



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

January 3, 2024

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. **09** s. 2024

**GUIDELINES ON THE LEARNER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION (LRP)  
RELATIVE TO THE CONDUCT OF SPORTS EVENTS**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. In preparation for upcoming sports events at various levels from the school to regional meets, this Office emphasizes the importance of ensuring optimal conditions for all sports activities. The well-being and best interests of the athletes should be the primary focus in all decisions and actions related to the events and playing venues.

2. Relative thereto, the **Learner Rights and Protection (LRP) Committee** shall be included in all levels to ensure full adoption and comprehensive application of the Child Protection Policy (DepEd Order 40, s. 2012) to provide protection to student athletes facing grave threats and dangers. Their participatory rights in the implementation of this policy in all proceedings affecting them, whether they be victims or aggressors, either directly or indirectly, shall be recognized.

3. All sporting events shall adhere to the safeguarding guidelines to mitigate risks, guarantee safe space, and ensure positive experience for all delegates, organizers, and others who are involved in the event. Further, through the safeguarding guidelines, appropriate preventive, protective, and remedial measures shall be properly implemented.

4. This Region reiterates the zero-tolerance policy for any act of child abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, bullying, and other forms of abuse. Hence, the **Learner Rights and Protection Desk** shall be fully operationalized through the Learner Rights and Protection Committee (LRPC) in all playing venues and billeting quarters, and shall ensure that the following are observed:

**I. Duties and Responsibilities of Coaches, Trainers, Chaperons/  
Guardians**

- a. Exercise parental authority and responsibility over the child while under their supervision, instruction, and custody. Authority and responsibility shall apply to all authorized activities whether inside or outside the premises of sporting events and venues.
- b. Keep them in their company and support, educate and instruct them by right precept and good example.
- c. Give them support, advice, and counsel, companionship and understanding.



- d. Enhance, protect, preserve, and keep them physically and mentally healthy at all times.
- e. Protect them from bad company and prevent them from acquiring habits detrimental to their health, studies, and morals.
- f. Represent them in all matters affecting their interests.
- g. Inculcate the value of respect and obedience.
- h. Practice positive and non-violent discipline, as may be required under the circumstances; provided, that in no case shall corporal punishment be inflicted upon them.
- i. Report child abuse incidents to the designated child protection focal person.
- j. Perform such other duties as are imposed by law upon them, as substitute parents or guardians.

## **II. Duties and Responsibilities of Learner-Athletes**

They shall refrain from:

- a. Engaging in discrimination, or leading a group of learner-athletes to discriminate another, with reference to one's physical appearance, weaknesses, or status of any sort.
- b. Doing any act that is inappropriate or sexually provocative.
- c. Participating in behavior of other learner-athletes that is illegal, unsafe or abusive such as but not limited to vulgar language, inciting malicious acts, catcalling, or wolf whistling.
- d. Marking or damaging school/billeting quarter property and in sports venues.
- e. Engaging in fights or any aggressive behavior.
- f. Bringing into the billeting quarters or playing venues, or otherwise possessing prohibited articles, such as deadly weapons, drugs, alcohol, toxic and noxious substances, cigarettes, and sexual abuse and exploitation materials.
- g. Performing other similar acts that can cause damage or injury to another.

## **III. Safe Interactions Before, During, and After the Sports Event**

- a. Everyone shall ensure that respectful, non-violent, and non-sexualized interactions are done during the event. This applies to:
  - i. adult delegates to learner athletes;
  - ii. adult delegates to fellow adult delegates;
  - iii. Learner athletes to fellow learner athletes; and
  - iv. Learner athletes to adult delegates.
- b. Adult delegates are highly required to observe the following:
  - i. They should not share a room with the learner athletes except for authorized chaperones.
  - ii. They should not engage in any form of inappropriate touching of the learner athletes.
  - iii. They should not make sexually suggestive comments to a learner athlete, even for fun.
  - iv. They should not allow allegations made by a learner athlete to go unchallenged, unrecorded, or not acted upon.



- v. They should maintain a safe and appropriate distance with the learner athletes.
  - vi. They should ensure appropriate company with a learner athlete while in a car or other vehicle.
  - vii. They should obtain written parental consent as necessary relative to the need to transport learner athletes.
- c. As to the learner participants, the following shall be strictly observed:
- i. If they receive a *friend request* or social media message from an adult delegate (either from the same delegation or from other delegations), they are not obliged to accept or respond. They should inform their parents/guardians and/or their coaches/chaperons about it.
  - ii. They should always wear their Identification Cards.
  - iii. They should use proper language when talking with other learner athletes and adult delegates.
  - iv. They should never talk to other learner athletes and adult delegates privately and in secluded areas.
- d. All officials and the entire delegations shall also be cautious of the safe and unsafe touches in sports, to ensure safe, confident, and dignified practice when using appropriate and necessary touch/es. Thus, the following important reminders are reiterated for safe physical interactions:
- i. Safe touches are only done in the non-private parts of the body such as handshaking, high five or bump fists from a coach/teammate, pat on the back/shoulder, supervised public massage for injured athletes, spotting during training exercises.
  - ii. Safe touches should be merely for reasons of affirmation, reassurance, cohesion/bonding, pump-up and focus, instruction, safety, and sports-specific rituals.
  - iii. Unsafe, confusing, or uncomfortable touches which are done either in the non-private or private parts of the body are strictly not allowed.
  - iv. Unwanted touches that might be safe but that a learner athlete does not want from that person or at that moment are also not allowed.
  - v. Learner athletes are strongly encouraged to talk, call or text, or approach the Learner Rights and Protection Committee for any concerns of bullying or any forms of abuse.

#### **IV. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns**

Adhering to the four Rs for Child Protection Policy – Recognition of the incident, Recording, Reporting, and Referral Mechanism, the following shall be communicated to the learner athletes:

- a. If the learner athlete wishes to report a learner protection concern while the sports event is ongoing, he or she may approach any Learner Rights and Protection Help Desk.
- b. If a learner athlete experiences distress or any protection concern during the sports event, he/she may approach designated guidance counselors in their billeting quarters.



**V. Composition of the Learner Rights and Protection Committee Across all Levels**

Chairperson:


Co-Chairperson:

Members:

Helpline Number/s:

5. All queries regarding these Guidelines shall be addressed to the Regional Learner Rights and Protection Coordinator, Eden A. Dadap at 09126063544 or at email address [eden.dadap001@deped.gov.ph](mailto:eden.dadap001@deped.gov.ph).
6. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

  
**EVELYN R. FETALVERO CESO IV**

Regional Director 

Enclosures: As stated

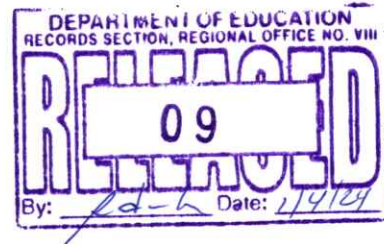
References: DO 40 s2012; DM 005 s2023

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

LRP

SPORTS

ESSD-SPPS-EAD



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