

LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Adopted on 11 June 2004

ON CHILD AND YOUTH SPORT

Article 1. Subject matter of the Law

This Law shall regulate the program fundamentals of state policy in the field of child and youth sport, as well as relations pertaining to physical culture and sport, healthy lifestyle of children, as well as education and development of an individual.

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 2. Main concepts used in this Law

The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:

child and youth sport — sports trainings for children below the age of 14 and those for adolescents at the age of 14 to 18;

child and youth sports organisations — child and youth sports schools, child and youth sports technical schools, child and youth specialised sports schools of the Olympic reserve, colleges of Olympic reserve.

(Article 2 supplemented by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

Article 3. Purpose and tasks of the Law

1. The purpose of this Law shall be to ensure the conditions necessary for comprehensive development, healthy lifestyle of children and adolescents, those for engaging in physical culture and sports activities, as well as for the prevention of diseases and offences.

2. Tasks of this Law shall be as follows:

- (1) protecting the rights of children and adolescents engaged in physical culture and sports activities;
- (2) ensuring legal safeguards for the development of child and youth sport;
- (3) establishing rights and responsibilities for natural and legal persons in the field of development of child and youth sport;
- (4) providing state assistance to institutions and organisations that create conditions for children and adolescents engaged in physical culture and sports activities irrespective of the form of ownership thereof;
- (5) ensuring preparation and training of coach-pedagogues, medical staff practicing in the field of child and youth sport;
- (6) coordination of scientific and research works, regular involvement of children and adolescents in sports trainings, preparation of high-level athletes, doping control;
- (7) bringing sports and recreational services, provided to children and adolescents by educational and sports organisations, by non-governmental organisations acting in the field of physical culture and sport, in compliance with state standards for pre-school, general education, secondary vocational and higher professional education;
- (8) holding regular educational and sports events among children and adolescents.

(Article 3 edited by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

Article 4. Legislation on child and youth sport

1. The legislation on child and youth sport shall be comprised of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On physical culture and sport”, this Law, other laws and legal acts, as well as international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

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

Article 5. Principles of state policy in the field of child and youth sport

1. The state policy implemented in the field of child and youth sport shall ensure the exercise of possibilities of physical development and sport education of children and adolescents.

2. The State shall ensure:

(1) equal conditions for children and adolescents engaged in physical culture and sports activities;

(2) improvement of sports statistics;

(3) adoption of development programmes on child and youth sport.

CHAPTER 2

ORGANISING PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Article 6. Physical education at educational institutions

1. The subject entitled as “Physical culture” shall be mandatorily instructed during the whole period of study at all educational institutions as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Physical education of children at pre-school age shall be provided at kindergartens (irrespective of the form of ownership) through free of charge trainings, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, for the purpose of raising the functional capacities of the human body of a child, developing the basic motor qualities and skills, carrying out physical exercises, obtaining information on hygiene.

3. Protection and promotion of health, physical improvement and formation of healthy lifestyle of children and adolescents studying at (enrolled in) educational institutions and sports organisations carrying out general education, primary (handicraft) vocational, secondary vocational and higher professional education programmes (including state and

accredited non-state education institutions) shall be deemed to be the main tasks of such educational institutions.

4. At general education schools the classes of the subject entitled as “Physical culture” shall be held for the whole period of study at least 3 hours a week, at primary (handicraft) vocational education institutions — for 1 year at least 4 hours a week, whereas at secondary vocational and higher professional education institutions — for up to 3 years at least 4 hours a week.

5. Separate educational and sports trainings shall be held for children with physical impairments and disabilities as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

6. In order to provide physical education, educational and sports events shall be organised among children and adolescents as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and the participation of children and adolescents in local, republican and international tournaments shall be ensured.

7. Educational institutions and sports organisations shall, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, determine the methods and ways of holding trainings of physical culture and those of sports activities, the sports and the duration of trainings based on state education programmes and standards on physical fitness; they shall organise sports events, carry out extra-curricular works on physical culture and recreation as well as those on sport activities.

