

SPORTS LAW NO. 25 OF 1973

As amended by Act Nos.

47 of 1993

10 of 1998

33 of 2005

"A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, DISTRICT SPORTS COMMITTEES, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF SPORTS COACHES AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS AND THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SRI LANKA; FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPORTS FUND; FOR THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS; FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPORTS SCIENCE; AND TO PROVIDE OR ALL MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO."

Amended by Act No, 47
Of 1993

Amended by Act No, 10
of 1998

1. This Law may be cited as the Sports Law.

Short title

2. For the purposes set out in this Law, there may be established in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this Law –

Establishment of a
National Sports Council,
& c.

- a) a National Sports Council ;
- b) Such number of District Sports Committees as the Minister may determine ;

bb) a National Association of Sports Coaches and Technical Officers

Inserted by Act No.47 of
1993

c) a National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka ;

d) a Fund called the National Sports Fund ; and

e) A National Institute of Sports Science and such number of affiliated institutes as the Minister may determine.

Amended by Act No. 10
of 1998

3. (1) There shall be appointed a Director of Sports, who shall be responsible for the due performance of the duties and functions assigned to him as the Director of Sports by the Minister under this Law.

Appointment of
Director of Sports and
other officers

(2) There may be appointed one or more Assistant Directors of Sports and such other officers as may from time to time be required for the purposes of this Law.

(3) All officers appointed under subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code.

(4) No suit shall be against any public officer acting under this law for anything done or omitted to be done by him in good faith.

(5) In the exercise of their powers and the carrying out of their duties and functions, all officers appointed under this section shall comply with any general or special directions issued by the Minister or by the Secretary to the Ministry.

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, DISTRICT SPORTS COMMITTEES, A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS COACHES AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS AND A NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SRI LANKA

Amended by Act No.
47 of 1993

4. (1) There shall be established a Council called "The National Sports Council" hereinafter referred to as "The Council", to advise the Minister on matters connected with the promotion, development and control of sports in Sri Lanka.

Establishment of
National Sports
Council

(2) The council shall consist of –

(a) a Chairman and twelve other members appointed by the Minister

(b) the Director of Sports ; and

(c) a Secretary appointed by the Minister.

(3) A member appointed to the Council shall cease to hold office in any National Association of Sports or other sports body or organization in Sri Lanka during the continuance of his membership.

5. Subject to the provisions of this Law, the functioning and duties of the Council and the quorum for meetings of the Council shall be prescribed by regulations.

Functions and Duties
of the Council.

6. The Council may make rules to regulate the procedure at meetings of the Council and the transaction of business at such meetings.

Rules.

7. (1) The Chairman, Secretary and members of the Council appointed by the Minister shall, unless they vacate office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for a period of three years.

Vacation of Office, removal & C., of members of the Council.

(2) The Minister, may, if he considers it expedient to do so, remove from office the Chairman, Secretary or any member of the Council appointed by him, without reasons stated and such removal shall not be questioned in any court of law.

(3) Any person appointed in place of the Chairman, Secretary or a member, who has vacated office by death, resignation or removal, shall hold office only for the unexpired term of office of such person who has vacated office.

8. A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Council if he –

Disqualifications.

(a) is or has been adjudged by a Competent Court to be of unsound mind ; or

(b)) is or has been adjudged by a Competent Court to be an insolvent or bankrupt ; or

(c) is directly or indirectly interested in the manufacture, assembly, sale or production of any sports goods, gear or equipment ; or

(d) is convicted in a court of law for any offence which, in the opinion of the Minister, involves moral turpitude.

9. A member who vacates office by effluxion of time shall be eligible for reappointment.

Member eligible for reappointment.

10. If any member appointed by the Minister is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of his office on account of ill health, absence from Sri Lanka or any other cause, the Minister may appoint some other person to act as a member in his place.

Appointment of acting members

11. (1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, establish a “District Sports Committee” for each such administrative district as he may determine, to advise the Minister on matters connected with the promotion, development and control of Sports in the district.

Establishment of District Sports Committees.

(2) Every District Sports Committee established for an administrative district shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and not more than thirteen other members appointed by the Minister.

12. Subject to the provisions of this Law, the functioning and duties of Districts Sports Committees and the quorum for Meetings of such Committees shall be prescribed by regulations.

Functions and Duties of District Sports Committees.

13. Every District Sports Committee may make rules to regulate the procedure at meetings of such committee and the transaction of business at such meetings.

Rules of District Sports Committees.

14. (1) The members of any District Sports Committee appointed by the Minister shall, unless they vacate office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for a period of three years.

Vacation of office, & c., of Members.

