## SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 583

OUSE OF RE	PRESENTATIVES
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## Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE PIAS. CAYETANO

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV, Section 19 (1) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes that "the 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."

Student-Athletes are a pool of students who have exceptional talents and skills in sports that could be further honed and developed in a school setting. At a young age, they have to embrace a dual role – being a student and an athlete at the same time. Thus, this bill recognizes their special circumstance and aims to provide support and parameters on how they can thrive and excel in both fields of study and sports.

As a bill of rights for Student-Athletes, it endeavours to address issues and concerns encountered for many years by many Student-Athletes past and present as there is no existing law that promotes and protects their overall welfare.

It is the purpose of this bill to provide appropriate recognition and protection to the rights and general welfare of Student-Athletes encompassing academic, amateur sports, and mental and physical health aspects. On the other hand, it also acknowledges that these Student-Athletes are in a special situation and thus the bill also specifies the accompanying responsibilities that they have to fulfill to this end. Schools, athletic associations, Student-Athletes and their parents shall recognize and uphold the amateur nature of the programs and competitions that Student-Athletes participate in.

This bill also recognizes that Student-Athletes should be protected from any discriminatory policy that may restrict their participation in any field of amateur sports that they have chosen to participate and compete in and consequently hinder the development of their full potential as athletes and well-rounded citizens of our country.

Lastly, this bill recognizes the vital role of the schools and accredited athletic associations, not only in providing the opportunity and avenue for Student-Athletes to participate and excel in sports, but also ensuring the protection of Student-Athletes from physical harm, discrimination, and other potentially harmful consequences of training and competing in their respective fields of amateur sports.

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

PIA S CAYETANO

## SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 583

#### Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE PIA S. CAYETANO

# AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

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 "Magna Carta of Student-Athletes."

**SEC. 2.** Coverage. This Act shall apply to Student-Athletes of any school that conducts athletic programs and competitions.

**SEC. 3.** *Declaration of Policy.* - Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution recognizes the role of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Further, Section 19 (1) of the same Article provides that the State shall promote physical education, sports programs and competitions alongside training for international competitions to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the attainment of a healthy and alert citizenry. Thus, the State shall recognize and uphold the rights of Student-Athletes to further hone their skills and abilities in their respective fields of amateur sports without neglecting their education and general well-being.

It is the intention of this law to protect and promote the rights of the Student-Athlete, who is, first and foremost, a student. To this end, the rights guaranteed by this law and the obligations imposed on schools, athletic associations and their officials and representatives shall seek to ensure that the Student-Athlete attains quality education while honing his skill and reaching his full potential as an athlete in an amateur sports setting. Ultimately, this law aims to enable the Student-Athlete to enjoy a balanced life while in school and at play.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- **4.1.** "Athletic Association" refers to any organization that is responsible for governing inter-school athletic programs and competitions such as, but not limited to, the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA), University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA), State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA), Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. (CESAFI), and National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA), among others but shall not include National Sports Associations (NSAs).
- **4.2.** "National Sports Associations (NSAs)" refer to associations organized for their respective sports in the Philippines and/or affiliated with their respective international federations which are recognized by the International Olympic Committee or the Philippine Sports Commission, including associations formed to represent the interest of athletes in a particular sport.
- **4.3. "School"** refers to an institution recognized by the State which undertakes educational operations such as grade school, high school, college, university, or technical-vocational education and training institution.
- **4.4.** "Student-Athlete" refers to a student currently enrolled in any school who is part of any of the school's athletic teams or programs and who represents or has an intention of representing the school in an inter-school athletic program or competition; *Provided*, That a student shall still be considered a Student-Athlete for purposes of certain provisions of this Act if there is a valid reason for his non-enrollment, such as a long term illness, severe incapacity, or personal reasons that are a serious hindrance to enrolling that term; *Provided further*, That for purposes of being eligible to represent his school in an inter-school athletic program or competition, the Student-Athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies and be in good academic standing.