8. Educational institutions shall conduct annual attestation and examine the physical preparation of children and adolescents in accordance with state standards.

In accordance with the results of the academic year, each learner shall be attested for physical fitness under the procedure established by the state body authorised by the Government in the field of education.

(Article 6 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 7. Physical education of children and adolescents with disabilities

1. Involvement of children and adolescents with disabilities in the trainings of physical culture and those of sports activities shall be aimed at increasing their mobility, rehabilitating functional capacities of the human body thereof, creating favourable moral and psychological conditions therefor.

2. Within the framework of the system on continuous rehabilitation of children and adolescents with disabilities, trainings of physical culture and those of sports activities shall be organised as well as methodological and medical assistance shall be provided by the competent authorities of educational institutions and healthcare organisations, those of social security institutions and those acting in the field of physical culture and sport as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. Educational institutions, competent authorities acting in the field of physical culture and sport, together with non-governmental organisations acting in the field of persons with disabilities as well as physical culture and sport shall ensure that events on physical culture and recreation and sports events are held, shall ensure the preparation and participation of children and adolescents in republican, international competitions (including World and European Championships, Olympic games), as prescribed by the state body authorised by the Government in the field of physical culture and sport (hereinafter referred to as “the authorised body”).

(Article 7 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 8. Physical education at the place of residence

1. Local self-government bodies shall create appropriate conditions for engaging in physical culture and sports activities at the places of residence of children and adolescents and public places as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Competent authorities in the field of physical culture and sport shall assist local self-government bodies and non-governmental organisations in conducting works on physical culture and recreation and those on sports activities as well as in advocating healthy lifestyle.

Article 9. Physical preparation of adolescents at pre-conscription and conscription age

1. Physical preparation of adolescents at pre-conscription and conscription age for military service shall be carried out at general education and vocational education institutions in accordance with state programmes and standards, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The state authorised body in the field of defence may conclude contracts with non-governmental organisations operating in the field of physical culture and sport as well as with those focused on sports and military affairs, regarding the preparation of adolescents at pre-conscription and conscription age for military service.

3. The physical preparation of adolescents for military service shall be carried out by the state body authorised by the Government in the field of defence and supervision thereover shall be exercised under the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 9 supplemented by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 10. Child and youth sports organisations

(Title supplemented by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

1. Child and youth sports organisations shall organise the development works of child and youth sport, shall recruit the national sports teams with athletes, shall ensure that children and adolescents have physical abilities and relevant knowledge.

2. Child and youth sports organisations shall be established by legal and natural persons.

(Sentence deleted by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

(Article 10 supplemented by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005, amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 10.1. Licensing of sports schools and similar organisations

(Article 10.1 repealed by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 11. Child and youth sports non-governmental organisations

A minor below the age of 14 may hold membership in a child and youth sports non-governmental organisation if he or she so wishes and upon the request of the legal representative, as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On non-governmental organisations”.

Article 12. Educational and sports works carried out for children and adolescents

Educational and sports works carried out for children and adolescents shall be organised by coach-pedagogues.

(Article 12 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 13. Judging of sports events

Sports events shall be judged by judges with appropriate professional qualification and professionalism under the procedure established by national sports federations.

Article 14. Medical support and medical control for those engaged in sport activities

1. The right to participate in sports trainings shall be reserved to the children and adolescents having been examined at medical institutions and having obtained relevant permission to participate in educational and sports trainings and sports events.

2. For the purpose of providing support to high-level athletes, sports medical centres shall be established as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The heads of physical culture and sports organisations and those of educational and sports institutions shall be subject to liability for the damage caused to children and adolescents enrolled in the trainings and groups of physical culture and sports activities, as prescribed by law of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 14 amended by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

Article 15. Sports ranks

Children and adolescents having shown high performance in sports shall be granted with sports ranks under the procedure established by the authorised body.

Article 16. State assistance to children and adolescents having shown high performance in sports and to the coaches thereof

The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall determine for children and adolescents having shown high performance in sports and for the coaches thereof honorary payments, rewards and other incentives, as well as the amount and the procedure for the provision thereof.

