



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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 11252**



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**Introduced by Rep. ROBERT NAZAL**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SAFE SPORTS CENTER,  
INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL ATHLETE SAFEGUARDING SYSTEM,  
PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING ABUSE, HARASSMENT, EXPLOITATION,  
NEGLECT, RETALIATION, UNSAFE PRACTICES, AND SERIOUS SAFETY  
FAILURES IN SPORTS, PRESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF COVERED ENTITIES,  
PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS SPORTS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

On June 8, 2026, Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili died by drowning during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora. The Philippine Sports Commission subsequently formed a multi-stakeholder panel, while the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police initiated separate investigative action. As these investigations remain pending, this measure makes no finding regarding fault, negligence, or liability.

The tragedy presents a broader legislative concern: the responsibility of a sports organization does not end when formal training or competition ends. Camps, retreats, travel, billeting, swimming, recreation, and team-building activities conducted under institutional authority remain part of the sporting environment. These activities require proper risk assessment, competent supervision, emergency action plans, medical readiness, communication protocols, and clear accountability.

Drowning remains a major public-health concern. The World Health Organization reported that more than 300,000 people died from drowning worldwide in 2021. Children and young people accounted for fifty-seven percent of these deaths, while approximately ninety-two percent occurred in low- and middle-income countries. More than half of global drowning deaths occurred in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions.

The Constitution recognizes sports as an instrument of national development. Article II, Section 17 directs the State to give priority to sports, while Article XIV, Section 19 directs the State to promote physical education and sports programs to foster self-discipline, teamwork, excellence, and the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

These constitutional purposes cannot be achieved when athletes are exposed to abuse, harassment, exploitation, retaliation, unsafe training practices, inadequate supervision, preventable hazards, or deficient emergency response. Athletic excellence and athlete safety are not competing objectives. Safety is a necessary condition for sustainable participation and responsible sports development.

Republic Act No. 6847 created the Philippine Sports Commission as the policy-making and coordinating body for amateur sports development. Philippine sports, however, is administered through a dispersed structure involving the PSC, National Sports Associations, schools, local governments, leagues, clubs, coaches, volunteers, and private organizers. This structure permits valuable autonomy but may also produce different safeguarding standards, reporting mechanisms, investigative procedures, and emergency protocols among organizations.

Existing laws already address particular forms of abuse and misconduct. Republic Act No. 7610 protects children against abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, and discrimination. Republic Act No. 11313 penalizes gender-based sexual harassment in workplaces, educational institutions, training institutions, public spaces, and online settings. The Anti-Hazing Act, Anti-Bullying Act, Mental Health Act, criminal laws, civil laws, and child-protection statutes likewise provide applicable rights and remedies.

These laws do not yet create a unified sports-specific system for safeguarding education, risk assessment, emergency action planning, background screening, confidential reporting, interim protective measures, independent investigation, and recognition of sports-related sanctions across organizations.

The proposed Philippine Safe Sports Act addresses this institutional gap by creating the Philippine Safe Sports Center. The Center shall establish a National Safe Sports Code, receive and investigate serious safeguarding complaints, issue minimum safety standards, conduct education and certification, maintain appropriate records of sanctioned persons, and coordinate with law-enforcement and child-protection agencies.

The bill covers not only sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse, but also serious safety failures and unsafe practices. Covered entities must prepare written risk assessments and emergency action plans for training, competitions, camps, travel, billeting, team-building, swimming, open-water activities, and other high-risk undertakings.

Independent investigation is necessary where a sports organization may otherwise be required to investigate its own coaches, officials, employees, or programs. Independence protects athletes, complainants, witnesses, respondents, and the integrity of the institution itself.

At the same time, the bill preserves the proper autonomy of sports organizations. Team selection, playing time, technical coaching decisions, competition results, and ordinary game-related discipline remain with the appropriate sports bodies unless an identifiable safeguarding violation is involved.

The measure incorporates due-process safeguards. Respondents are entitled to notice, an opportunity to be heard, access to relevant evidence subject to confidentiality rules, representation, and appeal. Provisional measures may be imposed when necessary to protect athletes or witnesses, but they do not constitute a final finding of liability.

The United States Center for SafeSport illustrates both the need for an independent safeguarding institution and the importance of adequate resources and clear procedures. The Center reported receiving nearly 8,100 reports in 2024 and more than 32,000 reports since its establishment. Reports increased by more than 2,780 percent from 2017, demonstrating the substantial administrative demands placed on a national sports-safeguarding system.

The proposed Philippine system therefore requires precise jurisdiction, reasonable case timelines, periodic review of provisional measures, confidentiality protections, an appeals process, phased implementation, and proportionate compliance requirements for schools, National Sports Associations, local leagues, barangay teams, and grassroots organizations.

The measure is founded on a simple principle: the duty to protect an athlete follows the authority exercised over that athlete. It applies during competition and training, as well as during travel, camps, billeting, recreation, and team-building.

A medal cannot justify abuse. A championship cannot excuse neglect. Institutional prestige cannot be placed above an athlete's life, dignity, and safety.

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



**ROBERT NAZAL**  
Representative

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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PURPOSES**

*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 “Safe Sports Act.”

Sec. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the dignity, life, health, safety, welfare, development, and rights of athletes and all persons participating in sports.

The State recognizes that athletic excellence cannot be separated from athlete welfare. A sports system that develops athletes but fails to protect them from abuse, harassment, exploitation, neglect, retaliation, dangerous practices, preventable injury, and avoidable death is inconsistent with the constitutional policy of promoting sports, health, education, and human development.

The State further recognizes that sports activities are conducted through a diverse and decentralized system involving the Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, the Philippine Olympic Committee, the Philippine Paralympic Committee, educational institutions, local government units, professional and amateur leagues, clubs, academies, community organizations, private organizers, coaches, officials, volunteers, and parents.

Accordingly, the State shall establish a unified, independent, preventive, responsive, and proportionate national safe sports system that:

(a) Protects children, vulnerable adults, athletes, and other sports participants from all forms of abuse, exploitation, harassment, neglect, discrimination, retaliation, and unsafe practices;

(b) Establishes uniform minimum standards for athlete safeguarding, emergency preparedness, risk management, reporting, investigation, adjudication, and enforcement;

(c) Respects the lawful autonomy of sports organizations in technical, competitive, and internal sporting matters that do not involve safeguarding violations;

(d) Provides independent investigation and resolution of serious safeguarding cases;

(e) Observes due process and protects the rights of complainants, witnesses, respondents, and affected institutions;

(f) Provides practical and proportionate compliance obligations based on the nature, size, capacity, and risk profile of sports organizations; and

(g) Provides technical and financial support to grassroots, community-based, public school, and low-resource sports programs.