## SEC. 5. Rights of Student-Athletes. - Student-Athletes shall have the right to:

#### 5.1 Education

(a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have his educational needs prioritized by the participating school or athletic association. To this extent, the school administration will strive to provide tutorials or extra academic support to assist the Student-Athlete in maintaining good scholastic standing.

- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have her academic performance monitored by the participating school to ascertain how his involvement in athletic programs and competitions affects her class performance.
- (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be allowed by the participating school to be excused from class, which will not be charged against his allowable absences, due to sports-related activities and circumstances attested as true by the concerned coach or sports official; *Provided*, That he makes up for the missed classes/activities/tests.
- (d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to continue availing of her full or partial scholarship for his continued education and/or financial support even after suffering from injury that resulted from his participation in the athletic program which prevents her from further training for and competing in inter-school competitions.
- (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to complete his academic requirements on time. In no case shall a Student-Athlete in junior or senior high school be allowed to repeat a year level and play at the same time.

### 5.2 Health and Safety

- (a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to train and compete in safe and healthy environments as provided by the school during practice and training sessions or by the athletic association during inter-school athletic programs and competitions.
- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be provided by the school or athletic association with safe, well-maintained and upgraded equipment, and well-fitted uniforms.
- (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have access to health care professionals who will monitor his physical health condition and nutritional needs, particularly during training and competitions and right after the competitions, as provided by the school, and to medics in emergency situations during athletic programs or competitions, as provided by the athletic association.
- (d) It is the right of current and former Student-Athletes to receive free or subsidized medical expense coverage from the participating schools or athletic associations he is representing in case of any physical injury or sports-related harm suffered by

him as a result of his participation in the athletic program or competition.

- (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have privacy with regard to any personal health information that might cause defamation or insult towards himself, such as his family's medical history or physical or mental condition requiring treatment, among others.
- (f) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to file for a temporary Leave of Absence (LOA) from her sport participation in school due to valid grounds, such as the need to focus on studies, illness/sickness or any personal/family reasons; *Provided*, That an absence beyond a reasonable period may result in the loss of scholarship or other privileges and; *Provided further*, That it is understood she cannot participate in events of the athletic associations.
- (g) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be protected by the school or athletic association against exploitation, inappropriate influences, and other circumstances prejudicial to his physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development, such as public humiliation, among others.

#### 5.3 Choice of School

- (a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to transfer from his current school to any school he is accepted in for any reason such as, but not limited to:
  - 1. Unavailability of his desired class/course;
  - 2. Failure to pass the class/course leading to dismissal;
  - 3. Violation of the school's policy leading to dismissal; or
  - 4. Personal reasons/considerations.
- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be free from any act of restriction or punishment by the old and/or the new school due to his transfer from the former to the latter; *Provided*, That a one-year residency shall be respected by the schools and athletic associations in the case of a transfer from one college or university to another. In no case shall this residency rule apply to a high school student transferring to another high school or to a college or university.

#### 5.4 Other Rights

- (a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to undergo trainings and workshops for the further development of his skills related to his sport. To this end, the school or the athletic association cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided*, That he will endeavor to schedule the same on a date that does not conflict with the game of the school and the athletic association.
- (b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in international competitions where he will represent the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him from playing for his school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; *Provided*, That he remains in good academic standing.
- (c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to receive or renew his athletic grants for the current semester or term; *Provided*, That he complies with the requirements of the school where he is enrolled in.
- (d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be coached by skilled sports officials who are trained in sport-specific safety and equipped with the latest information about the risks and hazards of their respective sports. It is also the right of the Student-Athlete to be trained by a coach other than the ones associated with his school; *Provided*, That the same is coordinated with his coach and/or director of the school's athletic program or the latter's equivalent; *Provided further*, That the Student-Athlete shall not be prevented from exercising said right without valid cause.
- (e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have consistent, open, and inclusive dialogue with school officials and athletic associations as regards the establishment of rules, policies, and regulations that concern and affect them.
- (f) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be treated with respect and dignity and be free from any form of discrimination on account of age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, ideology, disability, education and status.
- (g) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be free from abuse or violence, be it physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual, or cultural in nature. Abuse or violence may occur between the Student-Athlete and her coach, a school official or employee, or a fellow Student-Athlete.

