



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2609



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sec. 6 of the Guidelines on the Eligibility of Athletes in the Division, Regional and Palarong Pambansa 2024 states that:

Sec. 6. Eligibility of Athlete – *To be eligible in the Palarong Pambansa, Regional, Division, and other lower meets, the athlete must be:*

- a. *A Filipino citizen;*
- b. **Enrolled in a public, private recognized school** (schools with recognition/permit to operate) or *Philippine School Overseas (PSO) or National Academy of Sports (NAS) in the current school year and have attended and completed the curriculum year (for Palarong Pambansa only), regardless of the delivery mode of learning, except those enrolled under the Alternative Learning System.*

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As can be gleaned from the above provision, the Palarong Pambansa only caters to enrolled students and to a selected field of sports, depriving the unenrolled youth of the opportunity to develop and showcase their skills in sports and divesting the government of the chance to harvest greater international recognition through these untapped activities and talents.

The Philippine National Games aims to widen the field of sports and the eligibility of athletes, removing the athlete's criteria of being enrolled in school that is present in the Palarong Pambansa in order for the out of school youth to have the chance to participate. In this way, the youth, regardless of educational status, will have access to activities that will benefit both their mind and body and divert them from unhealthy or illicit activities that are prevalent in their community.

In addition, the expansion and institutionalization of the Philippine National Games will entitle the government to a broader selection of athletes and sports that can lead to more winnings, medals, awards and recognition from foreign countries. By diverting more youth into sports and healthy living, the government can save expenses in curing or rehabilitating its citizens from harmful activities while potentially earning more due to the international recognition involved.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
Representative, Isabela 5th District

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Introduced by Representative Faustino Michael T. Dy III

AN ACT
EXPANDING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
GAMES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Philippine National Games Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the Constitution provides that the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international sports competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

Pursuant thereto, the State shall institutionalize an inclusive national sports competition that will promote awareness and interest in sports, particularly in the countryside, generate wide participation of the citizenry in sports through the active involvement of local government units (LGUs), and serve as the linkage between grassroots sports development and national amateur and elite sports development.

SEC. 3. *Expansion and Institutionalization of the Philippine National Games.* – The Philippine National Games (PNG), the national multi-sport tournament organized by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), is hereby expanded and institutionalized.

The PNG shall serve as the country’s premier national multi-sports

competition and venue for the discovery of potential national and elite athletes. It shall be composed of sports competitions for athletes and athletes with disabilities. It shall be held once every two years and shall be participated in by athletes, including athletes with disabilities, from the different provinces, in collaboration with municipalities under their jurisdiction, and cities of the country: *Provided*, That the sports competition for athletes with disabilities shall be held after the conclusion of the sports competition for athletes: *Provided, further*, That national sports associations, in accordance with Republic Act No. 6847 or 'The Philippine Sports Commission Act", shall continue to conduct separate competitions and determine the athletes, coaches and other officials that will be part of the country's national team.

Sec. 4. Objectives. – The PNG shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To provide a framework and structure for a truly integrated and comprehensive national sports program, linking grassroots sports promotion to elite sports development, including sporting events applicable to athletes with disabilities;
- (b) To encourage all LGUs to promote the development of sports in all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays;
- (c) To serve as a venue for the National Sports Associations (NSAs) in promoting their respective sports programs at the grassroots level and providing the necessary linkages with LGUs;
- (d) To serve as one of the feeder programs for the pool of student-athletes who shall be given priority in the grant of full scholarship on secondary education program at the National Academy of Sports (NAS), subject to the rules and regulations of the NAS; and
- (e) To widen the base for talent identification, selection, and recruitment of athletes, including athletes with disabilities, who shall constitute the national pool to be trained for international sports competitions.

SEC. 5. Participation in the PNG. – To generate awareness and ensure the wide participation of athletes, including athletes with disabilities, with the potential to become national amateur and elite athletes, LGUs, through their barangay, municipal, city, and provincial Physical Fitness and Sports Development

Councils (PFSDCs), shall encourage, promote or organize local sports competitions within their respective jurisdictions as well as recruit, train and select athletes, including athletes with disabilities, for sporting events competed at the PNG.

Provinces, in collaboration with municipalities under their jurisdiction, and cities shall form and send their delegations to the qualifying competitions and, thereafter, to the national championship competition of the PNG.

National government agencies, government-owned or controlled corporations, state universities and colleges, and constitutional commissions shall support and allow the participation of civilian, military, and other uniformed personnel to the PNG through the provinces and cities where their personnel are residents.

Athletes, including athletes with disabilities, who will form part of the delegation of the participating provinces and cities to the PNG must be Filipino citizens who comply with the minimum age requirement of the concerned NSA for the particular sport.

No athlete who participated in a local sports competition organized by a PFSDC and subsequently represented the provincial or city sports delegation in the qualifying competitions of the PNG for a particular edition shall be permitted to transfer and represent another provincial or city sports delegation in the national championship competition of the PNG.

