



Sports Law-for-All

No. 11

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10 Pro-Sports-for-a-Purpose Sound Bites for Candidates

It is the wish of this Author that those who will seek public elective office in the May 9, 2022 elections will advocate **Sports-for-a-Purpose** and **Sports Law-for-All**. I hope our would-be candidates will not just shout-out, “I will build a sports complex,” “We want to see more Olympic Gold Medals,” and “I will promote Obstacle Sports all over the country.” Sports is much more than these,

Sports must be redefined and appreciated as a means for change, peace and development. According to the United Nations Inter-agency Taskforce on Sport for Peace and Development, sports constitutes **“All forms of physical activity that contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being and social interaction, such as play, recreation, organised or competitive sport, and indigenous sport and games.”**

The Author would like our candidates for national and local elective offices to vigorously push and work for Sports-for-a-Purpose and Sports Law-for-All. Here are proposed sound bites and campaign slogans:

Sound Bite/ Campaign Slogan	Meaning/ Description
(1) Sports Development is a State Policy.	“The State shall give priority to xxx sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. ” (Section 17, Article II, 1987 Consttution) Clearly, in our fundemantal law, sports has a purpose.
(2) Sports can change lives.	In the Toolkit for Action for “The Contribution of Sports to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” developed by the SDF Fund Secretariat, sport has been described as “an important enabler of sustainable development. ” Quoting Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former South African President Nelson Mandela: “ Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope , where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”
(3) Sports is for Development and Peace (SDP).	SDP is the “ Intentional use of sport , physical activity and play to attain specific development and peace objectives , including, most notably, the Kazan Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ”

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	<p>Thus, sport has a noble, broad and deep purpose. It is not just for big events. Sports can be used for peace and development. Sports is a means, vehicle and engine, and not just an end, effect or consequence.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “a plan of action for People, Planet and Prosperity” through “Peace and Partnership.” The 17 SDGs can all be achieved with, through and by sports – No Poverty (1), Zero Hunger (2), Good Health and Well-Being (3), Quality Education (4), Gender Equality (5), Reduced Inequality (10), Sustainable Cities and Communities (11) and Partnerships (17), to name a few.</p>
(4) Sports Participation and Physical Education are Human Rights.	<p>“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” (Section 15, Article II, 1987 Constitution)</p> <p>The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, in its Preamble, recognizes the “inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”</p> <p>The Charter of Physical Education and Sport adopted by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) emphasizes that “The practice of physical education and sport is a fundamental human right for all.”</p>

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	The International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport states that, “ The practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental right for all ” and that “Physical education, physical activity and sport can yield a wide range of benefits to individuals, communities and society at large.”
(5) Sports is for All-Everywhere.	Sports is not just for elite, male, able-bodied and the monied. Sports is for all and everywhere – male, female and LGBTQIA+; able-bodied and persons with disabilities; young, adults and seniors; rich and marginalized and underprivileged; rural and urban areas; individual and team events; entertainment and community-life; and traditional, alternative, new and indigenous competitions.
(6) Go Olympism. Let us Build Better Humans.	Sports should not be solely focused on elite sports development and winning medals in the Olympic Games. While we all dream to become Olympians, not everyone can realize this dream and participate in the Olympic Games. This is not the case for Olympism or Building Better Humans . Everyone can become Olympists.

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(7) Sports Development is Local.	Responsibility for sports accountability is not limited to a handful of government agencies. Sports development at the national level can only be achieved through sports development at the local level, and vice-versa. Local Governments can better promote the general welfare through sports-for-a-purpose at the local level. LGUs are encouraged to adopt their own sports-for-a-purpose ordinance.
(8) Quality Physical Education, not just PE.	<p>“The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.” (Section 19. (1), Article XIV, 1987 Constitution)</p> <p>UNESCO in its Policy Brief on Making the Case for Inclusive Quality Physical Education Policy Development, posits that “Quality physical education is distinct from physical education. Critical distinctions relate primarily to frequency, variety, inclusivity and meaning or value content. Quality physical education places emphasis on peer-led learning and rounded skill development” and that “Investment in QPE supports students to develop the physical, social and emotional skills which define healthy, resilient and socially responsible citizens.”</p>

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(9) Safe sport is a must.	Safe Sport promotes the welfare and development of athletes and ensures the safety of athletes against all forms of harassment, discrimination, abuse, violence or bullying in sports, whether physical, emotional, psychological, or specifically gender-based, in person or online, based on race, ability, religion, poverty, status, position, education, ethnic background, opinion and differences, shall be guaranteed at all times.
(10) Sports Law is for all.	Lawyers should not have a monopoly of legal information. Legal knowledge and advocacy, Sports Law included, must be demonopolize. Athletes, coaches, officials, event organizers, physical education instructors, school administrators, national and local government officials must be part of the Sports Law-for-All environment.



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For your comments, inquiries and suggestions, email the author at agrasportslawforall@gmail.com.



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