Student-Athletes are strongly encouraged to promptly report any incident involving abuse or violence in order to facilitate a fast

- (h) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have opportunities to engage in other safe recreational activities for the wholesome use of his leisure hours; Provided, That it is not inconsistent with his sport and will not expose him to undue risks.
- (i) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to engage in gainful employment; Provided, That it does not interfere with his studies, training schedule, and competition and does not prevent him from playing for his school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; Provided further. That he
- (i) The right of the Student-Athlete to endorse a product or to be sponsored by a commercial brand or company shall be respected; Provided, That this is subject to school policies and is not used by the school as a means to entice the student to enroll
- SEC. 6. Obligations of Student-Athletes. For active involvement in the promotion
  - 6.1. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to conduct himself in a responsible manner at all times, reflective of the values of the school he represents, bearing in mind that he carries the name and colors of his school and is a role model to the other students.
  - 6.2. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to train regularly and
  - 6.3. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to represent his school in competitions chosen by his coach and/or school. In case of conflict between a school-sanctioned competition and other competitions, he is duty-bound to prioritize the school-sanctioned competition with the exception of international competitions or pre-qualifying events for
  - 6.4. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to voluntarily present himself for the pre- and post-competition general health examinations;
  - 6.5. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to voluntarily attend trainings and workshops designed and conducted for her;

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**6.6.** It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to prioritize his academic performance to ensure that his participation in sports will not disrupt or hinder the completion of his class/course. He shall diligently attend classes and comply with the minimum class/course load, pass grade requirement and other requirements set by the schools.

A Student-Athlete shall not be allowed to participate in any competition if he has not attained the minimum passing requirement to qualify him to go to the next level, unless he completes his missing requirements during summer break.

- **6.7.** It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete not to use, offer other Student-Athletes or purchase any performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) and other prohibited substances;
- **6.8.** It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to uphold the integrity of the games, the name and reputation of his school and the athletic association he is representing by not being involved in betting, gamefixing, wagering, gambling and other illicit acts or activities; nor shall he be affiliated or involved with persons associated with gambling and/or game-fixing.
- **6.9.** It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to practice and maintain a respectful and non-violent attitude towards herself, other athletes, coaches, sports officials, and any person in general.
- **6.10**. It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to preserve and promote the amateur nature of school-sanctioned competitions in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that he participates in.

## SEC. 7. Obligations of Schools -

- **7.1.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to support the Student-Athlete in fulfilling her responsibilities, first and foremost, as a student and then as an athlete.
- **7.2.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide counselors, other than the coach, who will help the Student-Athlete in his academic work, in balancing his responsibilities and in reaching his full potential.
- **7.3.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to monitor the academic performance of the Student-Athlete and certify that he complies with the minimum class/course load, passes grade requirement and other requirements set in this Act and by the schools.

- **7.4.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athletes with a safe and healthy training environment.
- **7.5.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athlete with safe, well-maintained, and upgraded equipment and well-fitted uniforms.
- **7.6.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athlete access to health care professionals who will monitor his physical health condition and nutritional needs, particularly during training and competitions and right after the competitions.
- **7.7.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to provide the Student-Athlete free or subsidized medical expense coverage in case of any physical injury or sports-related harm suffered by him as a result of his participation in the athletic program or competition.
- **7.8.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to maintain the Student-Athlete's full or partial scholarship for his continued education and/or financial support even after suffering from injury that resulted from his participation in the athletic program which prevents him from further training for and competing in inter-school competitions.
- **7.9.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to file a temporary LOA from the athletic team or program due to valid grounds such as the need to focus on studies, illness/sickness or any personal/family reasons; *Provided*, That an absence beyond a reasonable period may result in the loss of scholarship or other privileges and; *Provided further*, That it is understood he cannot participate in events of the athletic associations.
- **7.10.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the privacy of any personal health information of the Student-Athlete that might cause defamation or insult towards himself, such as his family's medical history or physical or mental condition requiring treatment, among others.
- **7.11.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the Student-Athlete against exploitation, inappropriate influences, and other circumstances prejudicial to his physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development, such as public humiliation, among others.
- **7.12.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to uphold the Constitutional right of the Student-Athlete to a quality education which includes the choice of school or the right to transfer to another school for any reason such as, but not limited to, those enumerated in Section

