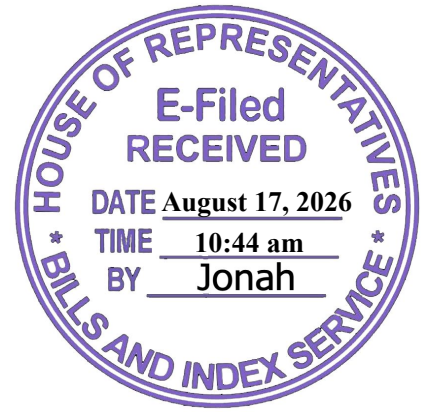


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10813**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sports play a vital role in shaping national identity and unity. It promotes essential values such as discipline, sportsmanship, teamwork, perseverance, resilience, and leadership, while providing young Filipinos with opportunities to develop their skills, build confidence, and become active and productive members of society.

The Philippines has a vast pool of young athletes participating in grassroots, school-based, local, provincial, regional, and national sports competitions. The Batang Pinoy National Championships and the Palarong Pambansa, among other national sports programs, provide thousands of young Filipinos with opportunities to compete, develop their athletic abilities, and pursue excellence in sports. These programs also serve as important avenues for identifying and developing athletes who may eventually represent the country in national and international competitions.

Numerous Filipino Olympians, Southeast Asian Games medalists, and national champions, including Hidilyn Diaz, Carlos Yulo, and Nesthy Petecio, began their athletic careers through grassroots and school-based sports programs. Their achievements demonstrate the importance of providing young athletes with sustained opportunities, proper support, and an environment conducive to athletic development.

Despite the talent and potential of Filipino young athletes, many face financial and structural barriers that prevent them from participating consistently and developing their abilities. The costs of training, membership and participation fees, equipment, uniforms, transportation, and access to suitable sports facilities can be beyond the means of many young athletes and their families. For local sports and recreation organizations, limited resources likewise constrain their ability to expand programs, accommodate more participants, and maintain or improve sports facilities.

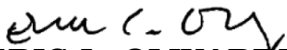
This measure seeks to address these barriers by establishing a state-supported grassroots sports program for young athletes through three complementary financial assistance initiatives to be administered by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

The "*Get Started in Sports Fund*" shall provide eligible young athletes with vouchers amounting to Three Thousand Pesos (₱3,000.00) to help defray membership, registration, participation, training, equipment, uniforms, and other reasonable sports-related expenses. The "*Get Going Fund*" shall provide Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) in assistance to qualified local sports and recreation organizations for projects that increase opportunities for young athletes to participate in organized sports and recreation programs. The "*Get Playing Fund*" shall provide up to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) to qualified local sports and recreation organizations for the improvement, rehabilitation, upgrading, or development of sports facilities.

To ensure the sustainability of these initiatives, an annual amount of Eighty Million Pesos (₱80,000,000.00) shall be made available for the implementation of the Act, subject to existing laws and the annual appropriations process.

Through these measures, the State can reduce financial barriers to sports participation, strengthen grassroots sports programs, improve access to sports facilities, and provide young athletes with greater opportunities to develop their abilities. More importantly, the measure seeks to establish a sustained and accessible government support system that will help young Filipinos pursue excellence in sports while contributing to the development of a healthier, more disciplined, and productive citizenry.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 10813

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“AN ACT
ASSISTING YOUNG ATHLETES BY PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND
INCENTIVES FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT”**

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 "*Young Athletes Assistance Act*."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies and Objectives. – It is the policy of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports in order to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human development. Corollarily, the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, amateur sports, grassroots sports development, and training for local, national, and international competitions as instruments for fostering self-discipline, teamwork, excellence, and the development of a healthy and productive citizenry.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) *Young Athlete*- refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age who actively participates or intends to participate in an organized sports or recreation program, including young athletes with disabilities;
- (b) *Sports or Recreation Organization*- refers to a sports club, recreation club, sports association, organization, or other entity duly accredited, recognized, or authorized by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) or otherwise qualified under the rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act; and
- (c) *Sports Facility*- refers to a venue or physical infrastructure used for sports training, practice, competition, or recreation.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the Funds. – Three (3) separate funds, to be known as the "Get Started in Sports Fund," "Get Going Fund," and "Get Playing Fund," are hereby established for the strengthening and development of grassroots sports programs for young athletes. The funds shall be administered by the

Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 5. Get Started in Sports Fund. – The Get Started in Sports Fund shall provide an annual voucher amounting to Three Thousand Pesos (₱3,000.00) to eligible young athletes who, by reason of their financial circumstances, cannot adequately afford the costs of participating in organized sports or recreation activities.

The voucher may be used to defray membership, registration, participation, training, equipment, uniforms, and other reasonable sports-related fees charged by sports or recreation organizations duly accredited, recognized, or authorized by the PSC.

The voucher shall be issued once per qualified young athlete per calendar year, subject to eligibility requirements and the availability of funds, and shall be non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

SECTION 6. Get Going Fund. – The Get Going Fund shall provide financial assistance to qualified local sports and recreation organizations in the amount of **Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) per qualified project** for the implementation, expansion, or sustainability of programs and activities that create and increase opportunities for young athletes to participate in and become members of organized sports and recreation programs.

SECTION 7. Get Playing Fund. – The Get Playing Fund shall provide up to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) per qualified project to qualified local sports and recreation organizations for the improvement, rehabilitation, upgrading, or development of sports facilities intended to increase access to safe and suitable venues for young athletes.

SECTION 8. Funding Requirements. – The amount of Eighty Million Pesos (₱80,000,000.00) annually shall be made available for the implementation of this Act, subject to existing laws, budgeting, accounting, auditing, and appropriations rules. The amount shall be included in the appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) under the annual General Appropriations Act.

The amount may be sourced from funds and revenues made available to the PSC under existing laws, including the National Sports Development Fund under Republic Act No. 6847, as amended.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSC shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its effective implementation.

The implementing rules and regulations shall provide for the eligibility and accreditation of beneficiaries and participating organizations; application, evaluation, and approval procedures; issuance and redemption of vouchers; release and utilization of grants; project implementation and monitoring; reporting

requirements; and such other measures as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 10. Accountability and Audit. – All funds released under this Act shall be subject to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, procurement, and reporting laws, rules, and regulations.

All beneficiaries and recipient organizations shall maintain complete records of the utilization of funds and shall submit such reports and supporting documents as may be required by the PSC and the Commission on Audit.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,