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SENATE S. B. No. <u>1194</u>

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Discriminatory policies restrict a Student-Athlete's participation in any field of amateur sports. These policies not only restrict Student-Athletes from developing their full potential, they also hinder the Student-Athletes from becoming a well-rounded citizen of our country.

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.

This bill aims to provide appropriate recognition to the rights and general welfare of Student-Athletes in terms of co-curricular and extracurricular activities and mental and physical health aspects. This bill also provides protection to Student-Athletes from discriminatory policies that restrict them from participating and competing in amateur sports. It also recognizes the vital role of schools and athletic associations in providing avenues for the Student-Athletes to develop their full potential.

As such, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

SENATOR OEL VILLANUEVA

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Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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-1 2 Athletes."

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SECTION 2. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to Student-Athletes of any school that 4 5 conducts athletic programs and competitions. 6

- SECTION 3. Declaration of Policy. The state recognizes its role to protect and 7 promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and to take 8 appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. The State recognizes its 9 role to promote physical education, sports programs and competition alongside 10 training for international competitions to foster self-discipline, teamwork and 11 excellence for the attainment of a healthy and alert citizenry. In accordance with 12 these recognized principles, the State shall uphold the rights of Student-Athletes to 13 further hone their skills and abilities in their respective field of amateur sports without 14 neglecting their education and general well-being. 15
- The State recognizes that Students-Athletes are students, whose rights and welfare 17 must be protected with a view to achieving a balance between their curricular and 18 extra-curricular activities. To this end, the rights guaranteed by this law and the 19 obligations imposed on schools, athletic associations and their officials and 20 21 representatives shall seek to ensure that the Student-Athlete attains quality education while honing his or her skill and reaching his or her full potential as an 22 23 athlete in an amateur sport setting. 24

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be 25 defined as follows: 26 27

4.1 "Athletic Association" refers to any organization that is responsible for 28 governing inter-school athletic programs and competitions such as, but not 29 30 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 interests 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-enrolment, 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.

30 SECTION 5. *Rights of Student-Athletes.* – Student-Athletes shall have the right to:

5.1 Education

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- a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have his or her educational needs prioritized by the participating school or athletic association. To this extent, the school administration shall 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 his or her academic performance monitored by the participating school to ascertain how his or her 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 absence shall not be charged against his allowable absences if his absence is due to his attendance in sports-related activities; *Provided*, That the circumstances under which the Student-Athlete is absent shall be supported and attested as true by the concerned coach or sports official; *Provided further*, That he makes up for the missed classes/activities/tests.
- d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to continue availing of his or her full
 or partial scholarship for his or her continued education and/or financial

support even after suffering from injury that resulted from his or her participation in the athletic program which prevents him or her from further training for and competing in inter-school competitions.

- e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to complete his or her 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

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- 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 or her 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 or she is representing in case of any physical injury in sports-related harm suffered by him or her as a result of his or her 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 or herself, such as his or her 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; *Provided further*, That during this time, it is understood that he or she shall not be allowed to 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 or her current school to any school he or she is accepted in for any reason such as, but not limited to:
 - 1. Unavailability of his or her desired class/course;
 - 2. Failure to pass the class/course leading to dismissal;