5.3 (a). To this end, school officials or representatives who restrict or otherwise prevent the Student-Athlete from transferring to another school shall be terminated; *Provided*, That the one-year residency shall be respected in the case of a transfer from one college or university to another.

**7.13.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in international competitions where he will represent the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him from playing for his school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; *Provided*, That he remains in good academic standing.

**7.14.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to grant or renew the Student-Athlete's athletic grants for the current semester or term; *Provided,* That he complies with the requirements of the school.

**7.15.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to be coached by skilled sports officials who are trained in sport-specific safety and equipped with the latest information about the risks and hazards of their respective sports. To this end, the school and their officials shall respect the right of the Student-Athlete to be trained by a coach other than the ones associated with the school; *Provided*, That the same is coordinated with his coach and/or the director of the school's athletic program or the latter's equivalent, who shall not prevent said athlete from exercising said right without valid cause

**7.16.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to ensure that no Student-Athlete shall, on account of age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, disability, education and status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any athletic program or activity.

Schools shall take into account its total women student population in granting athletic scholarship. There shall be a *pro rata* representation of women in the athletic scholarship program based on the percentage of women in the whole student population.

**7.17.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the Student-Athlete from abuse or violence, be it physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual, or cultural in nature. The schools and their officials shall promptly take notice of and act upon incidents of abuse or violence against the Student-Athletes.

**7.18.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Student-Athlete from PEDs and other prohibited substances. To this end, school officials or representatives

who offer or pressure the Student-Athletes into taking PEDs and other prohibited substances shall be terminated from the school.

- **7.19.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials not to sponsor, operate, advertise or promote any betting, game-fixing, wagering or gambling scheme based, directly or indirectly, on one or more competitive games in which Student-Athletes participate, or are intended to participate, or on one or more performances of the Student-Athletes in such games.
- **7.20.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials not to intentionally suspend or otherwise delay the Student-Athlete in junior or senior high school from graduating in order to lengthen the period of the Student-Athlete's eligibility.
- **7.21.** It is the duty of the schools not to offer benefits and incentives to the Student-Athlete to the extent that it results in the commercialization of the Student-Athlete. For this purpose, the schools are limited to offer:
  - a. Tuition, board, and lodging;
  - b. Uniform and equipment; and
  - c. A reasonable living allowance, the computation of which shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act, as approved by the director of the schools' athletic program or his equivalent and standardized by the athletic association that the school is affiliated with.
- **7.22.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to support the Student-Athlete's right to undergo trainings and workshops for the further development of his skills. To this end, the school cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided*, That he will endeavor to schedule the same on a date that does not conflict with the game of the school.
- **7.23.** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to conduct forums to inform all new Student-Athletes and school officials of this law and their corresponding rights and obligations herein. Various forms of communication shall also be employed to keep all Student-Athletes and school officials informed of updates, issues and reminders regarding the exercise of the rights and observation of the obligations mentioned herein.