(2) The Minister may, if he considers it expedient to do so, remove from office any member of a District Sports Committee appointed by him, without reason stated and such removal shall not be questioned in any court of law.

(3) Any person appointed in place of any member who has vacated office by death, resignation or removal shall hold office only for the unexpired term of office of such member who has vacated office.

15. A member who vacates office by effluxion of time shall be eligible for reappointment.

Reappointment of members.

16. If any member is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of his office on account of ill health, absence from Sri Lanka or any other cause, the Minister may appoint some other person to act as a member in his place.

Acting members.

17. A person shall be disqualified from serving on any District Sports Committee if he-

Disqualifications for serving as a member of a District Sports Committee.

- (a) is or has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind ; or
- (b) is or has been adjudged by a competent court to be an insolvent or bankrupt ; or
- (c) is directly or indirectly interested in the manufacture, assembly, sale or production of any sports goods, gear or equipment ; or
- (d) is convicted in a court of law for any offence which, in the opinion of the Minister, involves moral turpitude.

17A (1) There may be established an Association which shall be called “the National Association of Sports Coaches and Technical Officers of Sri Lanka.

Establishment of National Association of Sports Coaches and Technical Officers
(Inserted by Act No 47 of 1993)

(2) The composition, powers, functions, and duties of the National Association of Sports Coaches and Technical Officers, shall be prescribed by regulation.

18. (1) There may be established a Committee which shall be called “The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.”

Establishment of National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.

(2) Such Committee shall consist of –

Substituted by Act No. 47 of 1993

- a) The Director of Sports appointed under section 3, who shall be an ex-officio member ;
- b) Members, if any of the International Olympic Committee who are Sri Lankan Nationals, who shall be ex- officio members;
- c) two representatives of each, of the National Associations of Sports registered in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this Law, provided however, that each such National Association is affiliated to, or is a member of its respective International Federation and the sports it represents are included in the program of the Olympic Games.

Amended by Act No. 33 of 2005

The Committee may co-opt delegates of other registered National Associations of Sports or persons who have rendered or can render exceptional service to the Olympic movement, provided that such co-opted members do not constitute the voting majority in the Committee.

Term of office of committee

18A. Every member of such committee, other than the ex-officio members, shall hold office for a term of four years.”

(Amended by Act No. 47 of 1993 and Act No. 33 of 2005)

19. The functions, powers and duties of such Committee, shall be prescribed by regulation.

Function, &c., of the Committee

20. Such Committee may make rules to regulate the procedure at meetings of the Committee and the transaction of business at such meetings.

Rules of Committee

21. A person shall be disqualified from serving on such Committee, if he –

Disqualification

- (a) is or has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind ; or

(b) is or has been adjudged by a competent court to be an insolvent or bankrupt ; or

(c) is directly or indirectly interested in the manufacture, assembly, sale or production of any sports goods, gear or equipment ; or

(d) is convicted in a court of law for any offence which, in the opinion of the Minister, involves moral turpitude.

Paragraph (e) inserted by Act No.47 of 1993 and subsequently repealed by Act No. 33 of 2005

21A. (1) The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka and every National Association of Sports registered under Chapter III shall cause proper books of accounts to be kept of the income and expenditure and all other transactions of such Committee and Association.

Accounts and Audit

Section 21A is inserted by Act No.47 of 1993

(2) Such Committee and every such Association shall cause its books to be balanced as on the thirty-first day of December in each year, and shall before the Thirty First day March next, cause to be prepared, on income and expenditure account and a balance sheet containing a summary of the assets and liabilities of such committee and of every such Association, as the case may be, made up to the first mentioned date.

(3) The Auditor General shall audit the accounts of such Committee and every such Association.

Part II

ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS FUND

Establishment of the National Sports Fund.

22. There shall be established a fund called the National Sports Fund, hereinafter referred to as “the Fund” for the encouragement, promotion and development of sports in Sri Lanka.

23. There shall be paid into the Fund –

Payments into the Fund

- a) All sums of money as may from time to time be voted by Parliament for the purpose of the Fund;
- b) All moneys received as aid from any foreign countries;

bb) all sums of money payable by the Government, a Public Corporation or a Government owned business undertaking for the sponsorship of any sport or sports event;

Inserted by Act No.47 of
1993

c) All moneys received as donations made by any person to the Fund; and

d) Moneys received from any other source:

Provided, however, that where moneys are received under paragraphs (b), (c), or (d) of this section on the condition that such moneys be utilized for a specific purpose, the acceptance of such moneys for the credit of the Fund shall be at the sole discretion of the Minister:

Provided further, that moneys may be accepted, at the discretion of the Minister, to be utilized for granting awards and endowments or to be held in trust for any specified purposes and such moneys may not be credited to the Fund but may be maintained separately.

