

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

22 JUL 14 10:44

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. NO. 569

Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SPORTS VARSITY TEAMS IN
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.”

Consistent with this State policy, Republic Act No. 9155 otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001” and Republic Act No. 5708 or “The Schools Physical Education and Sports Development Act of 1969” provide that integrated physical education and school sports and physical fitness program shall remain part of the basic education curriculum and shall be undertaken by the Department of Education.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), consistent with its mandate of promoting interdependence among nations, “carries an ethic of living together and of peace – an ethic that we particularly need in these troubling times”.¹

Numerous studies in the field of Educational Psychology also pointed out the importance of early experience or exposure in later development suggesting that optimal athletic skills development should commence from early childhood to late adulthood. Hence, to optimize the development of

¹ UNESCO, International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, accessible at <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/sport-development-and-peace-day> (last accessed July 11, 2022).

Filipino athletes and future champions, and to help them acquire positive values such as empathy and respect for others, institutionalizing varsity sports teams in elementary and secondary levels, especially in the public schools, becomes a necessity.

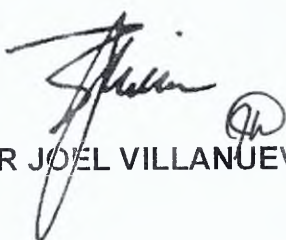
To this end, the Department of Education, the agency in-charge of the country's basic education cycle or the K-12 system, should ensure greater focus on the formative years of the country's pool of athletes. The organization and development of varsity sports teams in basic education, along with after-school sports programs (ASSP), will improve the identification, selection, and long-term training of athletes in various sporting events.

Through a varsity system, student-athletes in K-12 will have better chance to play athletically at a higher level. Furthermore, an institutionalized varsity sports team in basic education can pave the way for the provision of training equipment and upkeep of modern facilities that can help improve the training of young athletes.

However, since long-term training of student athletes is expensive, both public and private elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to network with parent-teachers associations, local governments, business community and other organizations to provide the much-needed assistance for continuous support to varsity players in schools.

The historic win of Hidilyn Diaz at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo brought the Philippines its first-ever Olympic gold medal. Additionally, the Philippine team's performance led to the biggest medal haul since the Philippines entered the Olympics in 1924, with Nesthy Petecio's and Carlo Paalam's silver medals, and Eumir Marcial's bronze medal.² The immense pride due to these victories should be coupled with action, and thus, the State should step in and hone the potential of our next generation of student-athletes.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to develop a pool of Filipino athletes and future champions.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

² Bong Lozada, PH wraps up most successful Olympics campaign with 4 medals, August 7, 2021, accessible at <https://sports.inquirer.net/432836/ph-wraps-up-most-successful-olympics-campaign-with-4-medals> (last accessed July 8, 2022).

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Sports Varsity Teams*
2 *in Basic Education Act.*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and
6 amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline,
7 teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.
8

9 To this end, the State shall provide opportunities for optimal and long-term
10 development of Filipino athletes by expanding the base of student athletes and increasing
11 the time and frequency for their early exposure, training, and competition through the
12 institutionalization of sports varsity teams in the basic education sector.
13

14 **SEC. 3. *Organization and Development of Sports Varsity Teams.*** – To ensure
15 the optimal and long-term development of Filipino athletes, public and private elementary
16 and secondary schools shall, as far as practicable, organize and develop sports varsity
17 teams. The school shall endeavor to gradually expand the number of sport events that it
18 holds in accordance with the school’s after-school sports program, and the interests of
19 the students, coaches, and the community.
20

21 The establishment of varsity teams in traditional and indigenous games, dances,
22 and sports shall also be encouraged.
23

24 **SEC. 4. *Organization of Sports Varsity Team.*** – The organization of sports
25 varsity teams shall consider the following:
26

- 27 a. Presence of competent and committed teacher-coaches;
28
29 b. Availability of facilities and equipment;

- c. Administrative support; and
- d. Support of the community.

SEC. 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, shall be able to join the school’s sports varsity teams:

- a. Must have passed the physical fitness tests and skills tests;
- b. With parental consent; and
- c. In good academic standing.

SEC. 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 sports coordinators, trained in sports coaching shall be 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. Students and graduates of the Sports Track in the Senior High School (SHS) shall also 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.

SEC. 7. Recognition and Training of Coaches. – DepEd shall create a mechanism to provide incentives and/or recognition to volunteer coaches.

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

SEC. 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 shall be conducted after the regular class hours and shall not interfere with relevant academic activities of the students.

SEC. 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.

Elementary and secondary schools may also partner with existing stadiums and sports centers in the community to host varsity matches.

1
2 **SEC. 10. *Equipment for Sports Varsity.*** – It shall be the responsibility of the
3 school administration to secure the equipment necessary to sustain the training of sports
4 varsity teams. Such equipment may be sourced from regular budget and extra-budgetary
5 means, such as donations from the community.
6

7 The DepEd, in consultation with the Philippine Sports Commission, shall be
8 responsible for maintaining a databank of standard facilities and equipment, their
9 technical specifications, suppliers, and indicative prices of such facilities and equipment
10 for every sport covered in international competitions.
11

12 **SEC. 11. *Performance Profiling of Student Athletes.*** – There shall be a school-
13 based profiling of student athletes. In case a student-athlete transfers to another school,
14 it shall be the responsibility of his/her former coaches to transmit his/her athletic profile to
15 the new school to ensure his/her proper recognition and continuous training and
16 development. The profile of the student-athlete shall show results of his/her previous
17 competition/s and improvement in clocking in the case of measurable sports.
18

19 All elementary and secondary schools shall register and update their student
20 athletes' profiles from time to time.
21

22 **SEC. 12. *Registry of Student Athletes.*** – DepEd shall maintain a registry of
23 student athletes and shall make this accessible to colleges and universities, Philippine
24 Sports Commission, National Sports Associations, Philippine Olympic Committee and
25 other private sport groups and organizations, subject to the requirements of Republic Act
26 No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012. The registry shall be used
27 solely for identification of potential inclusion to varsity teams in colleges and/or
28 universities, or in the case of the Philippine Sports Commission, for the selection of
29 national athletes who shall represent the Philippines in international sporting events.
30

31 The National Academy of Sports System, established under Republic Act No.
32 11470, shall likewise have access to the registry of student athletes and may use the
33 same for recruitment purposes, subject to its criteria for the selection and admission of
34 students.
35

36 **SEC. 13. *Incentives.*** – The DepEd shall develop an incentives and rewards system
37 for schools that have supported the organization and development of their varsity teams.
38

39 Teacher-coaches shall also be given service credits and/or additional
40 compensation or overtime pay for work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in
41 accordance with law.
42

43 **SEC. 14. *Appropriation.*** – The funds necessary for the institutionalization of
44 sports varsity teams, especially the provision of equipment, in elementary and secondary
45 schools, shall come from the regular appropriation of DepEd.
46

47 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from
48 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd Secretary and the Chairman of the Philippine Sports
49 Commission, upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and
50 regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.
51

1 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules,
2 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
3 or modified accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this
6 bill is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or provisions hereof shall remain
7 in force.

8
9 **SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
10 in a newspaper of general circulation.

11
12 **Adopted.**