

CHAPTER 392

SPORTS

Law
No. 25 of 1973.

A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, DISTRICT SPORTS COMMITTEES AND THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SRI LANKA ; FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPORTS FUND ; FOR THE REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF SPORTS; FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF SPORTS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

[10th August. 1973.]

Short title.

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

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

Establishment of a National Sports Council, &c.

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

(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.

(a) a National Sports Council;

(b) such number of District Sports Committees as the Minister may determine;

(c) a National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka;

(d) a Fund called the National Sports Fund; and

(e) such number of Schools of Sports as the Minister may determine.

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, DISTRICT SPORTS COMMITTEES, AND A NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SRI LANKA

Appointment of Director of Sports and other officers.

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.

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-

(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.

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

(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.

(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.

Functions and duties of the Council.

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.

Rules.

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

Vacation of office, removal, &c., of members of the Council.

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.

(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.

Disqualifications.

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

- (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 eligible for 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 reasons 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.

Reappointment of members,

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

Acting 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.

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

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

- (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.

Establishment of National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) Such Committee shall consist of—

- (a) members, if any, of the International Olympic Committee in Sri Lanka,

who shall be ex officio, non-voting members unless they have been appointed under paragraph (b); and

- (b) 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 programme of the Olympic Games.

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.

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

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.

Payments into
the Fund.

23. There shall be paid into the Fund—

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

Donations of
movable and
immovable
property.

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.

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 of money as the Minister may determine— Payments out of the Fund

(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

Naming a sport or group 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.

Registration of National Associations 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.

Appeals against decisions and actions 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.

Procedure for registration, composition, constitution, duties, powers and functions, &c., of National Associations of Sports.

31. The Minister may prescribe by regulation—

- (a) the procedure for registration of National Associations 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 or actions of such Associations; and

(e) the procedure for appointment of coaches, referees, umpires and judges by such Associations.

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 registrations 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

Dissolution of National Associations of Sports.

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.

(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 either 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 becomes 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 either 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.

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(i) 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 maybe.

PART IV

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF SPORTS

36. The Minister may establish one or more Schools of Sports for the purpose of—

- (a) imparting knowledge, instruction and training in sports and physical education,

- (b) holding examinations to ascertain the proficiency gained by students at such schools ; and

- (c) conferring and granting degrees, diplomas and certificates to those who have passed examinations conducted by such schools.

37. The Minister may by regulation prescribe—

- (a) schemes for admission to such schools;

- (b) schemes of study, training and examinations at such schools ; and

- (c) schemes for the appointment and payment of Directors, Assistant Directors, teachers, instructors and other officers of such schools, as may be necessary.

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 schools;

- (b) to regulate and provide for the discipline and welfare of the students and staff of such schools ;

- (c) to provide for the granting of degrees, diplomas, and certificates by such schools; and

- (d) to provide for the admission of students to such schools.

Schemes for admission, schemes of study, &c., in Schools of Sports.

Power of Minister to provide facilities, regulate discipline in Schools of Sports.

Power to revoke Orders of dissolution.

Establishment of Schools of Sports.

PART V

GENERAL

39. (1) The Minister may make general Powers of the Minister. 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.

(2) The Minister may, from time to time, direct Councils, Committees, Associations and other bodies, established or registered under this Law, to furnish to him, 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.

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.

(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 but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder. 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 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.

43. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

" 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, and

" 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.

Power of Minister to control participants in sports representing Sri Lanka.

Power to make regulations.