24. Any donation of any movable or immovable property may be accepted by the Minister on behalf of the Republic of Sri Lanka to be used for the purposes of this Law. Any such property may, in the discretion of the Minister and in the manner determined by him, be sold and the proceeds thereof credited to the Fund.

Donations of movable and
immovable property

25. (1) The Fund shall be under the control and administration of the Minister and shall be administered by the Secretary to the Ministry subject to the directions of the Minister.

Administration of the Fund

(2) The Secretary to the Ministry shall, as soon as possible, after the end of each calendar year prepare a report on the administration of the Fund.

(3) The Secretary to the Ministry shall cause to be maintained a full and appropriate account of the Fund in respect of each calendar year.

(4) The provisions of the Public Corporations (Financial Control) Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the financial control and accounts of the Fund.

(5) The Financial year of the Fund shall be the calendar year.

26. A report on the administration of the Fund for each calendar year together with a copy of the audited accounts of the Fund for that year and the report of the Auditor-General on such accounts, shall, as soon as possible, be placed by the Minister before Parliament.

Report on the Fund

27. The Minister may pay out of the Fund such sums as the Minister may determine-

Payments out of time

- a) For the encouragement, promotion and development of any sport in Sri Lanka;
- b) as ex gratia payments to present or past participants in sports in recognition of any exceptional contribution to sports;
- c) for investing in any fixed deposits in any bank or in any government loans or debentures; and
- d) for the purpose of carrying out or giving effect to the provisions of this Law.

PART III

REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF SPORTS

28. The Minister may, by Order published in the Gazette, name any sport or group of Sports for which a National Association may be formed.

Naming a sport or group of sports

29. When a sport or group of sports is named by an Order under section 28-

- a) any National Association of such sport or group of sports, which is in existence at the time such Order is made, shall, within three months of the publication of such Order in the Gazette, apply for registration in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this Law; and
- b) any National Association of such sport or group of sports, which is formed after such Order is made, shall, within three months of its formation, apply for registration in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this Law.

Registration of National Associations of Sports

30. Any person who is aggrieved by any decision or action of a registered National Association of Sports may, in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this Law, appeal to the Minister against such decision or action and the Minister's decision on such appeal shall be final and conclusive and shall not be questioned in any court of law

Appeals against decisions and actions of National Associations of Sports

31. The Minister may prescribe by regulation-

- a) the procedure for registration of National Association of Sports and the fees to be charged for such registration;
- b) the composition and constitution of such Associations;
- c) the duties, powers and functions of such Associations;
- d) the procedure in appealing against decisions and actions of such Associations; and
- e) the procedure for appointment of coaches, referees, umpires and judges by such Associations.

Procedure for registration, Composition, Constitutions, duties, Powers and Functions, &c, of National Associations of Sports

32. The Minister may refuse registration, or suspend or cancel the registration, of a National Association of Sports-

- a) for failing or neglecting to remedy any malpractices, misconduct or irregularities on the part of the office-bearers or members of such Association, on being noticed to do so in writing by the Secretary to the Ministry within such time as may be specified in such notice; or
- b) for inactivity, non-co-operation or obstruction in the implementation of the policies of the Ministry; or
- c) for failing to carry out its duties and functions.

Refusal, Suspension and Cancellation of registration of National Associations of Sports

In this section "Secretary to the Ministry" includes the Director of Sports, an Assistant Director of Sports or an Assistant Secretary to the Ministry.

33. The Minister may make interim Arrangements for continuing the functions of a National Association of Sports under suspension or whose registration has been refused or cancelled.

Interim Arrangements

34. (1) The Minister may, by Order published in the Gazette, order the dissolution of any National Association of Sports which has failed to apply for registration under section 29 or whose registration has been refused or cancelled under section 32 and the office-bearers of such Association shall carry out such Order by dissolving and winding up the affairs of such Association within such time as shall be specified in such Order.

Dissolution of National Associations of Sports

(2) The office-bearers of a National Association of Sports who fail or neglect to carry out an Order of dissolution under subsection (1) of this section, shall each be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction, after summary trial before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or to imprisonment of earlier description for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Where an Order of dissolution of a National Association of Sports has been made under subsection (1) of this section and where the time specified to carry out such Order has expired, any person who thereafter or continues to be a member of such Association shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or to imprisonment of earlier description for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment and to an additional fine not exceeding fifty rupees for each day he continues to be a member of such Association after such conviction.

