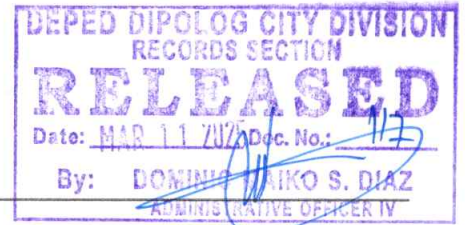




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IX – ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIPOLOG CITY



March 11, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 117, s. 2025

**GUIDELINES ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES IN THE DIVISION,
REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE
2025 PALARONG PAMBANSA**

TO: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief of the CID & SGOD
All Education Program Supervisors/Public Schools District Supervisor
All Public Elementary and Secondary School Principals/Head Teachers
All Other Concerned
This Division

1. Attached is Memorandum **OM-OUOPS-2025-05-01337**, Guidelines on the Eligibility of Athletes in the Division, Regional, and National Level for the 2025 Palarong Pambansa.
2. Immediate dissemination of this memorandum to all concerned is desired.
3. For compliance.


MA LIZA R. TABILON EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Reference: Memorandum OM-OUOPS-2025-01337
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects;

Physical Fitness Sports Activities Eligibility of Athletes



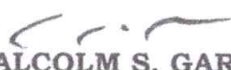

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM
OM-OUOPS-2025-05-01337

TO : REGIONAL DIRECTORS
MINISTER OF BASIC, HIGHER, AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION, BARMM
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND DIVISION SCREENING AND
ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : 
MALCOLM S. GARMA
Assistant Secretary, Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Undersecretary for Operations
Secretary General, Palarong Pambansa 

SUBJECT : **GUIDELINES ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES IN THE
DIVISION, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE
2025 PALARONG PAMBANSA**

DATE : **24 February 2025**

The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall conduct the **65th edition of the Palarong Pambansa** from May 24 to June 02, 2025 in Ilocos Norte Province.

In regard thereto and pursuant to Sections 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Rule V of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act (RA) 10588 otherwise known as the *Palarong Pambansa Act of 2013*, this Office issues the herein enclosed **Guidelines on the Eligibility of Athletes in the Division, Regional, and Palarong Pambansa 2025** for reference and guidance of all concerned.

These guidelines shall apply to the conduct of the 2025 *Palarong Pambansa* from the school, district, division, regional, and national levels.

For queries, all concerned may contact the **Palarong Pambansa Secretariat** at telephone number (02) 8687-4146 or through email address palarong.pambansa@deped.gov.ph.

Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



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Enclosure No. ____

**GUIDELINES ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES
IN THE DIVISION, REGIONAL AND PALARONG PAMBANSA 2025**

RULE I

Section 1. Scope and Application – These Rules shall apply to the conduct of the *Palarong Pambansa*, Regional, Division, District, and School Meets.

RULE II

Section 2. Composition

- a. Pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10588,¹ known as “An Act Institutionalizing the Conduct of the *Palarong Pambansa* and Appropriating Funds Therefor” and Section 17 (a) of DepEd Order No. 43, s. 2016, known as “The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10588,”² the Board shall constitute the National Screening and Accreditation Committee (NSAC) composed of the following:

- i. A representative from DepEd Legal and Legislative Affairs;
- ii. Two (2) government physicians;
- iii. Two (2) government dentists; and
- iv. One (1) authorized representative from each Regional Athletic Association (RAA), preferably the Chairperson of the Regional Screening and Accreditation Committee (RSAC).

The *Palaro* Board may designate a Data Group/Secretariat that will assist the NSAC in preparing and reproducing the master lists, and photo galleries of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones, and other works as deemed necessary.

- b. The Regional Director, in consultation with the members of the RAA, shall create a Regional Screening and Accreditation Committee (RSAC) composed of the following:
- i. A representative from the Regional Legal Unit or a representative authorized by the Regional Director, who will act as the Chairperson;
 - ii. Two (2) government physicians;
 - iii. Two (2) government dentists;

¹ R.A. No. 10588

² IRR of R.A. No. 10588



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- iv. One (1) authorized representative from each Division Athletic Association (DAA); and
 - v. Data Group that will serve as the secretariat and assist the RSAC in the preparation and submission of the master list, and photo galleries, and other documents of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones.
- c. The Schools Division Superintendent shall likewise create a Division Screening and Accreditation Committee (DSAC) composed of the following:
- i. A representative from the Legal Unit or a representative authorized by the Schools Division Superintendent, who will act as the Chairperson;
 - ii. One (1) government physician;
 - iii. One (1) government dentist;
 - iv. One (1) authorized representative from each district or cluster and
 - v. Data Group that will serve as the secretariat and assist the DSAC in the preparation and submission of the master list, and photo galleries, and other documents of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones.
- d. No teaching personnel engaged in classroom instruction shall be designated as NSAC, RSAC, or DSAC members.