Sec. 3. **Objectives.** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

(a) Institutionalize a comprehensive national framework for safe sports and athlete safeguarding;

(b) Establish an independent Philippine Safe Sports Center;

(c) Prevent, identify, report, investigate, resolve, and sanction safeguarding violations;

(d) Establish minimum standards for child protection, protection of vulnerable adults, athlete welfare, medical safety, emergency preparedness, travel safety, supervision, and high-risk activities;

(e) Require covered entities to adopt Safe Sports Policies, reporting systems, risk assessments, and emergency action plans;

(f) Establish a risk-tiered compliance system that protects athletes without imposing unreasonable burdens upon grassroots and low-resource organizations;

(g) Establish appropriate screening, training, certification, and safeguarding-clearance requirements for persons exercising authority, supervision, custody, influence, or regular access over athletes;

(h) Protect complainants, witnesses, whistleblowers, and persons participating in safeguarding proceedings from retaliation;

(i) Establish clear due-process, confidentiality, data-protection, review, and appeal mechanisms;

(j) Promote coordination among sports organizations, educational institutions, local government units, law-enforcement agencies, child-protection authorities, health authorities, and other concerned agencies; and

(k) Strengthen public confidence in Philippine sports through integrity, accountability, and athlete-centered governance.

**Sec. 4. *Definition of Safe Sports.*** – Safe Sports refers to an environment, culture, system, and set of practices in which athletes and all sports participants are protected from physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, medical, digital, institutional, and environmental harm and are able to participate, train, compete, officiate, work, volunteer, travel, and engage in sports in a manner that promotes their health, safety, dignity, well-being, development, human rights, and pursuit of excellence.

**Sec. 5. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

(a) Abuse refers to any act or omission that causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, medical, digital, or other serious harm to an athlete or sports participant;

(b) Athlete refers to any person who participates in organized, competitive, recreational, school-based, community-based, amateur, professional, or other sports activity, whether or not such person receives compensation;

(c) Athlete support personnel refers to any coach, trainer, instructor, referee, official, team manager, medical personnel, therapist, nutritionist, psychologist, chaperone, volunteer, administrator, agent, or other person working with or assisting an athlete;

(d) Center refers to the Philippine Safe Sports Center created under this Act;

(e) Child refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age or any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who is unable to fully protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition, consistent with applicable law;

(f) Covered entity refers to any person, institution, association, organization, agency, league, club, school, academy, facility, local government unit, or other body covered by this Act;

(g) Grooming refers to deliberate conduct intended to establish trust, control, secrecy, dependency, or emotional connection with a child or vulnerable adult for the purpose of facilitating abuse, exploitation, sexual misconduct, or other prohibited conduct;

(h) High-risk activity refers to an activity that presents an elevated risk of serious injury, death, abuse, exploitation, isolation, or loss of immediate access to emergency assistance, including swimming, open-water activities, combat sports, extreme conditioning, mountain or wilderness activities, overnight camps, residential programs, team travel, and such other activities identified by the Center;

(i) Neglect refers to the failure of a person or entity with responsibility over an athlete or participant to provide reasonable care, supervision, protection, medical attention, emergency preparation, or other assistance required under the circumstances;

(j) Provisional measure refers to a temporary protective restriction imposed before final resolution of a case to protect an athlete, complainant, witness, respondent, organization, or the integrity of an investigation;

(k) Retaliation refers to any adverse action, threat, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, dismissal, demotion, exclusion, reduction of playing opportunities, withdrawal of benefits, or other prejudicial treatment because a person made a report, raised a safeguarding concern, participated in an investigation, or assisted another person in exercising rights under this Act;

(l) Safe Sports Officer refers to a trained and certified person designated by a covered entity to coordinate safeguarding compliance, reporting, education, incident documentation, and liaison with the Center;

(m) Safeguarding refers to the policies, systems, standards, actions, and practices intended to prevent, identify, report, address, and remedy abuse, exploitation, harassment, neglect, discrimination, retaliation, unsafe practices, and other threats to the dignity, safety, and welfare of athletes and sports participants;

(n) Safeguarding clearance refers to a time-limited certification stating the results of prescribed identity, criminal-record, administrative, disciplinary, and sports-sanction checks as of the date of issuance. It shall not constitute a guarantee that the person cleared poses no safeguarding risk;

(o) Serious injury refers to an injury requiring hospitalization, surgery, prolonged incapacity, substantial medical intervention, or such other condition defined by the Center;

(p) Serious safety failure refers to a substantial failure to undertake required risk assessment, supervision, preparation, communication, medical readiness, emergency response, or other safety measure that results in or creates a substantial risk of death, serious injury, near-drowning, hospitalization, or grave harm;

(q) Sports organization refers to any association, federation, league, club, academy, team, camp, training center, fitness center, event organizer, or similar entity engaged in sports activities; and

(r) Vulnerable adult refers to a person eighteen (18) years of age or older who, by reason of disability, illness, dependence, institutional placement, impaired capacity, power imbalance, or other circumstance, may be particularly susceptible to abuse, exploitation, coercion, neglect, or retaliation.

Sec. 6. **Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to:

(a) The Philippine Sports Commission;

(b) National Sports Associations;

(c) The Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Paralympic Committee, with respect to safeguarding coordination and activities within the Philippines;

- (d) Public and private educational institutions with sports, physical education, athletic, varsity, intramural, or extracurricular sports programs;
- (e) Professional, amateur, school-based, community-based, workplace-based, private, and recreational sports leagues;
- (f) Sports clubs, academies, teams, camps, clinics, fitness centers, training centers, and residential sports programs;
- (g) Local government units conducting, supporting, accrediting, or funding sports programs;
- (h) Sports event organizers, promoters, venue operators, facility operators, and contractors;
- (i) Coaches, trainers, instructors, referees, officials, administrators, medical personnel, volunteers, team managers, chaperones, agents, and athlete support personnel;
- (j) Parents, guardians, spectators, and other persons who participate in, accompany, supervise, or exercise authority or influence in a covered sports activity; and
- (k) Other persons or entities exercising authority, custody, supervision, influence, control, or regular access over athletes or sports participants.