CHAPTER 3

FUNDAMENTALS OF STATE POLICY IN THE FIELD OF CHILD AND YOUTH SPORT

Article 17. Annual programme on child and youth sport

1. Development works of child and youth sport shall be carried out in the Republic of Armenia within the time limits and under the procedure prescribed by annual programmes on child and youth sport (hereinafter referred to as the “annual programme”).
2. Expenditures of performance of the works provided for by the annual programme shall be reflected in the expenditures of the State Budget for corresponding year.
3. The part of the planned works having been performed inappropriately shall, upon the results of implementation of the annual programme, be included in the annual programme for the next year.

Article 18. Content of the annual programme and the principles of elaboration thereof

1. The annual programme shall include:
 - (1) main issues of the programme;

- (2) volumes of the planned works and the timetable for the implementation thereof;
- (3) proportions of financing of the planned works;
- (4) principles of implementation of the programme and priorities of the performance of the planned works;
- (5) procedure for supervision over the process of performance of development works of child and youth sport and over that of financing thereof (including at the expense of the assistance received from foreign States and international organisations);
- (6) measures implemented for free of charge access of children and adolescents to sports schools, sports clubs, sports bases and sports equipment;
- (7) measures, directions and privileges provided for the creation of appropriate conditions aimed at involving children and adolescents in the field of physical culture and sport and rendering assistance addressed thereto;
- (8) works aimed at ensuring the participation of children and adolescents in physical culture and sports events (including international tournaments), the timetable for holding such events;
- (9) measures implemented for the purpose of creation of necessary conditions (including appropriate sports schools, sports bases, sports equipment, logistics support, etc.) for the engagement of children and adolescents in physical culture and sports activities;
- (10) measures aimed at providing children and adolescents with free of charge access to sports and healthcare services;
- (11) measures aimed at ensuring the engagement of children and adolescents in physical education and sports activities at educational and sports institutions, places of residence;
- (12) measures aimed at ensuring physical fitness of adolescents at pre-conscription and conscription age;
- (13) measures aimed at providing honorary payments, rewards, scholarships and other incentives to children and adolescents having shown high performance in sport and to the coaches thereof;

(14) volumes of state assistance rendered to non-governmental organisations acting in the field of physical culture and sport;

(15) planned works — as of authorised bodies;

(16) measures for the preparation and training of the staff in the field of child and youth sport;

(17) other means required for comprehensive presentation of the programme.

2. *(Part repealed by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)*

(Article 18 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 19. Report on the implementation of the annual programme

The report on the implementation of the annual programme shall form the integral part of the annual report on the State Budget performance for the subsequent year.

CHAPTER 4

MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF CHILD AND YOUTH SPORT

Article 20. Powers of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the field of child and youth sport

In the field of child and youth sport the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall:

(1) ensure the implementation of state policy in the field of child and youth sport;

(2) *(Point repealed by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)*

(3) elaborate minimum standards on the conditions (including appropriate sports schools, sports bases, sports equipment, etc.) necessary for ensuring the engagement of children and adolescents in physical culture and sports activities;

(4) establish the procedure for mandatory instruction of the subject entitled as “Physical culture” to children and adolescents at educational institutions;

(5) define the amounts and the procedure for the provision of rewards, scholarships and other incentives allocated to children and adolescents having shown high performance in sport and to the coaches thereof;

(6) assist non-governmental organisations acting in the field of physical culture and sport dealing with the main issues of children and adolescents;

(7) (Point repealed by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

(8) exercise other powers defined by law.

