

PROPOSED RULES ON THE PROPER USE, CARE, AND DISPOSITION OF OFFICIAL UNIFORMS, APPAREL, GEAR, AND LUGGAGE ISSUED TO NATIONAL ATHLETES

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Section 1. Policy

National athletes represent not only themselves and their respective sports but also the Republic of the Philippines. Uniforms, apparel, gear, equipment, bags, luggage, and other items issued to national athletes by or through the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), their respective National Sports Associations (NSAs), or other government or sports organizations are symbols of national representation, public support, institutional trust, and the honor of representing the Philippines.

Accordingly, every national athlete shall use, possess, care for, and dispose of such items responsibly and with due regard for their purpose, source, value, and symbolic significance.

Section 2. Coverage

These Rules shall apply to all national athletes, national coaches, and members of the national training pool who receive uniforms, apparel, competition or training gear, bags, luggage, accessories, equipment, or similar items from or through the PSC, POC, NSA, or Philippine delegation.

These Rules shall apply whether the items are:

- a) purchased with public funds;
- b) provided by the PSC, POC, or NSA;
- c) donated or sponsored by private entities for the national team or Philippine delegation; or
- d) issued specifically because of the recipient's status as a national athlete.

Section 3. Stewardship and Responsibility

Every national athlete who receives an official item shall:

- a) use it primarily for its intended sporting, training, competition, travel, ceremonial, or representational purpose;

- b) exercise reasonable care in its use and safekeeping;
- c) maintain it, whenever practicable, in a condition befitting a member of the national team;
- d) refrain from using it in a manner that brings the country, the national team, PSC, POC, or the NSA into disrepute; and
- e) recognize that the privilege of receiving official items carries a corresponding responsibility to respect the institutions and the Filipino people whom the athlete represents.

Section 4. **Prohibited Acts**

Unless expressly authorized in writing by the issuing entity, a national athlete shall not:

- a) *Sell or Commercially Dispose*. Sell, offer for sale, auction, barter, trade, consign, pawn, raffle, or otherwise commercially dispose of an official item issued to the athlete.
- b) *Unauthorized Transfer*. Give away, donate, transfer, or otherwise dispose of an official item when the item remains government or institutional property, is required to be returned, or its transfer is otherwise prohibited by the terms under which it was issued.
- c) *Commercial Exploitation*. Use an official item primarily for personal commercial gain, including its sale or promotion as official Philippine team merchandise, without authority.
- d) *Deliberate Destruction or Defacement*. Intentionally destroy, mutilate, burn, tear, vandalize, or otherwise deface an official item as an expression of contempt, protest, ridicule, or disrespect.
- e) *Disrespectful Treatment*. Throw, trample upon, publicly discard, or otherwise treat an official uniform, Philippine delegation apparel, or other official item in a manner reasonably understood as deliberately disrespectful of the Philippine team or the institution that issued it.
- f) *Misuse of Insignia*. Remove, alter, conceal, or misuse the Philippine flag, "Philippines" designation, PSC, POC, NSA, delegation, sponsor, or other official marks appearing on an issued item for an improper purpose.
- g) *False Representation*. Permit another person to use an official uniform, accreditation-related apparel, or other item in circumstances that

falsely suggest that such person is a national athlete, official, coach, or member of the Philippine delegation.

Section 5. **Ownership and Authorized Disposition**

The issuing authority shall, whenever practicable, indicate whether an item is:

- a) Government or institutional property;
- b) Issued only for temporary use and subject to return;
- c) Consumable or personal-issue property; or
- d) Commemorative or presentation property.

Nothing in these Rules shall automatically convert an item issued to an athlete into government property when ownership has validly passed to the athlete. However, even when ownership has passed to the athlete, official Philippine team uniforms and other items bearing national or institutional symbols should be treated with dignity consistent with the athlete's status as a representative of the country.