Section 3. Duties and Functions of the NSAC – The NSAC shall:

- a. Interview, evaluate, and verify the authenticity of the documents of athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones submitted by the Head of Delegation for the *Palarong Pambansa*;
- b. Accredit qualified athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones and submit to the Board:
 - i. *the initial master list at least two (2) months before the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa;*
 - ii. *the final official master list at least two (2) days before the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa;*
- c. Consider replacements for disqualified athletes during the period of screening;
- d. Re-check and monitor with the proper technical officials the athlete fielded by coaches during the actual competition based on the final official master list with photo gallery released by NSAC;



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- e. Monitor the conduct of the screening and accreditation of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones during the Division, Regional and *Palarong Pambansa*;
- f. Have appellate jurisdiction on decisions rendered by RSAC; and
- g. Other functions that the Board may delegate.

Section 4. Duties and Functions of the RSAC and DSAC – The RSAC and DSAC shall:

- a. Evaluate and verify the authenticity of the documents of athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones submitted by the Head of Delegation for the Regional Meet in the case of RSAC and Division Meet in the case of DSAC;
- b. Accredite qualified athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones and submit the master list to the RAA, DAA or Provincial Athletic Association (PAA), *through the Tournament Managers*, as the case may be, at least two (2) days before the conduct of the Division or Regional Meet;
- c. Re-check and monitor with the proper technical officials the athletes fielded by the coaches during the actual competition based on the final official master list and photo gallery;
- d. The Head of Delegation, through the DSAC or RSAC, shall submit the master list to the RSAC or NSAC, as the case may be;
- e. Provide technical assistance in the screening and accreditation of athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones.

RULE III

Section 5. Rules on Participation in the *Palarong Pambansa*

- a. The participants in the *Palarong Pambansa* shall be elementary and secondary athletes from public and private schools who participated in the Division meet (School, District, and other applicable meets) and Regional Meet: *Provided* that secondary athletes shall refer to both junior and senior high school learners;
- b. Generally, Kinder to Grade 6 athletes shall play in the elementary Division, and Grade 7 to Grade 12 athletes shall play in the secondary Division.



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However, an elementary athlete who has been declared overage at the elementary level may be allowed to play at the secondary level.

Section 6. Eligibility of Athlete – To be eligible in the *Palarong Pambansa*, Regional, Division, and other lower meets, the athlete must be:

- a. A Filipino citizen;
- b. Enrolled in a public, private recognized school (schools with recognition/permit to operate) or Philippine School Overseas (PSO) or National Academy of Sports (NAS) at the beginning of the current school year and have attended and/or completed the curriculum year (for *Palarong Pambansa* only), regardless of the delivery mode of learning, except those enrolled under Alternative Learning System.

For athletes under the Alternative Delivery Mode (Home Study Program/ Home Schooling Program, Modified Out School Approach, Open High School Program), they shall be allowed to participate in the lower meets, Division, Regional, and *Palarong Pambansa* provided that they shall represent the School or Division or Region where they are enrolled.

- c. In case of transfer of learner-athlete, the following rules shall apply, *viz*:
 - i. **For transfer of athlete from one region to another region**, a one (1) academic year or school year **residency** requirement shall be imposed ***only upon secondary student-athletes***, except for those in Grade 7 and Grade 11. *Transferees in the elementary level shall be allowed to play provided his/her transfer was made before or at the beginning of the school year.* This provision shall also apply to Filipino student-athletes from other countries enrolling in a school in the Philippines.

A one (1) academic year or school year residency shall commence at the beginning of the school year until the end of the current Palarong Pambansa.

- ii. **For individual event** – Transferees from one school to another school within the Division or transferees from one Division to another Division within the same Region, are allowed to participate in the *Palarong Pambansa*, *provided*, they have participated in the lower meets, (School, District, Division, Regional);



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- iii. **For team events** (Basketball, Baseball, Futsal, Sepak Takraw, Volleyball, Softball and Football) – A student-athlete who transferred from one school within the Division or Region, shall be allowed to participate in the School, Division, Regional Meet and *Palarong Pambansa*, provided his/her transfer was made before the conduct of the school intramural.
- d. For student-athletes in the **elementary level**, the athlete must have been **born on or after January 1, 2012**. For *Palarong Pambansa 2026*, elementary student-athletes must have been born on or after January 1, 2013; for 2027, on or after January 1, 2014; and so on and so forth for the succeeding years.