(Article 20 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 21. Powers of the authorised body acting in the field of child and youth sport

The authorised body acting in the field of child and youth sport, as prescribed by legislation, shall:

(1) implement the state policy on the field of child and youth sport;

(2) (Point repealed by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

(3) draw up the annual programme and participate in the implementation thereof;

(4) elaborate the standards, directions and perspectives for ensuring living conditions necessary for complete physical development of children and adolescents;

(5) elaborate the forms and ways of involving children and adolescents with disabilities in the field of physical culture and sport;

(6) approve the calendar plan for holding planned physical culture and sports events for children and adolescents;

(7) establish the procedure for the participation of children and adolescents in physical culture and sports events (including international tournaments);

(8) elaborate the standards on physical fitness of adolescents at pre-conscription and conscription age;

- (9) assist the activities of non-governmental organisations acting in the field of physical culture and sport;
- (10) assist in carrying out scientific researches on child and youth sport;
- (11) draw up methodological documents on the issues pertaining to child and youth sport;
- (12) cooperate with non-governmental organisations acting in the field of physical culture and sport dealing with the main issues of children and adolescents;
- (13) organise the preparation and training of specialists (coaches, pedagogues, etc) operating in the field of child and youth sport;
- (14) establish the procedure for granting sports ranks to the children and adolescents having shown high performance in individual and team sports;
- (15) exercise other powers.

(Article 21 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 22. Powers of territorial administration bodies the field of child and youth sport

The territorial administration bodies acting in the field of child and youth sport, as prescribed by legislation, shall:

- (1) ensure the fulfilment of the requirements of legislation within the scope of their competences in the field of child and youth sport;
- (2) participate in elaboration of development programmes on child and youth sport;
- (3) assist the joint and coordinated activities of state competent bodies and local self-government bodies;
- (4) coordinate and implement state development programmes on child and youth sport of a marz [region];
- (5) assist the activities of enhancing the logistics base of physical culture and sport;

(6) assist the participation of children and adolescents residing in the territory of a marz and communities in physical culture and sports events;

(7) assist the development of child and youth sport in the territory of a marz and communities.

(Article 22 amended by HO-65-N of 19 May 2008)

Article 23. Powers of local self-government bodies in the field of child and youth sport

In the field of child and youth sport local self-government bodies shall:

(1) assist the fulfilment of the requirements of legislation within the territory of a community, within the scope of their powers, as prescribed by law;

(2) assist the implementation of development programmes on child and youth sport in the territory of a community;

(3) assist the activities of enhancing the logistics base of physical culture and sport in the territory of a community;

(4) assist the participation of children and adolescents residing in the territory of a community in physical culture and sports events;

(5) promote the development of child and youth sport in the territory of a community.

Article 24. International cooperation

1. International cooperation in the field of physical culture and sport among children and adolescents shall be reached on the basis of inter-governmental agreements and treaties.

2. State competent authorities acting in the field of physical culture and sport, educational and sports institutions may, as prescribed by legislation, directly establish contacts with foreign and international physical culture and sports organisations, implement international sports and scientific research programmes, hold membership in non-governmental organisations, unions, federations and other entities acting in the field of physical culture and sport.

3. When carrying out works for children and adolescents in the field of physical culture and sport, the State shall implement coordinated policy within the scope of bilateral and multilateral agreements concluded with international organisations.

Article 24.1. Liability for violating the requirements of this Law

Violation of the requirements of this Law shall entail liability as prescribed by law of the Republic of Armenia.

(Article 24.1 supplemented by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

CHAPTER 5

FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

(Title supplemented by HO-121-N of 9 November 2004)

Article 25. Licensing of the activities of sports schools and similar organisations

(Article 25 repealed by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

Article 26. Liability for violating the requirements of this Law

(Article 26 repealed by HO-232-N of 17 November 2005)

Article 27. Entry into force of the Law

This Law shall enter into force on the tenth day following its official promulgation, except for part 4 of Article 6.

Part 4 of Article 6 of this Law shall enter into force from 1 September 2007. Before 1 September 2007, the classes of the subject on “Physical culture” at general education schools, primary (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institutions shall be held for the whole period of study at least 2 hours a week, whereas at higher education institutions — for 2 years at least 4 hours a week.

(Article 27 supplemented by HO-121-N of 9 November 2004)

**President
of the Republic of Armenia**

R. Kocharyan

10 July 2004
Yerevan
HO-109-N