**Sec. 7. *Guiding Principles.*** – The implementation of this Act shall be governed by the following principles:

- (a) Athlete welfare is a fundamental obligation of sports governance;
- (b) The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all decisions affecting a child in sports;
- (c) The protection of vulnerable adults and athletes at heightened risk shall be given appropriate priority;
- (d) Prevention, education, early intervention, and risk reduction are as important as discipline and sanctions;
- (e) The duty to protect an athlete follows the authority, custody, supervision, influence, or control exercised over that athlete;
- (f) Safe Sports obligations apply during training, competition, travel, camps, billeting, accommodations, recreation, team-building, conditioning, rehabilitation, medical treatment, online communication, and other sports-related activities;
- (g) Serious cases shall be investigated independently when an actual or potential conflict of interest exists;
- (h) Due process, fairness, proportionality, and impartiality shall be observed in all proceedings;
- (i) Confidentiality and data privacy shall be protected, especially in cases involving children, sexual misconduct, medical information, psychological records, and ongoing investigations;
- (j) A complaint shall not be considered false or malicious merely because it is dismissed, withdrawn, unsubstantiated, or not pursued;

(k) Technical sports decisions shall remain with the appropriate sports body unless such decisions involve or are used to conceal, facilitate, or retaliate for a safeguarding violation; and

(l) Compliance obligations shall be phased, practical, risk-based, and proportionate to the nature, size, resources, and capacity of the covered entity.

**Sec. 8. *Creation of the Philippine Safe Sports Center.*** – There is hereby created the Philippine Safe Sports Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, as an independent body attached to the Philippine Sports Commission for policy coordination, budgetary support, and administrative supervision only.

The Center shall exercise independent preventive, educational, investigative, monitoring, compliance, adjudicatory, and disciplinary functions under this Act. No officer or employee of the Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Association, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Paralympic Committee, professional league, educational institution, or other covered entity shall direct, reverse, modify, delay, suppress, or otherwise interfere with the Center's handling or resolution of an individual safeguarding case.

**Sec. 9. *Governing Board.*** – The powers and functions of the Center shall be exercised by a Governing Board composed of seven (7) members, as follows:

(a) One (1) Chairperson, who shall be a member of the Philippine Bar with at least ten (10) years of experience in law, adjudication, child protection, human rights, sports governance, labor relations, or administrative justice;

(b) One (1) member with substantial experience in child protection or social work;

(c) One (1) member with substantial experience in medicine, sports medicine, emergency medicine, public health, or athlete health;

(d) One (1) member with substantial experience in psychology, mental health, counseling, or trauma-informed practice;

(e) One (1) member with substantial experience in sports governance, sports administration, coaching, or athlete development;

(f) One (1) former national, collegiate, professional, or para-athlete with demonstrated experience in athlete welfare or advocacy; and

(g) One (1) member with substantial experience in disability rights, gender and development, human rights, education, or community-based sports.

At least three (3) members of the Governing Board shall be women.

The Chairperson and members shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of qualified nominees submitted by the Philippine Sports Commission after a transparent public nomination and screening process.

No more than two (2) members shall have been officers or employees of the same sports organization within the three (3) years immediately preceding their appointment.

Sec. 10. ***Qualifications, Term, and Removal.*** – The Chairperson and members of the Governing Board shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity, competence, independence, and commitment to athlete welfare.

They shall serve for a term of four (4) years without reappointment: Provided, That the initial appointees shall have staggered terms as prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations.

A member may be removed by the President only for serious misconduct, gross neglect of duty, incapacity, conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, material conflict of interest, breach of confidentiality, or other just cause, after notice and opportunity to be heard.

Vacancies shall be filled only for the unexpired portion of the term.

**Sec. 11. *Conflict of Interest and Inhibition.*** – The Chairperson, members, officers, employees, investigators, hearing officers, experts, and consultants of the Center shall disclose any actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest.

A person shall inhibit from participating in any matter involving:

(a) A current or former employer, client, organization, school, league, association, club, athlete, or respondent with whom the person had a material relationship within the preceding three (3) years;

(b) A relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity;

(c) A direct financial or professional interest; or

(d) Any circumstance that may reasonably place the person's impartiality in question.

The Center shall maintain written rules on disclosure, inhibition, substitution, and public reporting of conflicts of interest.

**Sec. 12. *Executive Director and Personnel.*** – The Governing Board shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be the chief administrative officer of the Center.

The Executive Director shall possess substantial experience in law, public administration, child protection, sports governance, human rights, social work, investigation, or administrative adjudication.

The Center may establish such divisions, regional offices, investigation units, hearing panels, education units, athlete-support units, and technical offices as may be necessary, subject to applicable civil service, compensation, budgeting, and auditing laws.

**Sec. 13. Powers and Functions of the Center.** – The Center shall:

- (a) Formulate, issue, periodically review, and enforce the National Safe Sports Code;
- (b) Establish minimum national standards for safeguarding, child protection, protection of vulnerable adults, athlete welfare, supervision, emergency preparedness, travel safety, facility safety, medical readiness, digital communication, overnight activities, swimming, open-water activities, and other high-risk undertakings;
- (c) Receive, assess, refer, investigate, hear, and resolve safeguarding complaints within its jurisdiction;
- (d) Issue urgent protection orders and impose provisional measures;
- (e) Impose administrative and sports-related sanctions authorized under this Act;
- (f) Maintain the National Safe Sports Registry;
- (g) Establish a secure and confidential reporting portal, hotline, and regional reporting channels;
- (h) Develop and accredit Safe Sports education, training, and certification programs;
- (i) Prescribe screening and safeguarding-clearance standards;
- (j) Conduct or direct compliance reviews, inspections, and audits;
- (k) Accredit, train, and supervise Safe Sports Officers and regional safeguarding coordinators;
- (l) Establish an Athlete Support and Advocacy Program;
- (m) Provide templates, manuals, protocols, advisory services, and technical assistance to covered entities;
- (n) Administer grants and support programs for grassroots and low-resource sports entities;
- (o) Coordinate with government agencies, educational institutions, law-enforcement bodies, child-protection authorities, local government units, and sports organizations;
- (p) Enter into lawful information-sharing and coordination arrangements, subject to data-privacy and confidentiality requirements;
- (q) Recommend legislative, administrative, and policy reforms;
- (r) Collect and publish anonymized and aggregated data on safeguarding reports, case outcomes, compliance, training, and emerging risks;
- (s) Submit annual reports to the President and Congress; and
- (t) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

**Sec. 14. *National Safe Sports Code.*** – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the organization of the Center, the Center shall promulgate the National Safe Sports Code.