For those in the **secondary level**, the athlete must have been **born on or after January 1, 2007**. For *Palarong Pambansa 2026*, secondary student-athletes must have been born on or after January 1, 2008; for 2027, on or after January 1, 2009; and so on and so forth for the succeeding years.

Athletes born before said date shall be immediately disqualified from the School, Division, Regional Meet, and in the *Palarong Pambansa* for being overage.

- e. **Filipino athletes enrolled in Philippine School Overseas (PSOs)** may be allowed to participate in the *Palarong Pambansa* (National *Palaro*) without playing in the Division and Regional Meets, provided that the athlete:
- Shall meet the other requirements for qualification and accreditation;
 - Shall meet the qualifying standards in the individual sports where they are playing;
 - Shall shoulder their expenses; and
 - For purposes of representation, they shall be playing under the banner of Philippine School Overseas (PSOs) and shall be exempted from the one (1) year residency requirement in case of athlete's transfer and the one school-one team rule representation in team events.
- f. Athletes enrolled in the National Academy of Sports (NAS) shall be allowed to participate in the *Palarong Pambansa* without playing in the Division and Regional Meets, subject to the following conditions:



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- i. NAS student-athletes must undergo with the usual Screening and Accreditation process and abide by the rules on the eligibility of athletes provided by the Palarong Pambansa Board;
- ii. NAS shall be the 18th delegation to the Palarong Pambansa, carrying the banner of the National Academy of Sports;
- iii. All expenses to be incurred relative to the participants of NAS as a separate delegation shall be shouldered by the NAS and that no additional expenses shall be charged to the Department of Education and/or Palarong Pambansa; and
- iv. Transfers of athlete/s from Region III delegation and other Regions to NAS shall be considered as transfer from one region to another region.

Section 7. Grounds for Disqualification – Unless otherwise provided by the Board, the following athletes shall be disqualified or shall not be allowed to play in the *Palarong Pambansa*, Regional, Division, or other lower meets:

- a. Athletes who have been declared over age;
- b. Elementary athletes with 3rd molar tooth;
- c. For Elementary and Secondary level: Athletes with failing grades in three (3) or more learning areas in the:
 - i. **first grading period** for the Division Level;
 - ii. **second grading period** for the Regional Level and Palarong Pambansa;
- d. Athletes who become, have been, or are currently members of the:
 - i. National Team, National Training Pool, or who played in the South East Asian (SEA) Games, Asian Youth Games, Asian Games and/or Olympic Games;
 - ii. National Developmental Pool and who received or are receiving regular monthly stipend and/or allowance from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC);

Provided, however, that those athletes who played in other foreign invitational competitions shall not be disqualified to play in the Palarong Pambansa: Provided, further, that athletes participating in one sports discipline as: a) members of the National Team, National Training Pool; b) National Developmental Pool and who received or are receiving monthly stipend and/or allowance from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) or played in the SEA Games, Asian Youth Games, Asian Games and/or Olympic Games shall not be



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disqualified to play in the *Palarong Pambansa* and other lower meets in a sports discipline other than the sport wherein the athlete participated in as a member of the above-mentioned team or pools;

- e. Athletes who fail to submit the required documents, physically appear during the screening and interview, and play in the Regional, Division, and lower meets, unless his/her failure to appear is justifiable or due to a fortuitous event beyond his/her control;
- f. Athletes banned during the previous *Palarong Pambansa* or disqualified during lower meets; and
- g. Other grounds include but are not limited to falsification of documents, misrepresentation, and use of prohibited drugs.

Section 8. Documentary Requirements. The following are the required documents to be submitted by athletes who intend to participate in the *Palarong Pambansa* and other lower meets:

- a. Athlete's Record (AR) signed by the athlete, coach, and authorized Division Sports Officer and/or Coordinator;
- b. Original and certified photocopy of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)/National Statistics Office (NSO) Birth Certificate. Late registration of the Birth Certificate of an athlete shall be accepted, *provided* the Birth Certificate is registered one (1) year before the current *Palarong Pambansa*. For those athletes who participated in the previous *Palarong Pambansa*, only a photo copy of the PSA birth certificate is required.
- c. In the case of foreign-born Filipino athletes, in lieu of an NSO/PSA Birth Certificate, the Original Birth Certificate issued by the country where he/she was born and a valid passport or a document issued by the Bureau of Immigration or Department of Foreign Affairs showing his or her Filipino nationality.