3. Violation of the school's policy leading to dismissal; or 1 2 4. Personal reasons/considerations b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be free from any act of restriction 3 or punishment by the old and/or the new school due to his or her 4 transfer from the former to the latter; Provided, That a one-year 5 residency shall be respected by the schools and athletic associations in 6 the case of a transfer from one college or university to another. In no 7 case shall this residency rule apply to a high school student 8 transferring to another high school or to a college or university. 9 10 **5.4 Other Rights** 11 a) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to undergo trainings and workshops 12 for the further development of his or her skills related to his or her 13 sport. To this end, the school or the athletic association cannot prohibit 14 the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; 15 Provided That he or she will endeavor to schedule the same on a date 16 that does not conflict with the fame of the school and the athletic 17 18 association. b) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to try out and participate in 19 international competitions where he or she will represent the country 20 and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him or her from 21 playing for his or her school team or in any competitions of athletic 22 associations; Provided, That he remain in good academic standing. 23 c) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to receive or renew his or her 24 athletic grants for the current semester or term; Provided, That he or 25 she complies with the requirements of the school where he or she is 26 enrolled in. 27 d) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be coached by skilled sports 28 officials who are trained in sport-specific safety and equipped with the 29 latest information about the risks and hazards of their respective 30 sports. It is also the right of the Student-Athlete to be trained by a 31 32 coach other than the ones associated with his or her school; Provided. That the same is coordinated with his or her coach and/or director of 33 the school's athletic program or the latter's equivalent; Provided further, 34 That the Student-Athlete shall not be prevented from exercising said 35 right without valid cause. 36 e) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have consistent, open and 37 inclusive dialogue with school officials and athletic associations as 38 regards the establishment of rules, policies and regulations that 39 40 concern and affect them. f) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be treated with respect and 41 dignity and be free from any form of discrimination on account of age, 42 sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, ideology, disability, education 43 44 and status. g) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to be free from abuse or violence, 45 be it physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual, or 46 47 cultural in nature. Abuse or violence may occur between the Student-Athlete and her coach, a school official or employee, or a fellow 48 49 Student-Athlete. To this end, Student-Athletes shall promptly report any incident involving abuse or violence in order to familitate a fast and 50

1	satisfactory resolution thereof.
2.	h) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to have opportunities to engage in
3	other safe recreational activities for the wholesome use of his or her
4	leisure hours; <i>Provided</i> , That it is not inconsistent with his or her sport
5	and will not expose him to undue risks.
6	i) It is the right of the Student-Athlete to engage in gainful employment;
7	Provided, That it does not interfere with his or her studies, training
8	schedule, and competition and does not prevent him from playing for
9	his school team or in any competitions of athletic associations;
10	Provided further, That he remain in good academic standing.
11	j) The right of the Student-Athlete to endorse a product or to be
12	sponsored by a commercial brand or company shall be respected;
13	Provided That this is subject to school policies and shall not be werd
13 14	Provided, That this is subject to school policies and shall not be used
14	by the school as a means to entice the student to enroll in said school.
	SECTION 6 Obligations of Student Athlatas - Far active in the state
16	SECTION 6. Obligations of Student-Athletes For active involvement in the
17	promotion and protection of their rights:
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19	6.1 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to conduct himself or herself
20	in a responsible manner at all times, reflective of the values of the school he
21	or she represents, bearing in mind that he or she carries the name and colors
22	of his or her school and is a role model to the other students.
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24	6.2 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to train regularly and obey the
25	rules set by his coach and the school.
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27	6.3 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to represent his or her school
28	in competitons chosen by his or her coach and/or school. In case of conflict
29	between a school-sanctioned competition and other competitions, he or she
30	shall be duty-bound to prioritize the school-sanctioned competition with the
31	exception of international competitions or pre-qualifying events for
32	international competitions.
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34	6.4 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to voluntarily present himself
35	or herself for the pre- and post-competition general health examinations.
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37	6.5 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to voluntarily attend trainings
38	and workshops designed and conducted for him or her.
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40	6.6 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to prioritize his or her
41	academic performance to ensure that his or her participation in sports shall
42	not disrupt or hinder the completion of his or her class/course. He or she shall
43	diligently attend classes and comply with the minimum class course load,
44	pass grade requirement and other requirements set by the schools.
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46	A Student-Athlete shall not be allowed to participate in any completion if he or
47	she has not attained the minimum passing requirement to gualify him or her to
48	go to the next level, unless he or she completes his or her missing
49	requirements during summer break.
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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 or her school and the athletic association he or she is representing by not being involved in betting, gamefixing, wagering, gambling, and other illicit acts or activities; not shall he or she affiliated or involved with persons associated with gambling and/or gamefixing.

6.9 It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to practice and maintain a
 respectful and non-violent attitude towards himself or 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 competition in all stages, from recruitment to competition, that he or she participates in.

20 SECTION 7. Obligation of Schools. -

7.1 It is the duty of the schools and their officials to support the Student-Athlete in fulfilling his or 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 or she 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 StudentAthlete access to health care professionals who will monitor his or her
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 StudentAthlete free or subsidized medical expense coverage in case of any physical
injury or sports-related harm suffered by him or her as a result of his or her
participation in the athletic program which prevents him or her from further

training for and competing in inter-school competitions.

