e. Financial literacy;
- f. Coaching and sports-management pathways; and
- g. Other career-development programs.

SEC. 20. Private Sector and Community Partnerships. The PSC and LGUs may establish

partnerships with private enterprises, foundations, sports organizations, educational institutions, professional leagues, and other stakeholders to support sports development.

Partnerships may cover facilities, equipment, scholarships, athlete development, competitions, sports science, coaching, and other lawful activities.

SEC. 21. National Sports Development Database. The PSC shall establish a National Sports Development Database containing appropriate information on:

- a. Athletes;
- b. Coaches and sports professionals;
- c. Sports facilities;
- d. Competitions;
- e. Athlete development and performance;
- f. Scholarships and assistance; and
- g. Other information necessary for evidence-based sports policy.

The database shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

SEC. 22. Sports Excellence Indicators and Monitoring. The PSC shall establish measurable indicators for the implementation of the Roadmap, including:

- a. Grassroots participation;
- b. Number and geographic distribution of trained coaches;
- c. Number of athletes identified and developed;
- d. Access to sports facilities;
- e. Athlete retention and progression;
- f. National and international competition performance;
- g. Sports science and medical support;
- h. Athlete education and welfare; and
- i. Other indicators necessary to measure sports-development outcomes.

SEC. 23. Annual Philippine Sports Excellence Report. The PSC shall submit an annual Philippine Sports Excellence Report to the President and both Houses of Congress.

The Report shall include progress against the Twenty-Year Sports Excellence Roadmap, budget utilization, athlete-development outcomes, facility development, international performance, identified gaps, and recommendations for legislative and policy action.

SEC. 24. Inter-Agency Sports Development Council. There shall be established an Inter-Agency Sports Development Council, chaired by the PSC Chairperson or his/her designated representative.

The Council shall include representatives from DepEd, CHED, DILG, DOH, TESDA, DTI, DA, DBM, NEDA, LGUs, NSAs, the Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Paralympic Committee, and other concerned agencies and organizations.

The Council shall ensure policy convergence and shall not diminish the statutory mandates of participating agencies.

SEC. 25. Funding. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The PSC and concerned agencies may utilize existing appropriations for programs consistent with this Act, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, procurement, and auditing laws.

LGUs may provide counterpart funding for local sports programs and facilities subject to their fiscal capacity and applicable laws.

SEC. 26. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSC, in consultation with concerned government agencies, LGUs, NSAs, athletes,

coaches, sports organizations, academe, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 27. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 28. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 29. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.