The Code shall include:

- (a) Definitions and classifications of prohibited conduct;
- (b) Rules on child protection and vulnerable-adult protection;
- (c) Standards governing one-on-one interactions, locker rooms, changing areas, transportation, medical treatment, overnight travel, billeting, electronic communication, photography, video recording, and social media;
- (d) Rules on mandatory reporting and referral;
- (e) Risk-classification and proportionate-compliance standards;
- (f) Standards for background screening and safeguarding clearances;
- (g) Standards for risk assessments and emergency action plans;
- (h) Rules governing high-risk activities;
- (i) Complaint-intake, investigation, hearing, and adjudication procedures;
- (j) Evidentiary standards appropriate to administrative safeguarding proceedings;
- (k) Standards and review procedures for provisional measures;
- (l) Sanctions, restrictions, rehabilitative measures, and conditions for reinstatement;
- (m) Appeals procedures;
- (n) Confidentiality, records-management, and data-privacy rules;
- (o) Training and certification requirements;
- (p) Compliance audit and corrective-action procedures;
- (q) Rules on recognition and enforcement of sanctions imposed by covered entities, foreign sports organizations, and international sports bodies, subject to due process and Philippine law; and
- (r) Such other provisions necessary to implement this Act.

**Sec. 15. *Risk Classification of Covered Entities.*** – The Center shall classify covered entities as high-risk, moderate-risk, or low-risk, considering:

- (a) The participation of children or vulnerable adults;
- (b) The frequency and nature of one-on-one adult-athlete interactions;
- (c) The level of physical contact and risk of injury in the sport;
- (d) The intensity, duration, and environment of training;
- (e) The conduct of overnight, residential, off-site, travel, aquatic, outdoor, or isolated activities;
- (f) The size and geographic scope of operations;
- (g) The number of athletes, coaches, volunteers, and support personnel;
- (h) The history of safeguarding reports or serious incidents;
- (i) The financial and administrative capacity of the entity; and
- (j) Such other relevant factors prescribed by the Center.

High-risk entities shall comply with the full set of standards prescribed under this Act.

Moderate-risk and low-risk entities shall comply with obligations proportionate to their risk classification: Provided, That no risk classification shall exempt any entity or person from prohibitions against abuse, exploitation, harassment, grooming, retaliation, hazing, violent punishment, serious neglect, failure to report grave violations, or serious safety failures.

**Sec. 16. *Jurisdiction of the Center.*** – The Center shall have primary administrative and safeguarding jurisdiction over complaints involving:

- (a) Sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual misconduct, and grooming;
- (b) Child abuse, child neglect, child exploitation, and violations of child-safeguarding standards;
- (c) Abuse, neglect, exploitation, or coercion of vulnerable adults;
- (d) Physical abuse, hazing, coercive conditioning, violent punishment, and dangerous training practices;
- (e) Psychological or emotional abuse, bullying, humiliation, intimidation, harassment, and retaliation;
- (f) Abuse of authority, influence, trust, dependency, or institutional position by coaches, trainers, officials, administrators, medical personnel, or athlete support personnel;
- (g) Serious safety failures resulting in death, serious injury, near-drowning, hospitalization, or substantial risk of grave harm;
- (h) Failure to report serious safeguarding violations;
- (i) Failure to implement mandatory safety protocols, risk assessments, or emergency action plans for high-risk activities;
- (j) Knowingly allowing a suspended, restricted, ineligible, or banned person to participate in a prohibited capacity;
- (k) Suppression, concealment, alteration, fabrication, or destruction of material evidence;
- (l) Institutional interference with reporting, investigation, adjudication, or enforcement;
- (m) Retaliation against complainants, witnesses, whistleblowers, athletes, parents, volunteers, or persons assisting a proceeding; and
- (n) Other safeguarding violations defined in the National Safe Sports Code.

The jurisdiction of the Center shall be without prejudice to the jurisdiction of courts, prosecutors, law-enforcement agencies, child-protection authorities, labor tribunals, professional regulatory bodies, educational institutions, local government units, and other competent authorities under existing laws.

**Sec. 17. *Concurrent and Independent Proceedings.*** – Proceedings before the Center shall be administrative and safeguarding in nature and may proceed independently from criminal, civil, labor, school, professional, disciplinary, or other administrative proceedings.

The Center may suspend, defer, coordinate, or limit particular investigative steps when necessary to avoid prejudice to a criminal investigation, protect a child or vulnerable person, preserve evidence, or comply with a lawful order of a competent authority.

The Center shall immediately refer conduct that may constitute a criminal offense, child-protection violation, professional offense, or other violation of law to the appropriate authority.

**Sec. 18. *Matters Generally Outside the Center's Jurisdiction.*** – The following shall remain within the jurisdiction of the appropriate sports body, school, league, club, association, or event authority unless a safeguarding violation is involved:

- (a) Team selection;
- (b) Playing time;
- (c) Tactical or technical coaching decisions;
- (d) Competition results;
- (e) Ordinary eligibility rules;
- (f) Game-related officiating decisions;
- (g) Ordinary disciplinary matters arising from competition; and
- (h) Internal administrative matters unrelated to athlete safety, abuse, harassment, exploitation, neglect, discrimination, retaliation, or serious safety risk.

No technical or administrative characterization shall be used to conceal or avoid investigation of an identifiable safeguarding violation.

**Sec. 19. *Prohibited Acts.*** – The following acts are prohibited:

- (a) Sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual misconduct, grooming, or sexually suggestive conduct toward a child;
- (b) Inappropriate touching or contact without lawful, medical, safety-related, or sport-specific justification;
- (c) Physical abuse, violent punishment, hazing, coercive training, or dangerous conditioning;
- (d) Psychological or emotional abuse, bullying, humiliation, intimidation, threats, or degrading treatment;
- (e) Exploitation, forced labor, financial abuse, trafficking, or misuse of an athlete's image, services, dependency, or vulnerability;
- (f) Discrimination that materially impairs safe and equal participation in sports;
- (g) Retaliation;

(h) Knowingly permitting a suspended, restricted, ineligible, or banned person to perform prohibited functions;

(i) Failure to report a serious safeguarding violation involving a child, vulnerable adult, sexual misconduct, death, serious injury, near-drowning, hospitalization, or substantial risk of grave harm;

(j) Conducting a high-risk activity without the required risk assessment, competent supervision, safety equipment, communication procedure, emergency action plan, and medical or rescue preparation;

(k) Suppressing, concealing, altering, fabricating, or destroying material evidence;

(l) Obstructing, influencing, intimidating, or improperly interfering with a report, investigation, hearing, appeal, or enforcement action;

(m) Unauthorized disclosure of confidential safeguarding information;

(n) Falsification or misuse of a safeguarding clearance or Safe Sports certification; and

(o) Other acts declared prohibited under the National Safe Sports Code consistent with this Act.

**Sec. 20. *Child Safeguarding Standards.*** – Every covered entity serving or involving children shall adopt and enforce a written Child Safeguarding Policy consistent with this Act and the National Safe Sports Code.

