Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN

November 19, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 743 , s. 2026

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS TO THE GUIDELINES ON ATHLETES ELIGIBILITY FOR THE DIVISION, REGIONAL, AND PALARONG PAMBANSA

To: Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Senior/Education Program Specialists
Public School District Supervisors
Principals in Charge of the District
Heads of Public & Private Elementary, Secondary, & Integrated Schools
All Others Concerned

1. In connection with Division Memorandum No. 647, s. 2026, titled Supplemental Provision to Memorandum No. OM-OUGOPS-2026-05-03056 [Clarification on Section 7 (Paragraphs 2 and 3) of the Guidelines on Athlete Eligibility for the Division, Regional, and Palarong Pambansa], attached is the additional supplemental provision to the same memorandum for the information and guidance of all concerned.

2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

FOR THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT:

LUZ U. BANSON EdD, CESO VI
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
In-charge of the Division

Enclosure: As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
Under the following subjects:

CONTESTS **OFFICIALS** **SPORTS**

CIU/jpsb

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS: ONLINE MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL SPORTS OFFICERS RE: 2027 *PALARONG PAMBANSA*

Date /Time : November 12, 2026 (Thursday) / 01:00 p.m. onwards
Platform : Zoom Meeting App
Participants : Selected *Palarong Pambansa* Secretariat personnel, Regional Sports Officers or duly authorized representatives, and several Regional Screening and Accreditation Committee (RSAC) Chairpersons.

Supplemental Provisions to Memorandum No. OM-OUGOPS-2026-05-03056

The Memorandum, issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations (OUGOPS), provides additional guidance on the implementation of the Modified Winner-Take-All Policy, team composition, student-athlete replacement, and academic eligibility during the transition to the Three-Term School Calendar. The memorandum aims to preserve the integrity of champion teams while ensuring flexibility and fairness in athlete representation.

I. TEAM COMPOSITION CONCEPT

A. **Core Team** – refers to student-athletes enrolled in the same school bearing the same unique School ID, regardless of whether the school fields the minimum or maximum number of student-athletes.

B. **Complementary Athletes** – refers to student-athletes included in an undersized Core Team to complete the maximum allowable number of athletes in the roster, in accordance with the applicable technical requirements of the sport.

C. **Modified +3 Athletes** – refers to the three (3) additional student-athletes included in the final team roster beyond the Core Team and Complementary Athletes. These student-athletes may be drawn from the same region who are not from the winning school, and/or those required to represent their Home Region.

II. PRESERVATION OF TEAM COMPOSITION

Core Team members and Complementary Athletes remain part of the team for the entire competition cycle. Replacements are strictly limited to cases involving Home Region Representation Rule compliance, medical incapacity, unforeseen events, force majeure, or other approved meritorious circumstances.

III. MODIFIED WINNER-TAKE-ALL POLICY

Teams may modify or replace student-athletes under the Modified +3 category as the team advances from one level of competition to another. Executing a formal waiver, certification, and student-parent undertaking is required to acknowledge this potential replacement.

IV. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY DURING THE THREE-TERM SCHOOL CALENDAR

Student-athletes may be provisionally allowed to participate when official academic records are unavailable due to the transition to the Three-Term School Calendar. A certification from the School Head or Registrar must justify the temporary unavailability. Records must be submitted immediately upon release and presented during screening and accreditation. Failure to comply or satisfy academic eligibility requirements leads to disqualification.

Minimum/Maximum No. of Student-Athletes per Team/Roster

The baseline roster limits for team sports (excluding the +3 additional student-athletes under the Modified Winner-Take-All Policy) are established as follows:

SPORT	ELEMENTARY				SECONDARY			
	BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
BASEBALL	12	12	-	-	12	12	-	-
BASKETBALL (5x5)	9	12	-	-	9	12	9	12
FOOTBALL	16	18	-	-	16	18	16	18
FUTSAL	-	-	9	12	-	-	9	12
SEPAK TAKRAW*	-	-	-	-	9	12	-	-
SOFTBALL	-	-	12	12	-	-	12	12
VOLLEYBALL	9	12	9	12	9	12	9	12

***Note on Sepak Takraw**: A delegation may register a minimum of nine (9) athletes and a maximum of twelve (12) athletes for Sepak Takraw. This number refers to the total team roster, not the number of players in a single regu. The players shall be drawn from the registered regus of the regional athletic associations / delegations.

