

LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Adopted on 26 June 2001

ON PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORT

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Physical culture is part of national culture. Sport based on fair play, respect and co-operation shall be regarded as a means of rapprochement between peoples, establishment and strengthening of peace and friendship.

This Law shall regulate and prescribe the principles of the state policy of the field of physical culture and sport, the legal and organisational and financial and economic bases for the system of physical culture and sport, as well as the principles which must be followed for integrating into the international sports movement.

(Article 1 edited by HO-110-N of 11 June 2004, HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 2. Main concepts used in this law

The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:

(a) physical culture shall mean a set of spiritual and material values created and used by the society for the promotion of healthy lifestyle and physical activity of man;

(b) physical education shall mean an organised process aimed at strengthening the health of the population, increasing working capacity and longevity and formation of a physically trained and morally sound generation;

(c) physical culture movement shall mean the activity of state and non-governmental organisations and citizens aimed at raising the level of physical culture of the population and the development of physical culture and sport;

(d) sport shall mean a component of physical culture, a historically formed process of special professional training exercises for preparing men for competitive activities and competitions;

(e) national team of the Republic of Armenia shall mean a team comprised of the best sportsmen (sportswomen) of the sport, coach-pedagogues, scientists, physicians and other specialists, which is trained and participates in international sports events under the national flag of the Republic of Armenia;

(f) amateur sport shall mean a mass sports activity, a component of physical education, a means of identifying talented and prospective individuals in different sports according to preferences;

(g) professional sport shall mean commercial activity in the field of sport wherein professional sports organisations (leagues, clubs, teams), sportsmen (sportswomen) chosen the sport as a profession participate;

(h) Olympic movement shall mean a public movement aimed at the development of sport, spiritual and physical perfection of man and international mutual co-operation on sport;

(i) physical culture and sports standards shall mean complex physical exercises the results of performing whereof identify the level of physical fitness and health condition of various age and health groups of the population;

(j) educational and sports programmes shall mean programmes of various levels and focuses developed in compliance with physical culture and sports standards on the basis whereof the educational and sports process is organised;

(k) coach-pedagogue shall mean a professionally educated person carrying out sports and pedagogical activities under an educational programme in the field of physical culture and sport;

(l) sportsman (sportswoman) shall mean a person regularly engaged in any sports and having a rank in the sports concerned.

(Article 2 supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 2'. Legislation on physical culture and sport

The legislation on physical culture and sport consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, this Law, other laws and legal acts.

Where international treaties of the Republic of Armenia provide for norms other than those provided for by this Law, the norms of the international treaties shall apply.

(Article 2' supplemented by HO-110-N of 11 June 2004)

Article 3. Objectives of legislation of the field of physical culture and sport

The objectives of the legislation of the field of physical culture and sport shall be:

(a) creation of legal mechanisms enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia for contributing to the development of physical culture and sport by the State;

- (b) ensuring of legal guarantees for the functioning and development of the system of physical culture and sport;
- (c) distribution and separation of competences of management of the national system of physical culture and sport, regulation of functions among public administration bodies, local self-government bodies, non-governmental sports organisations, unions and companies;
- (d) establishment of rights, duties and liabilities of legal and natural persons of that field, and legal regulation of interrelations.

Article 4. State policy in the field of physical culture and sport

The State shall contribute to and support the development of physical culture and sport in the Republic of Armenia.

The state policy in the field of physical culture and sport shall be implemented through an annual programme. The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall submit the annual programme to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia as part of the draft of the State Budget and the amount of financing thereof shall be reflected in the expenditures of the State Budget.

(Article 4 edited by HO-540-N of 18 April 2003, supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 5. Principles of state policy in the field of physical culture and sport

The principles of the state policy in the field of physical culture and sport shall be:

- (a) strengthening of the health of the population, harmonious development, increasing of working capacity and ensuring longevity of an individual;

- (b) continuity of physical education and accessibility of physical culture and sports activities for persons of different age and social groups;
- (c) ensuring of physical fitness of the youth ready to defend the homeland;
- (d) preparation of high-class sportsmen (sportswomen) and ensuring the participation of sportsman (sportswoman) and national teams of the Republic of Armenia in international sport arenas;
- (e) improving of the National System of Physical Culture and Sport through a state programme;
- (f) strengthening of the concept of fair play, developing respectful and fair attitude towards the rival, maintaining the concepts of Olympism and the code of sports ethics among sportsmen (sportswomen) and fighting against doping use and physical and moral brutality.