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47 48 **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 or her 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 Leave of Absence 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 reasanble period may result in the loss of scholarship or other privileges and; *Provided further*, That it is understood that during this time of absence, he or she 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 or herself, such as his or her family's medical hsitory 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 or her 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 28 right of the Student-Athlete to a quality education which includes the choice of 29 school or the right to transfer to another school for any reason such as, but 30 not limited to, those enumerated in Section 5.3 (a). To this end, it shall be 31 unlawful for any school officials or representatives to restrict or otherwise 32 prevent the Student-Athlete from transferring to another school and the 33 corresponding administrative penalties shall be meted out on them; Provided, 34 That the applicable residency requirement imposed by colleges and 35 universities shall be respected in the case of a transfer from one college or 36 37 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 or her
from playing for his or her school team or in any competitons of athletic
associations; *Provided*, That he or she 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 requirement 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/oirthe director of the school's athletic program or the latter's equivalent, who shall not prvent 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-9 Athlete shall, on account of age, sex, gender, language, ethnicity, religion, 10 disability, education, and status, be excluded from participation in, be denied 11 the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any athletic program or 12 activity. Schools shall take into account its total women student population in 13 granting athletic scholarship. There shall be a pro rata representation of 14 women in the athletic scholarship program based on the percentage of 15 women in the whole student population. 16

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
subtances shal be termined 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

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- B. Uniform and equipment; and
- C. A reasonable living allowance, the computaton of which shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act, as approved by the director of the school's athletic program or his equivalent and standardized by the athletic association that the school is affiliated with.
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7.22 It is the duty of the schools and their officals to support the Student-Athlete's right to undergo training 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-Athletes on different topics including discrimination against women, dangers of PEDs and protection from violence and abuse.

- **7.24** It is the duty of the schools and their officials to grant the Student-Athlete the opportunity 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.
- 7.25 It is the duty of the schools and their officials to allow the Student-Athlete
 to engage in gainful employment; *Provided*, That does not interfere with his
 studies, training schedule, and competitions.

7.26 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.

31 SECTION 8. Obligations of Athletic Associations. -

8.1 It is the duty of the athletic associations to support the Student-Athlete's choice of school without any restriction or penalty. In the event that the issue is brought to the athletic association, the same shall be resolved in favor of honoring the right of choice of the Student-Athlete; *Provided*, That there are no violations of Section 7.21 above.

8.2 It is the duty of the athletic associations to ensure that the Student-Athlete
 plays in a safe and healthy environment during inter-school athletic programs
 and competitions.

8.3 It is the duty of the athletic associations to provide the Student-Athlete
with sage, well maintained, and upgraded equipment for use during interschool athletic programs and competitions.

8.4 It is the duty of the athletic associations to provide the Student-Athlete
access to medics in case of accidents, injuries, and other emergency
situations during athletic programs or competitions.

- **8.5** It is the duty of the athletic associations to keep and 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.
- **8.6** It is the duty of the athletic associations 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.
- **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-Athlete 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 or her skills. To this end, athletic associations cannot prohibit the Student-Athlete from attending such trainings or workshops; *Provided*, That he or she shall 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 or she will represent
 the country and other national competitions. This shall not prevent him or her
 from playing for his or her school or in any competitions of athletic
 associations; *Provided*, That he or she remains in good academic standing.
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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 opfficials 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 memberschools or officials thereof from inter-school 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.
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43 SECTION 9. Obligations of NSAs and the Philippine Sports Commission. – It is
 44 the duty of NSAs to support the schedule of the various athletic associations to the
 45 extent possible, so as not to schedule try-outs, trainings or trips abroad during crucial
 46 training periods or competitions.

48 **SECTION 10.** *Implementation.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), 49 the Department of Education (DepEd), the atheltic associations (UAAP, NCAA, 50 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 Act within thrity (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

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Any schools that shall be found in violation of the provisions of this Act shall be imposed a fine ranging from One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) to One Million Pesos (Php1 Million), without prejudice to any administrative and other charges that the DepEd and/or CHED may file against such concerned school.

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It shall also be unlawful for any schools to offer or aid or abets in offering 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, dimunition of withdrawal of subsidy, recommendation on the downgrading or withdrawal of accreditation, program termination, or school closure.

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SECTION 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.

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SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
 or parts thereof inconsistent with the Act or the rules and regulations promulgated
 pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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28 Approved,