Persons working with children shall:

(a) Respect the dignity, privacy, safety, development, and best interests of every child;

(b) Communicate in an age-appropriate and respectful manner;

(c) Maintain professional and appropriate boundaries;

(d) Conduct interactions, as far as practicable, in open, observable, and interruptible environments;

(e) Avoid private, isolated, or unsupervised one-on-one interactions except when reasonably necessary for medical treatment, emergency response, disability assistance, transportation exigency, lawful pastoral or counseling care, or another circumstance permitted by the National Safe Sports Code;

(f) Observe applicable rules on electronic communication, transportation, changing areas, locker rooms, overnight activities, billeting, photography, video recording, social media, and physical contact;

(g) Refrain from favoritism, manipulation, coercion, intimidation, humiliation, or conduct that creates emotional dependency;

(h) Report suspected child abuse, exploitation, grooming, or serious safeguarding violations; and

(i) Comply with all child-protection laws and lawful reporting requirements.

**Sec. 21. *Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Athletes at Heightened Risk.*** –

Covered entities shall adopt reasonable measures to protect vulnerable adults and athletes at heightened risk because of disability, illness, injury, dependency, displacement, financial hardship, language barriers, minority status, institutional placement, or substantial power imbalance.

Such measures shall include accessible reporting mechanisms, reasonable accommodation, appropriate communication support, support persons when necessary, protection from coercion, and safeguards against exploitation or retaliation.

**Sec. 22. *Mandatory Risk Assessments and Emergency Action Plans.*** –

Covered entities shall prepare, document, periodically review, and implement risk assessments and emergency action plans for sports-related activities.

The risk assessment shall consider:

- (a) The nature and location of the activity;
- (b) Weather, water, terrain, traffic, equipment, facility, and environmental conditions;
- (c) The age, health, disability, swimming ability, experience, and physical capacity of participants;
- (d) The competence and number of supervisors;
- (e) Transportation and accommodation arrangements;
- (f) Access to medical, rescue, police, fire, and emergency services;
- (g) Communication systems and emergency contact procedures;
- (h) Foreseeable abuse, supervision, security, and safeguarding risks; and
- (i) Other hazards identified by the Center.

The emergency action plan shall, as applicable, provide for:

- (a) The designation of responsible personnel;
- (b) Emergency communications;
- (c) First aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, rescue, and medical response;
- (d) Evacuation, lockdown, missing-person, and severe-weather procedures;
- (e) Water-safety and drowning-response procedures;
- (f) Access to emergency equipment;
- (g) Transportation to an appropriate medical facility;
- (h) Notification of parents, guardians, schools, organizations, and authorities;
- (i) Documentation and preservation of evidence; and
- (j) Post-incident support and review.

**Sec. 23. *High-Risk Activities.*** – Swimming, open-water activities, mountain and wilderness activities, combat-sport training, extreme conditioning, overnight camps, residential programs, team-building activities involving substantial physical risk, and other high-risk undertakings designated by the Center shall be subject to enhanced standards.

Enhanced standards may include:

- (a) Prior written approval by the responsible entity;
- (b) Activity-specific risk assessment;
- (c) Qualified and adequate supervision;
- (d) Competency verification of instructors, guides, lifeguards, or rescue personnel;
- (e) Participant screening and informed consent;
- (f) Required safety and rescue equipment;
- (g) Weather and environmental monitoring;
- (h) Buddy systems and participant-accounting procedures;
- (i) Immediate access to emergency communications;
- (j) A pre-identified medical and evacuation route; and
- (k) Such other measures prescribed by the Center.

**Sec. 24. Duties of Covered Entities.** – Every covered entity shall, in accordance with its risk classification:

- (a) Adopt and publish a Safe Sports Policy consistent with this Act;
- (b) Designate or obtain access to a certified Safe Sports Officer;
- (c) Establish accessible, confidential, and age-appropriate reporting mechanisms;
- (d) Conduct lawful background screening and require safeguarding clearances when prescribed;
- (e) Require Safe Sports education, orientation, and certification;
- (f) Implement child-protection and vulnerable-adult safeguards;
- (g) Conduct risk assessments and prepare emergency action plans;
- (h) Maintain appropriate supervision ratios;
- (i) Keep accurate records of activities, travel, camps, personnel assignments, incidents, injuries, and reports;
- (j) Report serious incidents and safeguarding violations;
- (k) Cooperate with lawful investigations, hearings, audits, and enforcement actions;
- (l) Preserve relevant records and evidence;
- (m) Recognize and enforce applicable suspensions, restrictions, ineligibility decisions, and bans;
- (n) Protect complainants, witnesses, and participants from retaliation;
- (o) Submit periodic compliance reports; and
- (p) Undertake corrective action when directed by the Center.

**Sec. 25. Safe Sports Officers.** – High-risk and moderate-risk covered entities shall designate at least one certified Safe Sports Officer.

A Safe Sports Officer shall:

- (a) Coordinate compliance with this Act;

- (b) Receive and document reports;
- (c) Make required referrals;
- (d) Coordinate education and training;
- (e) Assist in risk assessment and emergency planning;
- (f) Serve as liaison with the Center;
- (g) Maintain safeguarding records subject to confidentiality requirements; and
- (h) Perform such other functions prescribed by the Center.

Low-risk entities, small clubs, barangay teams, public schools, and community organizations may share a Safe Sports Officer through an LGU, school division, league, National Sports Association, regional sports council, or consortium approved by the Center.

A Safe Sports Officer shall not investigate or decide a complaint when the officer has an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest.

**Sec. 26. *Mandatory Reporting.*** – A coach, trainer, official, administrator, medical personnel, teacher, Safe Sports Officer, chaperone, volunteer, team manager, or other person exercising authority, custody, supervision, or regular access over athletes shall promptly report to the Center any reasonable suspicion or knowledge of:

- (a) Sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual misconduct, or grooming;
- (b) Child abuse, child exploitation, or serious child neglect;
- (c) Abuse or exploitation of a vulnerable adult;
- (d) Death, serious injury, near-drowning, hospitalization, or serious safety failure;
- (e) Hazing, violent punishment, dangerous conditioning, or substantial risk of grave harm;
- (f) Retaliation or intimidation relating to a safeguarding report; or
- (g) Other serious violations identified by the Center.

Reports required under this section shall be made without prejudice to separate and immediate reporting obligations under child-protection, criminal, school, professional, labor, or other applicable laws.

A reporter shall not be required to establish probable cause, prove liability, or conduct an independent investigation before making a report.

**Sec. 27. *Good-Faith Reporting and Protection Against Retaliation.*** – No person shall be subject to civil, administrative, disciplinary, employment, membership, academic, team, or sports-related retaliation for making a report or participating in a proceeding in good faith.

Covered entities shall immediately act to prevent, stop, and remedy retaliation.