(Article 5 supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 6. State guarantees for the development of physical culture and sport

State guarantees for the development of physical culture and sport in the Republic of Armenia shall be:

- (a) ensuring of equal rights of people for engaging in physical culture and sport and specialising in this field, as well as for participating in the Olympic movement;
- (b) ensuring of the physical education of the population, including mandatory instruction of the subject on Physical Education in all education institutions during the whole education process;
- (c) financing of the championships of the Republic of Armenia and Panarmenian games, as well as that of the preparation and participation of national teams and

sportsmen (sportswomen) of the Republic of Armenia in Olympic Games, world and European championships, world universiades, international and other tournaments;

(d) supporting of the expansion of the network of children and youth sports schools and strengthening the logistics base thereof;

(e) ensuring of the preparation and training of personnel of this field, targeted financing of the physical education of the population and that of high achievements — scientific research works related to sports issues;

(f) supporting of the maintenance and targeted use of physical culture and recreational, sports and educational bases, the construction of new educational and sports bases;

(g) encouraging of the production of sports facilities and other economic activities in the field of physical culture and sport;

(h) ensuring of social protection in case professional sportsmen (sportswomen) become disabled in the course of sports activities.

(Article 6 supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

**Article 7. Competences of the government of the Republic of Armenia
in the field of physical culture and sport**

The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall:

(a) approve the Concept of the state policy of the field of physical culture and sport;

(b) (point repealed by HO-540-N of 18 April 2003);

(c) define the procedure for the placement of state order in the field of physical training and sport;

(d) approve regulatory acts in the field of physical culture and sport;

(e) exercise other powers prescribed by laws of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 2

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PHYSICAL TRAINING AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Article 8. Structure of national system of physical culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia

The National System of Physical Culture and Sport shall be composed of the authorised public administration body, appropriate subdivisions of public administration and local self-government bodies. The following non-governmental organisations of the field of physical culture and sport shall be part of this system:

- (a) the National Olympic Committee of Armenia;
- (b) the National Federations of Sports;
- (c) other non-governmental sports organisations, unions and companies.

Article 9. Competences of authorised public administration body of physical culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia

The authorised public administration body of physical culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia shall:

- (a) implement single state policy and development strategy of the field;
- (b) co-classify the process of developing state and annual programmes. Develop and submit the procedure for the placement of state orders envisaged by these programmes to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(c) co-classify physical culture and recreational, sports activities carried out among the population, as well as the process of staffing national teams of the Republic of Armenia;

(d) develop and approve physical culture and sports standards jointly with the ministries, agencies concerned, the National Olympic Committee of Armenia and other sports organisations. Develop and submit regulatory acts of the field of physical culture and sport to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(e) draw up and approve, jointly with public administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia, state programmes of physical education of preschool and school age children, young learners and students,

(f) ensure scientific and methodological support of this field, organise the preparation and training of personnel of physical culture, including coach-pedagogues;

(g) co-operate with non-governmental organisations of the field of physical culture and sport;

(h) approve by the submission of the National Olympic Committee and the National Federations of Olympic Sports the four-year staged programme in preparation for the Olympic Games, the calendar of republican sports and public events;

(i) support the implementation of physical culture and sports programmes among persons with disabilities;

(j) conclude international treaties within the scope of its authority;

(j)(1) organise the implementation of territorial policy jointly with territorial administration bodies;

(j)(2) recommend merited persons in the field of physical culture and sport for state awards, prizes and titles;

(j)(3) confer sports ranks, award best employees and organisations in the field of physical culture and sport with medals, prizes and diplomas;

(j)(4) award sportsmen (sportswomen) having shown highest performance in international events with the title of Merited Master of Sports;

(j)(5) award merited persons of the field of physical culture and sport with the title of Honoured Worker of Physical Culture and Sport;

(k) exercise other powers prescribed by laws of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 9 supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009, amended by HO-88-N of 14 April 2011)

Article 9.1. Powers of public administration bodies in the field of physical culture and sport