Section 6. **Permitted Gifts and Donations**

An athlete may, when ownership of the item has validly passed to the athlete, give or donate an official item for a legitimate non-commercial purpose, including:

- a) donation to a museum, school, sports organization, charitable institution, or historical collection;
- b) donation for an authorized charitable auction or fundraising activity;
- c) presentation to another athlete, coach, sports official, supporter, or institution as a commemorative item; or
- d) other purposes authorized by the PSC, POC, or NSA.

Where the item is particularly valuable, bears significant national or historical importance, or was specifically issued for competition or ceremonial use, prior written clearance from the issuing organization may be required.

Section 7. **Loss or Damage**

Loss, theft, or accidental damage shall not by itself constitute an offense. The athlete shall promptly report the loss or material damage of accountable property to the appropriate NSA, PSC, POC, team manager, or delegation official.

An athlete shall not be disciplined for ordinary wear and tear arising from legitimate training, competition, travel, or use.

Section 8. **Social Media and Public Conduct**

National athletes shall refrain from posting, livestreaming, or disseminating photographs, videos, or other content depicting the deliberate destruction, humiliation, improper sale, or disrespectful treatment of official uniforms, gear, or other issued items where such conduct reasonably tends to bring the national team or the issuing institution into disrepute.

Nothing in this Section shall prohibit legitimate criticism, expression of grievances, or the exercise of constitutionally protected rights. Criticism of the PSC, POC, an NSA, their officers, policies, or decisions shall not, by itself, constitute disrespect or misconduct under these Rules.

Section 9. **Accountability and Sanctions**

Any alleged violation shall be subject to due process. Depending upon the nature, gravity, frequency, intent, and surrounding circumstances of the violation, sanctions may include:

- a) written reminder or warning;
- b) reprimand;
- c) restitution, replacement, or reimbursement when legally appropriate;
- d) withdrawal or limitation of privileges relating to future issuance of non-essential apparel, gear, or equipment;
- e) community, educational, or restorative measures;
- f) suspension from privileges or activities, when authorized by applicable rules; or
- g) such other proportionate sanction as may be authorized by law, PSC, POC, NSA, or applicable national-team regulations.

No athlete shall be deprived of a statutory benefit, allowance, incentive, or right except upon a lawful basis and in accordance with applicable law and due process.

Section 10. **Factors in Determining Sanctions**

In determining the appropriate sanction, the following shall be considered:

- a) whether the act was intentional, reckless, negligent, or accidental;
- b) whether the item remained government or institutional property;
- c) the monetary, symbolic, or historical value of the item;

- d) whether the athlete obtained financial gain;
- e) whether the act involved fraud, misrepresentation, or bad faith;
- f) whether the conduct caused actual damage to the government, national team, or issuing institution;
- g) whether the athlete voluntarily returned, replaced, or compensated for the item;
- h) prior violations, if any; and
- i) mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

Sanctions shall be fair, reasonable, consistent, and proportionate to the offense committed.

Section 11. **Due Process**

No sanction shall be imposed without:

- a) written notice of the alleged violation;
- b) reasonable opportunity for the athlete to submit an explanation and supporting evidence;
- c) an impartial evaluation of the facts;
- d) a written decision stating the factual and legal or regulatory basis of the finding and sanction; and
- e) an opportunity for reconsideration or appeal in accordance with applicable rules.

Section 12. **Education and Athlete Undertaking**

Upon issuance of official uniforms, gear, luggage, or other substantial items, the athlete may be required to sign an acknowledgment specifying:

- a) the items received;
- b) whether ownership is transferred or the items remain accountable property;
- c) restrictions on their use or disposition;
- d) return requirements, if any; and
- e) the athlete's undertaking to observe these Rules.

The PSC, POC, and NSAs are encouraged to orient national athletes on these Rules as part of national-team induction and values formation.

Section 13. **Guiding Principle**

The national uniform is more than clothing, and official national-team gear is more than equipment. They represent the privilege and responsibility of carrying the name and colors of the Philippines.

National athletes, national coaches, and officials are therefore expected to treat them with respect, gratitude, dignity, stewardship, and pride, consistent with the honor of representing the Filipino people.