The eligibilities are subject to the specific technical rules of each sports discipline.

- d. Certified true copy from original or computer printed of Learner's Permanent Academic Record or School Form (SF) 10 (Form 137) with entries of Learner Reference Number (LRN) duly signed by the Teacher-Adviser or Registrar or Principal, or School Heads, and by the authorized



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Division Sports Coordinator, PESS Coordinator or Education Program Supervisor in charge of Sports.

e. Certificate of Enrolment and Attendance duly signed by the School Registrar or School Head:

- i. For Grades 1 to 10, a Certificate of Attendance and Completion stating that the athlete had attended and completed the Curriculum Year.
- ii. For Grades 11 and 12, the athlete must not have three or more failing final grades in any learning areas for the 1st semester;
- iii. For Grades 11 and 12, a Certificate of Completion issued by the school where the athlete was enrolled in the 2nd Semester, stating that the athlete had attended and completed the Curriculum Year. The foregoing requirements apply to *Palarong Pambansa*.
- iv. For the lower meets, Grades 1 to 10 must not have three (3) or more failing grades in any learning areas; likewise, in Grades 11 and 12, 1st semester grades must not have three (3) or more failing grades in any learning areas.

f. Parental Consent

- i. **Combative sports, including gymnastics** – Parental Consent signed by both parents duly verified by the school head, or principal, or registrar, or teacher-adviser where the athlete is enrolled.
 1. In case one or both parent/s is /are residing in a place other than the athlete's residence, signed parent consent from both parents must be submitted and verified by the school head or principal, or registrar, or teacher-adviser where the athlete is enrolled. Copy of the signed parent consent of any parent may be in electronic form (i.e., sent to the school head or coach through email or other electronic means.)
 2. In case of *de facto* separation, legal separation, annulment of marriage, or declaration of nullity of marriage of parents, the consent of the parent with actual care and custody of the athlete duly verified by the school head or principal, or registrar, or teacher-adviser where the athlete is enrolled.



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ii. **Non-combative sports** – Parental Consent of at least one parent duly verified by the school head or principal, or registrar, or teacher-adviser where the athlete is enrolled.

1. In case both parents are residing in a place other than the athlete's residence, signed parental consent from one parent must be submitted and verified by the school head where the athlete is enrolled. Copy of the signed parental consent of any parent may be in electronic form (i.e., sent to the school principal or coach through email or other electronic means.)

iii. If the athlete is orphaned, has no known parents, or any other similar circumstances, the caregiver and custodian shall execute a Notarized Affidavit of Actual Care and Custody in lieu of the Parent's Consent.

g. **Medical certificate** issued within three (3) months before the opening of each level of competition, stating that the athlete is physically fit and within the age limit required. The complete name and signature of the physician shall appear on the medical certificate, with the license number and date of examination.

h. **Dental certificate**, with a universal entry, issued within six (6) months before each level of competition is opened. The complete name and signature of the dentist shall appear on the dental certificate, with the license number and date of examination.

For Secondary Athletes, No Dental Certificate is required.

i. **PasSport of the student-athlete** containing the documents enumerated under Section 8 of this Rule and accessible through QR Code or password.

j. Four (4) copies of passport size 1 ½ x 1 ½, identical and clear pictures with name tag (surname, first name and middle initial) and with grade or year level, to be used for the Athlete's Record, Dental Certificate, Gallery and Accreditation Card.

k. Affidavit of the coach, attesting to the authenticity, validity and correctness of the entries on the above-mentioned documents.

l. Additional documents for athletes in Special Sports Events for SWDL:

(i.) Intellectual Disability Certification – Psycho-Educational Assessment Tests conducted and certified by Psychologist or



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- DepEd SPED Supervisor indicating the athlete's IQ level (70 and below);
- (ii.) Visual Impairment Certification – test conducted and certified by an Ophthalmologist to determine the visual acuity (Totally Blind or Low Vision); and
 - (iii.) Hearing Impairment Certification – test conducted and certified by an Otorhinolaryngologist to determine that the athlete is unable to hear.