The Center may issue protective directions, restore access or benefits, prohibit contact, preserve team or educational participation when practicable, or impose other measures necessary to address retaliation.

**Sec. 28. *Safeguarding Clearances and Background Screening.*** – The Center shall establish a safeguarding-clearance system for persons who exercise authority, custody, supervision, influence, or regular access over children, vulnerable adults, residential athletes, or other participants identified by the Center.

The clearance process may include:

- (a) Identity verification;
- (b) National Bureau of Investigation and police clearances;
- (c) Final criminal convictions relevant to safeguarding duties;
- (d) Final administrative, professional, school, employment, or sports-disciplinary findings relevant to safeguarding;
- (e) Final suspensions, restrictions, declarations of ineligibility, or bans recorded in the National Safe Sports Registry; and
- (f) Such other lawful and relevant information prescribed by the Center.

A safeguarding clearance shall:

- (a) State the checks performed and the date of issuance;
- (b) Be valid only for the period prescribed by the Center;
- (c) Be subject to renewal and continuing disclosure duties;
- (d) Not be interpreted as a guarantee of future conduct or absence of risk;
- (e) Be subject to correction, review, and appeal procedures; and
- (f) Be handled in accordance with data-privacy, confidentiality, retention, and deletion requirements.

Pending complaints shall not automatically result in denial of a clearance unless a lawful provisional restriction has been imposed after an individualized risk assessment.

**Sec. 29. *Education, Training, and Certification.*** – The Center shall establish tiered Safe Sports education, training, and certification programs for:

- (a) Athletes;
- (b) Parents and guardians;
- (c) Coaches, trainers, instructors, and officials;
- (d) Teachers and school administrators;
- (e) Medical and athlete support personnel;
- (f) Volunteers and chaperones;
- (g) Sports administrators and governing-board members;
- (h) Safe Sports Officers;
- (i) Event and facility operators; and
- (j) Local government personnel involved in sports programs.

Certification may be required as a condition for coaching, officiating, team management, chaperoning, working with children, receiving public sports funding, obtaining accreditation, using public facilities, or participating in government-supported sports programs.

Training shall be accessible, age-appropriate, disability-inclusive, culturally responsive, and available through online, regional, local, and community-based delivery.

**Sec. 30. *Reporting Portal and Initial Assessment.*** – The Center shall establish secure and accessible reporting channels, including a hotline, online portal, written reporting process, and regional or local referral mechanisms.

Upon receipt of a report, the Center shall conduct an initial assessment to determine:

- (a) Whether immediate protection is necessary;
- (b) Whether the matter falls within the Center’s jurisdiction;
- (c) Whether referral to law enforcement, child-protection authorities, medical services, schools, employers, professional bodies, or other agencies is required;
- (d) Whether provisional measures should be imposed;
- (e) Whether the matter may be resolved through corrective compliance measures; and
- (f) The appropriate investigative and adjudicatory procedure.

**Sec. 31. *Provisional Measures.*** – The Center may impose provisional measures when there are reasonable grounds to believe that such measures are necessary to:

- (a) Protect an athlete, child, vulnerable adult, complainant, witness, or other person;
- (b) Prevent retaliation, intimidation, interference, or further harm;
- (c) Preserve evidence;
- (d) Protect the integrity of an investigation or proceeding; or
- (e) Address a substantial and immediate safety risk.

Provisional measures may include:

- (a) No-contact directives;
- (b) Temporary suspension from coaching, officiating, management, volunteering, employment, competition, training, travel, or access to facilities;
- (c) Restrictions on contact with children or vulnerable adults;
- (d) Temporary reassignment or removal from supervisory duties;
- (e) Required supervision;
- (f) Temporary restrictions on travel, accommodation, or communication;
- (g) Preservation orders; and

(h) Other proportionate protective measures.

Provisional measures shall:

- (a) Be based on an individualized assessment;
- (b) Be stated in writing, with the factual and legal basis disclosed to the extent permitted by confidentiality and safety requirements;
- (c) Not constitute a final finding of liability;
- (d) Be narrowly tailored and proportionate;
- (e) Be subject to prompt review upon request; and
- (f) Be periodically reviewed at intervals prescribed by the Center.

**Sec. 32. *Investigation.*** – Investigations shall be impartial, timely, trauma-informed, child-sensitive, and appropriate to the nature of the allegation.

The Center may:

- (a) Require written statements and relevant records;
- (b) Interview complainants, respondents, witnesses, and experts;
- (c) Inspect facilities and activity sites;
- (d) Require preservation and production of relevant documents, recordings, communications, medical records, activity plans, travel records, and incident reports, subject to law;
- (e) Coordinate with law-enforcement, child-protection, health, education, and other authorities;
- (f) Engage qualified independent investigators or experts; and
- (g) Take such other lawful steps necessary to determine the facts.

Children and vulnerable persons shall be interviewed only by qualified personnel using appropriate methods that minimize repeated questioning and unnecessary trauma.

**Sec. 33. *Rights of the Complainant and Affected Athletes.*** – A complainant and affected athlete shall have the right to:

- (a) Be treated with dignity, respect, fairness, and sensitivity;
- (b) Receive information concerning the process and available support;
- (c) Be accompanied by counsel, a parent, guardian, support person, or advocate, subject to reasonable procedural rules;
- (d) Request protective and accessibility measures;
- (e) Present evidence and identify witnesses;
- (f) Be informed of material developments and the disposition of the case, subject to confidentiality requirements;
- (g) Be protected from retaliation; and
- (h) Receive referrals for medical, psychological, legal, social-welfare, educational, or other appropriate assistance.

**Sec. 34. *Rights of the Respondent.*** – A respondent shall have the right to:

- (a) Written notice of the material allegations;
- (b) A reasonable opportunity to answer and present evidence;
- (c) Access to relevant evidence, subject to lawful confidentiality, privilege, child-protection, safety, and privacy limitations;
- (d) Representation by counsel or another authorized representative;
- (e) An impartial investigator, hearing officer, and appellate body;
- (f) A written decision stating the factual findings, applicable standards, and sanctions;
- (g) Review of provisional measures; and
- (h) Appeal in accordance with this Act.

No adverse final finding shall be based solely on undisclosed evidence that the respondent had no meaningful opportunity to address, except when disclosure is prohibited by law and appropriate procedural safeguards are provided.

**Sec. 35. *Administrative Standard of Proof.*** – The Center shall determine administrative safeguarding liability on the basis of substantial evidence, or such higher administrative standard as may be prescribed by the National Safe Sports Code for particular classes of cases.

The absence of criminal prosecution, dismissal of a criminal complaint, acquittal, or failure to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt shall not, by itself, preclude administrative safeguarding proceedings or findings based on the applicable administrative standard.