It is also the duty of the school and their officials to conduct forums educating the Student-Athlete on different topics including

1 2		discrimination against women, dangers of PEDs and protection from violence and abuse.
3 4 5 6 7 8		<b>7.24.</b> It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete the opportunity to engage in other safe recreational activities for the wholesome use of his leisure hours; <i>Provided</i> , That it is not inconsistent with his sport and will not expose him to undue risks.
9 10 11 12		<b>7.25.</b> It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete to engage in gainful employment; <i>Provided,</i> That it does not interfere with his studies, training schedule, and competitions.
13 14 15 16		<b>7.26</b> . It is the duty of the schools and their officials to preserve and promote the amateur nature of school-sanctioned competitions in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that the Student-Athlete participates in.
17 18	SEC 9 ON	igations of Athletic Accordations
19	SEC. 6. ODI	igations of Athletic Associations -
20		8.1 It is the duty of the athletic associations to support the Student-
21 22		Athlete's choice of school without any restriction or penalty. In the event that the issue is brought to the athletic association, the same
23 24		shall be resolved in favor of honoring the right of choice of the Student-Athlete; <i>Provided</i> , That there are no violations of Section 7.21.
25		8.2 It is the duty of the athletic associations to ensure that the Student-
26		Athlete plays in a safe and healthy environment during inter-school
27		athletic programs and competitions.
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29		8.3. It is the duty of the athletic associations to provide the Student-
30		Athlete with safe, well-maintained, and upgraded equipment for use
31 32		during inter-school athletic programs and competitions.
33		8.4. It is the duty of the athletic associations to provide the Student-
34		Athlete access to medics in case of accidents, injuries, and other
35		emergency situations during athletic programs or competitions.
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37		8.5. It is the duty of the athletic associations to keep and protect the
38		privacy of any personal health information of the Student-Athlete that
39		might cause defamation or insult towards himself, such as his family's
40		medical history or physical or mental condition requiring treatment,
41		among others.
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43		8.6. It is the duty of the athletic associations to protect the Student-
44		Athlete against exploitation, inappropriate influences, and other
45 46		circumstances prejudicial to his physical, mental, emotional, social, and
46		moral development, such as public humiliation, among others.
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- **8.7.** It is the duty of the athletic associations not to sponsor, operate, advertise or promote any betting, game-fixing, wagering or gambling scheme based, directly or indirectly, on one or more competitive games in which Student-Athletes participate, or are intended to participate, or on one or more performances of the Student-Athletes in such games.
- **8.8.** It is the duty of the athletic associations to support the Student-Athlete's right to undergo trainings and workshops for the further development of his skills. To this end, athletic associations cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided*, That he will endeavor to schedule the same on a date that does not conflict with the game of the athletic association.
- **8.9.** It is the duty of the athletic associations to allow the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in international competitions where he will represent the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him from playing for his school team or in any competitions of athletic associations; *Provided*, That he remains in good academic standing.
- **8.10.** It is the duty of the athletic associations to sanction member-schools which violate the rights of the Student-Athlete or fail to address the same or otherwise allow its officials to do so. In this regard, athletic associations shall enact rules which shall support this Act and provide sanctions for violations thereof, which may include suspension or disqualification of erring member-schools or officials thereof from interschool athletic programs and competitions.
- **8.11.** It is the duty of the athletic associations to preserve and promote the amateur nature of school-sanctioned competitions in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that the Student-Athlete participates in.

## SEC. 9. Obligations of NSAs and the Philippine Sports Commission -

- **9.1.** It is the duty of NSAs to support the schedule of the various athletic associations to the extent possible, so as not to schedule tryouts, trainings or trips abroad during crucial training periods or competitions.
- **SEC. 10.** *Implementation.* The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department on Education (DepEd), the athletic associations (UAAP, NCAA, WNCAA and SCUAA, among others), and the PSC, with the participation of representatives from sports organizations with proven track records of involvement and promotion of the rights and welfare of Filipino athletes, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

The DepEd and CHED shall penalize schools that disregard a Student-Athlete's academic rights and that do not sanction its officials for doing so. DepEd and CHED shall also be responsible for penalizing schools that offer or abet in the offer of incentives and benefits beyond those allowed by Section 7.21 of this Act. To this end, DepEd and CHED may impose sanctions such as, but not limited to, diminution or withdrawal of subsidy, recommendation on the downgrading or withdrawal of accreditation, program termination, or school closure.

**SEC. 11.** Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC. 12.** Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 13.** *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,