RULE IV

Section 9. Eligibility and Documentary Requirements for Coach and Assistant Coach – Any school (private or public) personnel may be allowed/designated as a coach or assistant coach, provided he/she meets and submits the following documentary requirements:

- a. He/she must be a Filipino citizen;
- b. Certificate of Relevant sports training of twenty-four (24) hours for non-combative sports and forty (40) hours for combative sports/ gymnastics;
- c. Certificate of Relevant experience of one (1) year for non-combative sports and two (2) years for combative sports/ gymnastics;
- d. Coach and assistant coach Track Record of participation in the Division and Regional Meet;
- e. Educational and professional attainment of at least 2nd-year college, preferably sports-related course;
- f. Certificate of Membership in any relevant sports association; or
License or certifications/ accreditation issued by the National/ International Sports Association, authorized organization, or by the DepEd (Division, Region, or Central Office);
- g. Medical Records (Medical Certificate of Fitness);
- h. Employment/Appointment Paper or duly Notarized Contract of Service that shows at least six (6) months of employment/engagement in the public or private school before the Division meets; and
- i. Omnibus Affidavit.



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- j. Other requirements, including but not limited to, documents that will establish the coaches' competence, integrity and capability, and its legal relationship to the school and/or athletes to show accountability.

Section 10. Qualification and Documentary Requirement for Chaperone (Certificate or any documents): a chaperone may be designated to accompany the athlete provided she meets the qualifications and submits the following documents duly issued by competent authorities, showing the following:

- a. Competence, integrity, capability, and relation to a school (i.e., Employment/ Appointment or Contract of Service showing at least six (6) months of employment/engagement in the public school or private school before the Division Meets, Regional Meet and *Palarong Pambansa*;
- b. Commitment that SHE will nurture female athletes only and shall not coach the athletes;
- c. Physically fit; for this purpose, a medical certificate is required;
- d. Other eligibility that the *Palaro* Board may require.

RULE V

Section 11. Special Cases regarding discrepancies in the Livebirth of the athlete

- a. In case of discrepancy in the date of birth indicated in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate and SF 10 (Form 137), the date of birth indicated in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate shall prevail. As a remedy, the following additional requirements shall be submitted:
 - i. Certificate of Live Birth issued by the Local Civil Registrar (LCR);
 - ii. Joint Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons attesting to the true date of birth of the athlete;
 - iii. Resolution issued by the Head of the Delegation correcting the discrepancy in the SF 10 (Form 137).
- b. In case of discrepancy in the name indicated in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate and SF 10 (Form 137), the name indicated in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate shall prevail. As a remedy, the following additional requirements shall be submitted:
 - i. Certificate of Live Birth issued by the LCR;
 - ii. Joint Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons attesting to the true name of the athlete;



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- iii. Resolution issued by the Head of the Delegation correcting the discrepancy in the SF 10 (Form 137).
- c. In case the first or last name is not found at the portion of the first or last name entered in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate but indicated in the box below of said portion, the following additional requirements shall be submitted:
- i. Certificate of Live Birth issued by the LCR;
 - ii. Copy of the application/petition duly received by the LCR (supplemental report to the LCR/Court);
 - iii. Affidavit of the parents, attesting to the true first or last name of the athlete;
 - iv. Joint Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons attesting to the true first or last name of the athlete;
 - v. Resolution issued by the Head of the Delegation attesting the athlete's true first or last name as shown in the foregoing records.
- d. In case an illegitimate child (athlete) uses the surname of his / her father as indicated in the SF 10 (Form 137), the following additional requirement shall be submitted:
- i. PSA/NSO Birth Certificate with the second page showing acknowledgment by the father or a notarized acknowledgment signed by the father.
- e. In case of unreadable entries in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate, the following additional requirements shall be submitted:
- i. Certificate of Live Birth issued by the LCR;
 - ii. Affidavit of the parents, attesting to the true and correct entries;
 - iii. Joint Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons attesting to the true entries;
 - iv. Resolution issued by the Head of the Delegation attesting the true and correct entries as shown in the foregoing records.
- f. In case the biological sex/gender of the athlete is not indicated in the PSA/NSO Birth Certificate, the following additional requirements shall be submitted:
- i. Certificate of Live Birth issued by the LCR;
 - ii. Affidavit of the parents, attesting to the true and correct biological sex of the athlete;
 - iii. Certification issued by the NSAC Medical Team attesting to the true and correct biological sex of the athlete after conducting a physical examination.



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The above-mentioned Resolutions or Certification issued by the Head of Delegations or the NSAC shall be for purposes of *Palaro* only.