The PNG shall take into consideration the activities and programs of the *Palarong Pambansa* and other local and international competitions to ensure that the welfare of the athletes is given paramount importance: *Provided*, That in case of overlapping competition schedules, the PSC, in coordination with concerned NSAs, shall issue guidelines on the prioritization of competitions: *Provided, further*, That international competitions where the Philippines is represented shall be prioritized.

SEC. 6. Feeder Sports Programs. – The *Palarong Pambansa* provided for under Republic Act No. 10588, otherwise known as the “*Palarong Pambansa Act of 2013*”, the *Batang Pinoy* Program of the PSC, and other local sports competitions organized by the LGUs or the private sector, shall serve as the

feeder system for the recruitment of athletes by the LGUs for their participation in the various sporting events in the PNG.

SEC. 7. *Sporting Events.* – The official sports of the PNG shall include the following:

- 1) Aquatics
- 2) Archery
- 3) Arnis
- 4) Athletics
- 5) Badminton
- 6) Baseball
- 7) Basketball
- 8) Billiard and Snookers
- 9) Bowling
- 10) Boxing
- 11) Canoe-Kayak
- 12) Chess
- 13) Cycling
- 14) Dancesport
- 15) Esports
- 16) Fencing
- 17) Floorball
- 18) Football
- 19) Futsal
- 20) Golf
- 21) Gymnastics
- 22) Handball
- 23) Hockey
- 24) Jiu-Jitsu
- 25) Judo
- 26) Karate
- 27) Lawn Tennis
- 28) Modern Pentathlon

- 29) Muay Thai
- 30) Pencak Silat
- 31) Petanque
- 32) Rowing
- 33) Rugby
- 34) Sailing
- 35) Sambo
- 36) Sepak Takraw
- 37) Shooting
- 38) Skateboarding
- 39) Softball
- 40) Soft Tennis
- 41) Squash
- 42) Surfing
- 43) Swimming
- 44) Table Tennis
- 45) Taekwondo
- 46) Tennis
- 47) Triathlon/Duathlon
- 48) Volleyball
- 49) Weightlifting
- 50) Wrestling
- 51) Wushu

The sports to be competed in the PNG shall be aligned with the sports participated in by the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, ASEAN Para Games, Asian Games, Asian Para Games, Olympics, Paralympic Games, and other international sports competitions: *Provided*, That the mandatory sporting events in the Olympic and Paralympic Games shall, as far as practicable, be included in the PNG, subject to the availability of sports facilities and venues in the LGU where the PNG will be held: *Provided, further*, That the PNG Board may include new and emerging sports to be competed in the PNG: *Provided, finally*, That the

host LGU may recommend the inclusion of local sports to promote and showcase its socioeconomic and cultural uniqueness through the PNG.

SEC. 8. *Creation of the Philippine National Games Board.* – To ensure the attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act, there is hereby created the Philippine National Games Board, hereinafter referred to as the PNG Board. It shall be the policy-making and coordinating body for the preparation and conduct of the PNG.

The PNG Board shall be the proprietary owner of the phrase “Philippine National Games” and its related symbols, logos, and concepts.

SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the PNG Board.* – The PNG Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate and approve plans, programs, policies, and guidelines that shall govern the conduct of the PNG, and the relationships among the organizations involved;
- (b) Form an inter-agency Executive Committee, which shall be headed by a Secretary-General, and working committees on screening, registration, accreditation, billeting, and appeals, among others, as may be necessary;
- (c) Recognize the provincial and city PFSDCs that will be given authority to register athletes and teams in the PNG;
- (d) Determine the host and schedule of the PNG;
- (e) Determine the use of sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG: *Provided*, That the PNG Board shall use the Department of Education (DepEd) classrooms only after all other facilities have been utilized;
- (f) Coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and other government agencies on the needed funding and technical assistance in the implementation of this Act;
- (g) Determine the sports to be competed in the PNG, subject to the conditions set in Section 7 hereof;
- (h) Provide incentives and rewards to host LGUs and winning LGUs;

- (i) Develop programs and policies that shall promote the PNG and ensure multi-sectoral support to the PNG;
- (j) Assess the conduct of the PNG and submit an annual report to Congress; and
- (k) Exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Composition of the PNG Board.* – The PNG Board shall be composed of the following:

(a) Chair:

Chairperson of the PSC

(b) Vice-Chair:

Undersecretary of the DILG, in charge of Sports Development at the local levels

(c) Members:

- i. Undersecretary of the DepEd, in charge of the *Palarong Pambansa*
- ii. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
- iii. President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)
- iv. President of the Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC)
- v. President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
- vi. President of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
- vii. President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
- viii. President of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB)
- ix. Chairperson, Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA)

The Members of the PNG Board, except the Chair and Vice-Chair, may be represented by the next-in-rank officers of their agencies or organizations, as the case may be.

