

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11140



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING SCHOOL-BASED SPORTS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS AND VARSITY TEAMS IN BASIC EDUCATION, PROVIDING
SUPPORT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution directs the State to promote physical education, sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, and requires educational institutions to undertake regular sports activities. Republic Act No. 5708, or the Schools Physical Education and Sports Development Act of 1969, likewise provides for an integrated physical education and sports development program in schools. Consistent with these mandates, the Department of Education has adopted policies supporting the organization of junior and senior varsity teams and the gradual expansion of school sports programs.

Despite these existing frameworks, implementation remains uneven. Many schools, particularly those that are small, geographically isolated, or economically disadvantaged, continue to face limitations in qualified coaches, facilities, equipment, training opportunities, competition, and medical and safety support. Some schools also lack the resources to maintain independent varsity teams or participate regularly in organized competitions.

This measure seeks to strengthen and institutionalize school-based sports development by establishing a clear and sustainable framework for varsity teams in elementary and secondary schools. Its implementation shall be phased and responsive to the resources, facilities, student population, and sports interests of each school or school cluster.

The proposed Act shall provide standards for the identification and development of student-athletes, training and recognition of coaches, provision of equipment, organization of training and competitions, maintenance of athlete records, and coordination among schools, local government units, the Philippine Sports Commission, national sports

associations, and other stakeholders. It shall also promote equitable access to sports, including traditional and indigenous games, while protecting the health, safety, academic welfare, and rights of student-athletes.

School sports contribute not only to athlete development but also to the physical, social, and personal growth of learners by fostering fitness, discipline, teamwork, leadership, resilience, and mental well-being. A properly supported varsity system can provide a structured pathway for grassroots talent development while ensuring that sports opportunities are accessible, safe, and inclusive.

The measure therefore seeks to complement and strengthen existing constitutional, legislative, and DepEd policies by providing statutory support for the sustainable and equitable implementation of school sports programs throughout the country.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to 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.

To this end, the State shall provide opportunities for optimal and long-term 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.

SECTION 3. *Institutionalization of Sports Varsity Teams.* – All public and private elementary and secondary schools shall establish or participate in a school-based sports development program, including varsity teams or inter-school sports clusters, subject to minimum standards, available resources, student interest, and the phased implementation plan prescribed under this Act.

The sports covered by the program shall include athletics, traditional and indigenous games, and other sports identified by DepEd in consultation with the PSC, relevant national sports associations, and other stakeholders.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act:

- a. *Sports Varsity Team* refers to a school-recognized group of eligible learners selected and trained to represent a public or private elementary
- b. *Student-athlete* refers to any learner officially enrolled in an elementary or secondary education program, including the Alternative Learning System, who is selected, authorized, or recognized by the school or an authorized school cluster to participate in organized sports training, competition, or related athletic development activities while continuing to fulfill the learner's academic responsibilities

SECTION 4. *Organization of Sports Varsity Team.* – The organization of sports varsity teams shall ensure the following:

- a. Presence of competent and committed teacher-coaches;
- b. Availability of facilities and equipment;
- c. Administrative support; and
- d. Support of the community.

SECTION 5. *Identification of Athletes.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall provide a sports varsity selection and admission system.

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 program (ASSP) and who can meet the following requirements, can join their 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.

SECTION 6. *Selection and Deployment of Competent Coaches.* – It shall be the responsibility of the school administration to secure the services of competent coaches. Teachers, including the sports coordinator, trained in sports coaching are 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. Likewise, students and graduates of the Sports Track in the Senior High School (SHS) shall 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.

SECTION 7. *Recognition and Training of Coaches.* – DepEd shall create a mechanism to provide incentives and recognition to volunteer coaches.

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

SECTION 8. *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 are conducted after the regular class hours and shall not interfere with instructionally relevant activities pursuant to engaging students in learning the lessons of the curriculum.

SECTION 9. *More Competition.* – Aside from the calendar of regular sports competitions conducted by the DepEd, private and public schools shall organize varsity matches with neighboring schools. A league may be composed of public and private schools.

Furthermore, elementary and secondary schools may partner with existing stadiums and sports centers in the community to host varsity matches.

SECTION 10. *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 for every sport covered in international competitions.

SECTION 11. *Performance Profiling of Student Athletes.* – There shall be a school-based profiling of student athletes. In case of a student athlete's transfer to another school, it is the responsibility of the former coaches to transmit the student's athletic profile to the new school to ensure proper recognition and continuous training and development. The student athlete's profile shall show results of previous competitions 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.

SECTION 12. *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 and shall be used solely for identification of potential inclusion to varsity teams in college and universities or in the case of the Philippine Sports Commission, selection of national athletes who can represent the Philippines in international sporting events.

SECTION 13. *Incentives.* – Recognitions and incentives shall be awarded to school coaches and school heads for their support to the organization and registration of their school varsity teams.

Teacher-coaches shall be given service credits and/or additional compensation or overtime pay for work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in accordance with the law.

SECTION 14. *Appropriations.* – 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.

SECTION 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education and the Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 16. *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.

SECTION 17. *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.

SECTION 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,