**Sec. 36. *Decisions and Sanctions.*** – Upon a finding of liability, the Center may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

- (a) Warning or reprimand;
- (b) Mandatory education, counseling, supervision, or corrective training;
- (c) Compliance order or corrective-action plan;
- (d) Restriction on specified activities, duties, access, travel, communication, or contact;
- (e) Suspension for a definite period;
- (f) Ineligibility to coach, train, officiate, manage, volunteer, work, or participate in covered activities;
- (g) Permanent ban from specified or all covered sports activities;
- (h) Revocation or suspension of Safe Sports certification or safeguarding clearance;
- (i) Recommendation for suspension, withdrawal, or revocation of accreditation, public funding, facility access, hosting rights, or government support;
- (j) Administrative fine, when expressly authorized and subject to standards prescribed in the National Safe Sports Code;

- (k) Required restitution or reimbursement of improperly obtained benefits, when appropriate and lawful;
- (l) Institutional compliance monitoring; and
- (m) Such other administrative or sports-related sanctions consistent with this Act.

Sanctions shall be proportionate to the gravity, duration, frequency, effect, intent, position of authority, vulnerability of the affected person, prior violations, cooperation, acknowledgment of responsibility, corrective action, and other relevant circumstances.

No sanction under this Act shall preclude civil, criminal, labor, school, professional, or other administrative liability.

**Sec. 37. *Institutional Accountability.*** – A covered entity may be held administratively accountable for:

- (a) Failure to adopt or implement mandatory safeguarding policies;
- (b) Failure to conduct required risk assessments or emergency planning;
- (c) Failure to report serious violations;
- (d) Knowing retention, deployment, or concealment of a person who is suspended, restricted, ineligible, or banned;
- (e) Failure to cooperate with a lawful investigation or order;
- (f) Retaliation or tolerance of retaliation;
- (g) Destruction, concealment, or falsification of records;
- (h) Repeated failure to comply with corrective orders; or
- (i) A pattern of serious safeguarding failures attributable to deficient governance, supervision, or institutional controls.

Before imposing sanctions for remediable administrative deficiencies that do not involve immediate danger or grave misconduct, the Center shall ordinarily provide notice and a reasonable opportunity to undertake corrective action.

**Sec. 38. *Safe Sports Appeals Panel.*** – There is hereby established a Safe Sports Appeals Panel independent from the investigative and first-instance adjudicatory divisions of the Center.

The Appeals Panel shall be composed of a roster of qualified persons with substantial experience in law, adjudication, sports governance, child protection, human rights, medicine, psychology, education, or administrative justice.

An appeal shall be heard by three (3) members selected in accordance with rules on impartiality, independence, expertise, and conflict of interest. No member who participated in the investigation, provisional-measure review, hearing, or initial decision may participate in the appeal.

The Appeals Panel may affirm, reverse, modify, remand, or set aside a decision for:

- (a) Serious error of fact or law;
- (b) Denial of due process;
- (c) Abuse of discretion;
- (d) Material procedural irregularity;
- (e) Newly discovered evidence that could not reasonably have been presented earlier; or
- (f) Manifestly disproportionate sanction.

**Sec. 39. *Finality and Judicial Review.*** – Decisions of the Appeals Panel shall become final and executory after the lapse of the period prescribed in the National Safe Sports Code.

Nothing in this Act shall preclude judicial review in accordance with the Constitution, applicable laws, and the Rules of Court.

**Sec. 40. *National Safe Sports Registry.*** – The Center shall establish and maintain a secure National Safe Sports Registry containing:

- (a) Final suspensions, restrictions, declarations of ineligibility, and permanent bans;
- (b) Provisional restrictions necessary for the protection of athletes or the enforcement of this Act;
- (c) Final institutional sanctions;
- (d) Safeguarding-clearance status, where authorized; and
- (e) Such other information necessary to implement this Act.

The Registry shall distinguish clearly between provisional measures and final sanctions.

Access shall be differentiated according to legitimate purpose. Information may be made available to sports organizations, schools, employers, government agencies, parents, athletes, or the public only to the extent necessary for athlete protection, lawful hiring or accreditation, enforcement, or another purpose authorized by law.

The Center shall establish procedures for notice, correction, annotation, review, retention, archiving, deletion, and appeal.

**Sec. 41. *Recognition of Sanctions.*** – Covered entities shall recognize and enforce final suspensions, restrictions, ineligibility decisions, and bans issued by the Center.

The Center may recognize a sanction imposed by a Philippine sports organization, foreign sports organization, international federation, educational institution, professional body, or competent authority when:

- (a) The issuing body had jurisdiction;

- (b) The affected person received basic due process;
- (c) The decision is final or immediately enforceable;
- (d) Recognition is not contrary to Philippine law, public policy, or fundamental fairness; and
- (e) Recognition is necessary and proportionate to athlete protection.

A person affected by recognition of a foreign or external sanction shall be given notice and a reasonable opportunity to contest recognition.

**Sec. 42. Confidentiality and Data Privacy.** – Reports, proceedings, records, personal information, medical information, psychological records, and investigation materials obtained under this Act shall be confidential.

Disclosure may be made only:

- (a) When required by law or lawful order;
- (b) When necessary to protect a child, vulnerable adult, athlete, witness, or the public;
- (c) When necessary for due process;
- (d) For referral to a competent authority;
- (e) For enforcement of a sanction or protective measure;
- (f) With the informed consent of the person concerned, when legally permissible; or
- (g) In anonymized or aggregated form for research, policy, public reporting, or education.

The Center and covered entities shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” and other applicable laws.

**Sec. 43. False or Malicious Complaints and Fabricated Evidence.** – A person who knowingly files a false or malicious complaint, fabricates material evidence, deliberately induces false testimony, or acts in bad faith may be subject to appropriate administrative or disciplinary sanctions, without prejudice to other remedies under law.

No complaint shall be considered false or malicious solely because it is dismissed, withdrawn, unsubstantiated, not prosecuted, or resolved in favor of the respondent.

A complainant shall not be sanctioned for an honest mistake, inability to recall, delayed reporting, inconsistency attributable to trauma or age, or failure to prove an allegation under the applicable standard.

**Sec. 44. Athlete Support and Advocacy Program.** – The Center shall establish an Athlete Support and Advocacy Program to provide:

- (a) Information concerning rights and procedures;
- (b) Assistance in navigating reporting and investigation processes;

(c) Referral to medical, psychological, counseling, social-welfare, legal-aid, and emergency services;

(d) Child-sensitive and disability-accessible support;

(e) Assistance to parents, guardians, witnesses, and affected teams;

(f) Reintegration and return-to-sport support when appropriate; and

(g) Other assistance necessary to reduce harm and promote recovery.