(4) Where the Minister makes an Order under sub-section (1) ordering the dissolution of any National Association of Sports or suspends the registration of any National Association of Sports under section 32, the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister may, by notice in writing, require the office-bearers of such National Association of Sports to deliver all moveable property (including any books and documents) of such National Association of Sports to the Director of Sports. Any person who fails to comply with any requirement imposed on him under this subsection shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction, after summary trial before a Magistrate to a fine of five thousand rupees.

Section 34 is amended by adding Sub section (4) by Act No.47 of 1993

35. The Minister may, if he considers it expedient to do so, revoke an Order of dissolution made on a National Association of Sports under section 34 (1) and call upon the members of such Association to hold fresh elections and to remedy any malpractices, misconduct or irregularities, if any, and the Minister may thereafter, in his discretion, permit the registration or the re-registration of such Association, as the case may be.

Power to revoke Orders of dissolutions

PART IV

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPORTS SCIENCE

Amended by Act No. 10 of 1998

36. The Minister may establish a National Institute of Sports Science and any number of affiliated institutes for the purpose of-

Establishment of a National Institute of Sports Science

- a) imparting knowledge, Instruction and training in sports and physical education;
- b) holding examinations to ascertain the proficiency gained by students at such Institutes; and
- c) conferring and granting degrees, diplomas and certificates to those who have passed examinations conducted by such Institutes.

Amended by Act No. 10 of 1998

Amended by Act No. 10 of 1998

37. The minister may by regulation prescribe-

Amended by Act No. 10 of 1998

- a) schemes for admission to such institute;
- b) schemes of study, training and examinations at such institute; and
- c) schemes for the appointment and payment of Directors, Assistant Directors, teachers, instructors and other officers of such institutes as may be necessary.

Schemes for admission, schemes of study, &c., in National Institute of Sports Science &c

Amended by Act No. 10 of 1998

38. The Minister shall have the power-

- a) to provide facilities and erect, maintain and equip any buildings at such schools for training, residential and other purposes of such institutes;
- b) to regulate and provide for the discipline and welfare of the students and staff of such institutes;
- c) to provide for the granting of degrees, diplomas and certificates by such Institutes; and
- d) to provide for the admission of students to such Institutes.

Power of Minister to Provide facilities, regulate discipline in National Institute of Sports Science &c

Amended by Act No. 10 of 1998

PART V

GENERAL

39. (1) The Minister may make general or special directions in writing to Councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies established or registered under this Law, as to the exercise, discharge and performance of their powers, functions and duties, and such councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies shall give effect to such directions.

Powers of the Minister.

(2) The Minister may, from time to time, direct Councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies established or registered under this Law, to furnish to In such form as he may require, returns, accounts and other information in respect of their property and activities and such Councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies shall carry out every such direction.

(3)) The Minister may, from time to time order all or any of the activities of Councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies established or registered under this Law, to be investigated and reported on by such person or persons as he may specify, and upon such order being made, such Councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies shall afford all such facilities and furnish all such information, as may be necessary, to carry out every such order.

40. The Minister may regulate and control, by regulation, the participation in sports either in Sri Lanka or abroad, of individual participants or teams of players purporting to represent Sri Lanka.

Power of Minister to control participants in sports representing Sri Lanka

41 (1) The Minister may make regulations for the purpose of carrying out or giving effect to the principles and provisions of this Law and for all matters which are required by this Law to be prescribed or in respect of which regulations are required to be made.

Power to make regulations.

(2) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be published in the Gazette and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, as soon as convenient after its publication in the Gazette, be brought before Parliament for approval.

Any such regulation which is not approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of disapproval and without prejudice to anything previously done Notification of the date on which any regulation made by the Minister is so deemed to be rescinded shall be published in the Gazette.

42. Members of the National Sports Council, National Association of Sports Coaches and Technical officers and District Sports Committees established under this Law, may be remunerated in such manner and at such rates as the Minister may, with the concurrence of the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance, determine.

Remuneration Amended by
Act No. 47 of 1993

43. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires -

Interpretation.

“public corporation” means any, corporation, board or other body which was or is established by, or under, any written law other than the Companies Act, No.17 of 1982, with funds or capital wholly or partly provided by the Government, by way of grant, loan or otherwise.”

Inserted by Act No. 47 of
1993

“ a National Association of Sports” means an association, federation or body which is the controlling or governing body of a sport or group of sports named under section 28;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the subject or function of Sports has been assigned by the President,

“Ministry” shall be construed accordingly;

“sport” or “Sports” includes any form of sports, games, pastimes, physical training, body building and exercise which is recognized by the Secretary to the Ministry as a sport for the purposes of this Law.