The Members of the PNG Board shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as Members thereof, subject to pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. Secretary-General of the PNG. – The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the PNG Board from among the officials of the PSC.

The Secretary-General shall submit to the PNG Board all plans, programs, and activities for the preparation, organization, and conduct of the PNG.

The Secretary-General shall be assisted by a Secretariat, which shall be composed of existing personnel of the PSC, the DILG, the DepEd, and the POC.

SEC. 12. Roles of Government Agencies and Private Associations. – In addition to the duties and responsibilities that may be assigned to them by the PNG Board, the following government agencies and private associations shall perform the following:

(a) PSC:

- i. Carry out the overall management, coordination, and implementation of the PNG;
- ii. Coordinate with the DBM and other government agencies to secure the needed funding and technical assistance in the implementation of this Act; and
- iii. Enter into contracts or obligations essential for the accomplishment of plans, programs, and activities for the PNG that were approved by the PNG Board.

(b) DILG:

- i. Mandate all LGUs to coordinate, cooperate, and support the plans, programs, and activities of the PNG through the issuance of corresponding memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines within its jurisdiction to help carry out the objectives of the PNG; and
- ii. Direct the Philippine National Police to prepare and implement a comprehensive security plan for the LGU venues where the PNG shall be held.

(c) LPP, LCP, LMP, and LnB:

- i. Encourage the implementation of the PNG in their respective member LGUs; and

- ii. Assist in disseminating information on the PNG within their respective jurisdictions to encourage the active participation of their members.

(d) DepEd:

- i. Align the *Palarong Pambansa* calendar of activities, programs, and policies to the conduct of the PNG;
- ii. Allow the use of its sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG;
- iii. Allow DepEd teachers, who are licensed or accredited technical officials of the NSAs, to officiate in the PNG; and
- iv. Issue memorandum circulars or department orders and guidelines within its jurisdiction to implement the objectives of the PNG.

(e) CHED:

- i. Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all higher educational institutions;
- ii. Enjoin the state universities and colleges to allow the use of their sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG; and
- iii. Issue memorandum circulars or orders on the alignment of tertiary sports events and calendar of activities to the PNG.

(f) COCOPEA:

- i. Promote the program and activities of the PNG to all private educational institutions;
- ii. Take into consideration, in its calendar of activities, programs, and policies the conduct of the PNG; and
- iii. Encourage private educational institutions to allow the use of their sports facilities, school buildings, and classrooms as may be necessary for the conduct of the PNG.

(g) LGUs:

- i. Organize the multi-sectoral PFSDCs, headed by the local chief executive, that will coordinate the implementation of an annual *palaro* at the barangay, municipal, city, and provincial levels,

pursuant to the mandates under Sections 389 (b) (13), 444 (b) (1) (xix), 455 (b) (1) (xix), and 465 (b) (1) (xix) of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

ii. Through the PFSDCs, in addition to their functions, implement the following:

(a) Encourage, promote and organize local sports competitions within their respective jurisdictions;

(b) Recruit, train, and select athletes who will participate in the PNG; and

(c) Develop and maintain a pool of local athletes and provide them with the necessary assistance;

iii. For provincial and city PFSDCs:

(a) Register an athlete in sporting events of the PNG, including its regional and cluster qualifying competitions; and

(b) Be responsible for the entire delegation registered in the PNG, and ensure their athletes' compliance with the PNG's eligibility rules.

(h) POC and PPC:

i. Supervise the NSAs involved in the PNG.

(i) NSAs:

i. Set the qualifications for athletes and athletes with disabilities who will be participating in different sporting events, based on the international federations' rules and regulations;

ii. Provide technical assistance in the conduct of their respective sports competitions in the PNG, including the appointment of qualified officiating officials; and

iii. Allow the participation of all national athletes, registered by the PFSDCs, regardless of their membership status with their respective NSAs: *Provided*, That the athlete conforms and agrees to abide by the competition rules and regulations of their respective NSAs and PNG; and *Provided, further*, That the athlete is not under any disciplinary sanction, or is otherwise suspended

by the concerned NSA or international federation, consistent with the rules of their respective sports; and

(j) National Youth Commission:

- i. Promote and disseminate the program and activities of the PNG to all youth organizations and youth-serving organizations;
- ii. Encourage the youth, especially the out-of-school youth and youth with special needs, to actively participate in the conduct of the PNG in various roles possible; and
- iii. Coordinate with various agencies in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the PSC in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The LGUs shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate for the preparation, training, and participation of the athletes in the PNG.

SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the start of the effectivity of this Act, the PSC, in coordination with the DILG, DepEd, CHED, POC, the PPC, the LPP, the LCP, the LMP, the LnB, the NSAs, and the COCOPEA, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 2 of Executive Order No. 63, series of 1993, is hereby amended.

All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, and rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,