The authorised public administration body of the field of health care shall:

(a) assist the state authorised public administration body of the field of physical culture and sport in training sports medicine personnel, as well as in implementing targeted programmes of sports medicine;

(b) assist, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, the authorised public administration body of the field of physical culture and sport in implementing measures for the fight against doping;

(c) define the criterion for including schoolchildren in appropriate medical groups for the instruction of the subject on Physical Education in general education institutions;

(d) organise initial and regular medical examinations of health condition of sportsmen (sportswomen) jointly with the authorised public administration body of the field of physical culture and sport as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(e) assist sports non-governmental organisations dealing with issues of persons with disabilities, jointly with the authorised public administration body of the field of physical culture and sport and the authorised public administration body of the field of labour and social affairs.

The authorised public administration body of the field of justice, in co-operation with the authorised public administration body of the field of physical culture and sport, shall develop physical culture and recreational programmes and ensure the implementation thereof in places of imprisonment.

The authorised public administration body of the field of education shall:

(a) organise the generalisation and analysis of the data on the physical development and physical fitness of preschool and school age children and learners. The subject on Physical Education in education institutions and the professional education of the person teaching at extracurricular sports clubs shall be mandatory;

(b) organise the development of physical abilities of children and the youth, including persons with disabilities in education institutions;

(c) organise the improvement and development of the logistics base of physical culture and sport education institutions, expand the network of children and youth sports schools;

(d) organise national, international sports events and competitions for learners;

(e) develop and approve the procedure for the functioning of extracurricular sports clubs jointly with the authorised public administration body of physical culture and sport;

(f) define the procedure for forming a sports focus class jointly with the authorised public administration body of physical culture and sport.

The authorised public administration body of the field of defence shall:

- (a) organise general and special physical fitness of military servants;
- (b) support the sportsmen (sportswomen) in military service to train and participate in competitions, contribute to further improvement of sportsmanship of strongest sportsmen (sportswomen) included in national teams of the Republic of Armenia and undergoing fixed-term compulsory military service.

The authorised public administration body of the field of labour and social affairs shall:

- (a) support the development and implementation of physical culture and sports programmes for persons with disabilities;
- (b) provide necessary conditions for engaging in physical culture and sport in institutions of social protection of population (orphanages, boarding schools, care homes).

The authorised public administration bodies of the fields of police and national security shall:

- (a) organise general and special professional physical fitness of the Police and National Security officers;
- (b) support their best sportsmen (sportswomen) in training and participating in competitions;
- (c) contribute to further improvement of sportsmanship of the strongest sportsmen (sportswomen) included in national teams of the Republic of Armenia and undergoing fixed-term compulsory military service in the Police and National Security troops of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 9.1 supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 10. Powers of territorial administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia in the field of physical culture and sport

The territorial administration bodies in the field of physical culture and sport shall:

- (a) develop and approve primary directions of the development of physical culture and sport in their territory, exercise control over the implementation of state programmes within the territory;
- (b) co-classify the process of preparing sports reserve at children and youth sports schools, general education schools, developing sports and strengthening the logistics base of physical culture and sport;
- (c) support the participation of sportsmen (sportswomen) and teams from marzes and communities in republican championships, international competitions organised by sports organisations;
- (d) exercise other powers prescribed by laws of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 10 edited by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 11. Role of local self-government bodies of the Republic of Armenia in the field of physical culture and sport

The local self-government bodies in the field of physical culture and sport shall contribute to:

- (a) the implementation of state programmes within the territory of a community;
- (b) the process of instructing physical culture in preschool, school, out-of-school and other education institutions;
- (c) the organisation of physical culture and recreational and sports events among the population of communities;

(d) the process of establishing the logistics base of physical culture and sport and its further improvement and strengthening;

(e) the expansion of the network of children and youth sports schools and the development of sports.

(Article 11 amended by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

Article 12. National Olympic Committee of Armenia

The National Olympic Committee of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the NOCA”) shall head the Olympic movement in the country.

The NOCA shall, jointly with the authorised public administration body of physical culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia and the national federations of Olympic sports, develop and implement the single policy of highest achievements, that is, the development of sport.

