

# Sports Act

1998 No 64 12 June

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**Entry into force 18 June 1998** Amended by Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011), and Act No 124/2012 (entry into force 1 March 2013).

Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.

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■ **Article 1** For the purposes of this Act, ‘sports’ means any physical training intended to improve physical and mental prowess, health and fitness.

□ The Act does not apply to sports activities carried out as part of the regular operations of health institutions or fitness centres.

■ **Article 2** The principal objective of action by central or local authorities in the field of sports shall be to promote opportunities for every member of the general public to practice sports under favourable conditions. The cooperation of central and local authorities with the independent sports movement shall take into account the importance of sports activities for purposes of pedagogy and prevention.

■ **Article 3** [The Ministry]<sup>(1)</sup> shall assume overall responsibility for the field of sports to the extent to which it intervenes in that area. For this purpose, the Ministry shall gather information about the practice of sports and sports facilities throughout the country, and promote research in the field of sports.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 271.

■ **[Article 3a]** The Minister shall ensure that doping in sports is controlled in accordance with international obligations; contributions from the Treasury to fund such controls shall be provided as stipulated in the annual Budget Act.

□ The Minister may entrust a competent entity with the implementation of doping controls through the conclusion of service contracts to be concluded for a period of five years. Such contracts shall stipulate:

a. the criteria applied by the Ministry for Treasury for the allocation of appropriations to finance doping controls;

b. doping control procedures and tasks financed by the Treasury;

c. the principal priorities and goals of the parties to the contract; and

d. the assessment and monitoring of doping controls.

□ Entities entrusted with the implementation of doping controls by contract pursuant to the second paragraph above must provide the Ministry with any information or documents required for the Ministry’s monitoring of the relevant entity’s operations and finances.

□ On the proposal of an entity entrusted with the implementation of doping controls by contract pursuant to the second paragraph above, the Minister may set tariffs for doping controls and other services provided under such a contract.]<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 124/2012, Article 1.

■ **Article 4** [The Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> shall appoint a Sports Committee of five members. The Minister shall appoint the Committee member acting as Chair without nomination, and shall further appoint one member nominated by the Executive Board of the National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland, one member nominated by the Icelandic Youth Association, one member nominated by the board of the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland, and one member nominated by the Sports Instructors' Department of the Iceland Teachers' Training College. Alternate members shall be appointed in the same manner. The Committee shall be appointed for a four-year term. Matters discussed by the Sports Committee shall be decided by a majority vote. The Committee's operating costs shall be borne by the Treasury.

□ The role of the Sports Committee is to advise [the Ministry]<sup>(1)</sup> on matters relating to sports. The Committee shall submit recommendations to the Ministry regarding allocations to sports in the annual Budget Act and on the appropriation of funds from the Sports Fund pursuant to Article 8.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 271.

■ **Article 5** Sports activities outside schools depend on the initiative of the general public.

□ The National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland is the supreme authority with regard to the voluntary practice of sports in Iceland and the foreign relations of the sports movement. The Icelandic Youth Association is an independent, non-governmental organisation in the field of sports.

■ **Article 6** Iceland shall be divided into sports districts. The National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland and the Icelandic Youth Association are responsible for defining and modifying the boundaries of the sports districts.

■ **Article 7** The construction of sports facilities for the use of schools and for public use shall be the responsibility of individual local authorities, unless otherwise provided by law.

□ Municipal councils shall allocate construction grants to sports clubs and sports associations as further decided in the relevant municipality's budget.

■ **Article 8** The Althing shall annually allocate funds to the Sports Fund for the promotion of sports in the country. The Sports Committee shall administer the Sports Fund and shall submit recommendations to the [Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> regarding appropriations from the Fund, cf. Article 4.

□ Grants may be awarded from the Fund for:

1. special projects undertaken by sports clubs and their associations with a view to improving conditions for the practice of sports;
2. promotional and educational projects;
3. research in the field of sports;
4. projects covered by Article 13 of this Act.

□ Funding commitments may not exceed the annual appropriation of the Sports Fund.

□ A Regulation<sup>(2)</sup> issued by [the Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> on the recommendation of the Sports Committee may lay down conditions for the award of grants from the Sports Fund and the framework for applications and allocations.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 271. <sup>(2)</sup>Regulation No 803/2008.

■ **Article 9** Appropriations from the Treasury to fund the activities of national associations of athletes shall be determined by the Althing in the annual Budget Act.

■ **Article 10** The raising of funds by sports associations through lotteries forms the subject of a separate Act.

■ **Article 11** Physical education shall be part of the curriculum of every primary and secondary school in Iceland as further set out in Acts, Regulations<sup>(1)</sup> and curriculum guides applicable to such schools.

□ All children in Iceland shall be taught to swim unless exempted by a physician for health reasons.

<sup>(1)</sup>Regulation No 395/1986.

■ **Article 12** The government shall operate an educational establishment responsible for the training of physical education teachers in accordance with applicable legislation.

■ **Article 13** [The Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> may enter into agreements on the establishment and operation of sports centres on the basis of cooperation with municipalities and sports associations, provided that the relevant centres serve the entire country. The government's financial contribution to such cooperation is subject to the necessary appropriations being made in the annual Budget Act.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 271.

■ **Article 14** [The Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> shall take the initiative to establish rules on safety measures in sports facilities, including on controls and regarding sports implements and other equipment.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 271.

■ **Article 15** The [Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> may issue a Regulation<sup>(2)</sup> containing further provisions on the implementation of this Act.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 271. <sup>(2)</sup>Regulation No 395/1986.

■ **Article 16** This Act shall enter into force forthwith. ...

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*Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.*