**Sec. 45. *Regional Safeguarding Coordinators.*** – The Center shall establish regional safeguarding coordination mechanisms to assist local government units, public schools, barangay sports programs, small clubs, and low-resource organizations.

Regional safeguarding coordinators may:

(a) Serve as shared Safe Sports Officers for qualified low-risk entities;

(b) Receive and refer reports;

(c) Conduct training and orientation;

(d) Assist in preparing policies, risk assessments, and emergency action plans;

(e) Coordinate with local law-enforcement, health, education, and social-welfare authorities; and

(f) Provide such other technical assistance authorized by the Center.

**Sec. 46. *Safe Sports Support Program.*** – There is hereby established a Safe Sports Support Program to assist public schools, barangay sports programs, local government units, community leagues, small clubs, organizations serving persons with disabilities, and sports programs in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

Subject to appropriations and applicable budgeting, procurement, accounting, and auditing laws, assistance may include:

(a) Training scholarships;

(b) Shared Safe Sports Officers;

(c) Grants for emergency equipment, communication systems, first-aid supplies, and protective equipment;

(d) Development of safeguarding policies and reporting systems;

(e) Background-screening and clearance subsidies;

(f) Technical assistance for risk assessments and emergency action plans;

(g) Accessible reporting and training materials;

(h) Regional compliance support; and

(i) Other necessary safeguarding assistance.

Priority shall be given to entities serving children, vulnerable adults, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Cultural Communities, and underserved communities.

**Sec. 47. *Funding, Accreditation, and Compliance Incentives.*** – Compliance with this Act and the National Safe Sports Code may be required as a condition for:

- (a) Receipt of public sports funding or grants;
- (b) Accreditation or recognition by the Philippine Sports Commission or another government agency;
- (c) Use of publicly owned sports facilities;
- (d) Hosting government-supported competitions or events;
- (e) Participation in publicly funded sports programs;
- (f) Appointment or accreditation as a coach, official, chaperone, or support person; and
- (g) Such other privileges or benefits prescribed by law or regulation.

The Center may establish recognition and incentive programs for exemplary compliance and athlete-centered safeguarding practices.

**Sec. 48. *Inter-Agency Safe Sports Council.*** – An Inter-Agency Safe Sports Council is hereby created to support coordination among the Center and concerned agencies.

The Council shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Center and shall include authorized representatives from:

- (a) The Philippine Sports Commission;
- (b) The Department of Education;
- (c) The Commission on Higher Education;
- (d) The Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- (e) The Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- (f) The Department of Health;
- (g) The Department of Justice;
- (h) The Philippine National Police;
- (i) The National Bureau of Investigation;
- (j) The Commission on Human Rights;
- (k) The National Council on Disability Affairs;
- (l) The Philippine Commission on Women;
- (m) The Philippine Olympic Committee;
- (n) The Philippine Paralympic Committee; and
- (o) Such other agencies or organizations as may be necessary.

The Council shall coordinate referral protocols, emergency response, child protection, information sharing, training, public awareness, and implementation without interfering with the Center's independence in individual cases.

**Sec. 49. *Relationship with Existing Laws and Institutional Authority.*** – Nothing in this Act shall diminish rights, duties, remedies, jurisdiction, or liabilities under existing laws on child protection, violence against women and children, sexual harassment, safe spaces, anti-hazing, anti-bullying, mental health, labor, education, disability rights, data privacy, civil liability, criminal liability, professional regulation, and school discipline.

Nothing in this Act shall authorize the Center to select athletes, determine playing time, revise competition results, control technical coaching decisions, or exercise the ordinary regulatory powers of a National Sports Association, professional league, educational institution, or sports governing body, except to the extent necessary to investigate, remedy, or sanction a safeguarding violation.

**Sec. 50. *Research, Data Collection, and Public Reporting.*** – The Center shall develop a national Safe Sports data system and publish an annual report containing anonymized and aggregated information on:

- (a) The number and general nature of reports received;
- (b) Case-processing periods and outcomes;
- (c) Provisional measures and final sanctions;
- (d) Compliance rates and audit findings;
- (e) Training and certification;
- (f) Risk patterns and emerging safeguarding concerns;
- (g) Support provided to grassroots and low-resource organizations;
- (h) Inter-agency referrals; and
- (i) Legislative and policy recommendations.

No public report shall identify a child, vulnerable person, complainant, witness, or respondent except when disclosure is lawful and necessary.

**Sec. 51. *Congressional Oversight.*** – The appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall exercise oversight over the implementation of this Act.

Within ninety (90) days after the end of each calendar year, the Center shall submit its annual report, audited financial statements, performance indicators, case-management statistics, compliance findings, and recommendations to Congress.

**Sec. 52. *Transitory Provisions.*** – The Center shall be organized within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Covered entities shall be given the following periods from the issuance of the National Safe Sports Code within which to comply:

- (a) High-risk entities – twelve (12) months;
- (b) Moderate-risk entities – eighteen (18) months; and

(c) Low-risk entities – twenty-four (24) months.

The Center may require earlier compliance with provisions involving mandatory reporting, child protection, retaliation, serious safety risks, and emergency action plans.

Existing safeguarding policies, officers, sanctions, and systems may continue temporarily, provided they are brought into conformity with this Act within the applicable transition period.

**Sec. 53. *Transfer and Continuity of Pending Matters.*** – Pending safeguarding matters before the Philippine Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, educational institutions, leagues, or other sports organizations shall remain with the body where they were filed unless transferred to the Center by agreement, lawful directive, or the National Safe Sports Code.

The Center may assume jurisdiction over a pending matter when:

- (a) The matter involves death, serious injury, sexual misconduct, child abuse, institutional conflict of interest, retaliation, or substantial risk of grave harm;
- (b) The original body is unable or unwilling to act impartially and promptly; or
- (c) Transfer is necessary for athlete protection or the public interest.

No transfer shall impair vested procedural rights or invalidate lawful prior proceedings.

**Sec. 54. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Philippine Sports Commission and other concerned agencies.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Center, the Safe Sports Support Program, regional coordination, training, investigation, athlete support, data systems, and other programs under this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 55. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Sports Commission, in consultation with the initial organizing body of the Center, the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Justice, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Commission on Human Rights, National Council on Disability Affairs, Philippine Commission on Women, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Paralympic Committee, National Sports Associations, educational institutions, athlete representatives, child-protection experts, sports organizations, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

Upon its organization, the Center may amend, supplement, or replace the implementing rules and regulations consistent with this Act.

**Sec. 56. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive issuances, administrative orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 57. *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. 58. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved.*