The NOCA shall act in compliance with the Olympic Charter of the International Olympic Committee, its own statute and the laws of the Republic of Armenia.

The NOCA shall ensure the participation of national teams and sportsmen (sportswomen) of the Republic of Armenia in Olympic Games and other events held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee.

National teams and sportsmen (sportswomen) of the Republic of Armenia shall participate in the Olympic Games and competitions held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee under the national flag of the Republic of Armenia.

The NOCA shall co-classify activities of non-governmental sports organisations regarding the Olympic movement and the highest achievements, that is, the development of sport.

The NOCA shall, by the submission of the national federations of sports and the organisations concerned, develop the four-year staged programme in preparation for the Olympic Games.

The NOCA shall be the guardian of symbols and slogans of the International Olympic Committee. The Olympic symbols of Armenia may be used for advertising or other purposes only upon the permission and conditions of the NOCA.

The NOCA shall carry out its objectives at the expense of targeted allocations from the State Budget, its own financial resources and other sources without prejudice to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 13. National federations of sports

The national federations of sports shall:

- (a) develop and implement sports development programmes, organise republican championships, student sports games, prepare national teams and sportsmen (sportswomen) of the Republic of Armenia for world and European championships, world universiades and international tournaments;
- (b) prepare national teams of the Republic of Armenia in participation for the Olympic Games under the four-year staged programme.

Article 14. Other non-governmental sports organisations, unions, companies and clubs

(title amended by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

The other non-governmental sports organisations, unions, companies and clubs hold physical culture and recreational, sports public events, as well as implement programmes on the development of sports and preparation of sports reserve.

(Article 14 amended by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009, HO-88-N of 14 April 2011)

CHAPTER 3

ECONOMIC BASES OF THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORT

Article 15. Property relations in the field of physical culture and sport

For the purposes of ensuring the functioning of physical culture and sports organisations under state and community subordination, the founder shall provide organisations with buildings, structures, sports and other necessary facilities which must be used for carrying out statutory tasks.

Non-state physical culture and sports organisations may own any facilities, except for the types of facilities that are prohibited by the laws of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 16. Financing of physical culture and sports organisations

Non-governmental physical culture and sports organisations shall be financed from the State Budget through the placement of state order, targeted programmes and grants.

Additional sources of financing of physical culture and sports organisations shall be:

- (a) the investments made by legal and natural persons of the Republic of Armenia and foreign countries;
- (b) own resources generated from other types of activities not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- (c) other resources without prejudice to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 16 supplemented by HO-151-N of 10 June 2009)

CHAPTER 4

SPORTSMEN (SPORTSWOMEN). SPORTS ACTIVITY AGREEMENT

Article 17. Amateur and professional sportsmen (sportswomen)

Amateur sportsmen (sportswomen) shall be the persons who are prepared and participate in competitions on an amateur basis.

Professional sportsmen (sportswomen) shall be the persons chosen the sport as a profession, who are paid for their sports activities.

Activities of professional sportsmen (sportswomen) shall be regulated by agreements concluded with national federations and other sports organisations.

Article 18. Sports activity agreement and transfers of sportsmen (sportswomen) to other sports organisations

The sports activity agreement shall be concluded between a sportsman (sportswoman) and a sports organisation.

The agreement shall include rights and responsibilities of the sportsman (sportswoman), information on medical, social insurance, extension of the agreement, rescission of the agreement, training exercises, provision of necessary conditions for participation in events, logistical support, as well as other conditions.

Transfers of sportsmen (sportswomen) to other sports organisations or foreign clubs may be carried out in case of expiry of the agreement and/or fulfilment of the obligations envisaged therein.

In case of a mutual agreement between sports organisations the transfer of sportsmen (sportswomen) may be carried out before the expiry of the agreement.

The rules of transfer of sportsmen (sportswomen) from one organisation to another, transfer fees, indemnities and the interests of the club preparing sportsmen (sportswomen) shall be regulated by agreements in compliance with the legislation.

The procedure for the transfer of sportsmen (sportswomen) and coaches involved in physical culture and sports organisations financed by the state order shall be defined by the authorised public administration body of physical culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 19. Entry into force of the law

This Law shall enter into force from the moment of its official publication.

**President
of the Republic of Armenia**

R. Kocharyan

Yerevan

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