RULE VI

Section 12. Period of Screening, Interview, and Evaluation – Screening and evaluation of documents of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones for the *Palarong Pambansa* may be conducted during or after the Regional Meet, or within seven (7) days before, and at the venue of, the *Palarong Pambansa*.

For this purpose, the Head of the Delegations shall submit to the NSAC within fifteen (15) days after their Regional Meet the following, *viz*:

- a. A letter request indicating the schedule of the interview, screening, and evaluations of documents of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones;
- b. Master list and photo galleries (soft and hard copies) of athletes coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones; and
- c. A certification stating that: They had screened and evaluated the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches and chaperones of the subject regional athletic delegation and shall certify that the attached documents are true, complete and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief, and they understand that any false information given, or any true information withheld from said documents may provide grounds for administrative disciplinary action.

The NSAC shall consolidate and finalize the Official Master List of qualified and accredited athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones and submit the same to the *Palaro* Board two (2) days before the opening of the *Palarong Pambansa*.

Section 13. Posting of Master List to Websites

The master lists and picture galleries of the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones shall be posted on the DepEd website or any available website upon submission by the delegation concerned.

The Communications Division of the Department shall facilitate the immediate posting on the DepEd website or on any available website of the submitted master list and/or photo galleries of athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones upon receipt of the said master lists and galleries subject to the provision of the Data Privacy Act.



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Section 14. Protest on Eligibility and Appeals on Disqualification

- a. Complaints or protests shall be in writing duly signed by the coach and the Head of the Delegation or his or her representative and shall be filed before the NSAC within five (5) days from the first day of publication of the master list of qualified athletes on the DepEd Website or submitting it to the *Palaro* Board through the *Palarong Pambansa* Secretariat. The complaint or protest shall be resolved within five (5) days from receipt hereof.
- b. Complaint/Protest shall be accompanied by affidavit/s of witnesses and/or pieces of evidence in support thereof;
- c. Protests that do not comply with (a) and (b) hereof shall not be given due course by the NSAC, without prejudice to the re-filing of the same upon compliance with the abovementioned requirements;
- d. The decision on the complaint or protest shall be appealable to the Board within five (5) days from the issuance of the decision, and the Board shall resolve the appeal within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the complaint or protest.
- e. All complaints/protests and appeals must be resolved with finality within thirty (30) days from receipt of the complaint or protest.

Section 15. Replacement of Athletes, Coaches, and Chaperones

Replacement of athletes, coaches and chaperones may be allowed based on meritorious grounds one (1) month before the *Palaro* and upon the written request by the Head of the Regional Delegation: Provided, that in case of illness and other fortuitous events, replacement maybe allowed two (2) days before the *Palarong Pambansa*.

For team events: Replacements particularly in team sports shall be drawn from registered alternates that emanate from the school team.

Section 16. Fielding of the NSAC members to the Palaro Venue

The NSAC members shall be at the *Palaro* venue within seven (7) days before the schedule of the opening of the *Palarong Pambansa* to continue the performance of their duties and responsibilities and during the period of the *Palaro* events to re-check and monitor the athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones fielded during the games by the delegations.



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Section 17. Sanctions against Athletes, Technical Officials, and Other Individuals involved – Unless otherwise provided for by the Board, the following sanctions shall be imposed against the athletes, coaches, chaperones and team of the Region who will violate the rules on eligibility:

- a. In team competitions, the games where the ineligible and/or disqualified athlete has taken part shall be declared forfeited in favor of the opposing team;
- b. In individual competitions, the games where the ineligible and/or disqualified athlete played shall be forfeited in favor of the opposing athlete;
- c. With respect to sanctions that will be imposed against individuals who caused the violation of the rules on eligibility, he/she may be suspended from participating in future school sports competitions, the duration of which shall be one (1) to three (3) years depending on the gravity of the offense: Provided, that he/she shall suffer the penalty of perpetual disqualification from participating in any future school sports competition in case of violations which are intentional and willful.
- d. These sanctions shall be without prejudice to the filing of appropriate administrative and/or criminal charges against the erring officials and/or athletes in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 18. Repealing Clause – All DepEd issuances regarding the eligibility of athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones or part thereof which are inconsistent with these Guidelines are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 19. Effectivity. These Rules shall take effect immediately upon posting on the DepEd Website.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE PALARO BOARD:

MALCOLM S. GARMA
 Officer-in-Charge Undersecretary for Operations
 Secretary General



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