New Regular Sports/Events in the 2027 *Palarong Pambansa*

I. KARATE

A. **Elementary Level** (Ages 10–12): Individual Open Kata (Boys & Girls) and Open Kumite (Boys & Girls).

B. **Secondary Level** (Ages 13–15 and 16–18): Open Kata (Boys & Girls), Open Kumite for 13–15 years old (Boys & Girls), and Kumite for 16–18 years old (Boys & Girls).

II. KICKBOXING

A. **Secondary Level (Point Fighting)**: Features 3 weight classes per gender across two age brackets (2 rounds of 1.5 minutes with a 1-minute break):

1. Older Cadets (Ages 13–15):
   - Male (37.1–42 kg; 42.1–47 kg; 47.1–52 kg)
   - Female (37.1–42 kg; 42.1–46 kg; 46.1–50 kg)
2. Juniors (Ages 16–18):
   - Male (42.1–47 kg; 47.1–52 kg; 52.1–57 kg)
   - Female (42.1–46 kg; 46.1–50 kg; 50.1–55 kg)

III. SOFT TENNIS

A. **Categories / Events (Secondary Level Only)**: Consists of 5 medal-awarding events: Girls Single, Boys Single, Girls Doubles, Boys Doubles, and Mixed Doubles (awarding a total of 8 Gold, 8 Silver, and 16 Bronze medals). Maximum of 4 players

per category/team, distributed across 2 entries in Individual Singles (Singles A & B), 1 entry in Individual Doubles, and 1 entry in Mixed Doubles.

IV. ARNIS (ADDITIONAL EVENTS)

A. **Anyo Events (Elementary and Secondary, Boys and Girls)**: Individual and Synchronized Likha Anyo in Single Weapon, Double Weapon, and Spada Y Daga.

B. **Labanan Events**:
   - Bladed Weapon Concept (Point System) for both Elementary and Secondary.
   - Stick Concept (Padded Continuous Striking) exclusively for Secondary (over 16 to below 18 years old).

Financial and Operational/Administrative Arrangements

Similar financial support and assistance mechanisms provided in previous editions of the *Palarong Pambansa* shall be made available to participating delegations (except BARMM and NAS), subject to the confirmation of the *Palarong Pambansa* Secretariat and the enactment and availability of funds under the Fiscal Year 2027 General Appropriations Act (GAA). Further, guidelines on fund downloading, utilization, liquidation, and related financial arrangements shall be issued separately.

Each participating delegation in the 2027 *Palarong Pambansa* shall have a proposed official delegation size of **950 members**, comprising student-athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and chaperones (including the three new regular sports); delegation officials; and other authorized personnel. This proposed allocation shall be utilized for planning and resource allocation purposes, subject to the final confirmation of the *Palarong Pambansa* Secretariat.

Further, the Messenger and Viber contact details of the designated focal persons for the Food Committee and Transportation Committee of each delegation shall be provided to the *Palarong Pambansa* Secretariat, which shall furnish the same to the Host Local Government Unit (LGU) to ensure timely and efficient coordination on matters relating to food provision and transportation services for all participating delegations.

Proposed Provisions in the Draft 2027 *Palarong Pambansa* General Information (Encl. to DepEd Memo re: Conduct of the 2027 *Palarong Pambansa*)

All provisions contained in this section are subject to the approval of the *Palarong Pambansa* Board and shall not be deemed final until formally adopted through a DepEd Memorandum.

I. PROPOSED SCHEDULE, ARRIVAL, AND DEPARTURE OF DELEGATIONS

The proposed schedule of the 2027 *Palarong Pambansa* is **May 18–31, 2027**. All participating delegations and other authorized participants are expected to arrive on May 18, 2027 and depart on May 31, 2027.

Arrivals prior to May 18, 2027, and departures beyond May 31, 2027, may necessitate separate administrative arrangements with the Host Local Government Unit and shall be the responsibility of the concerned delegation, including any resulting additional expenses, accommodations, meals, transportation, and other incidental costs.

II. QUALIFYING STANDARDS & GOLD MEDALIST RULE

The top two qualifiers advance to the national level. In the absence of student-athletes meeting the prescribed qualifying standards, the regional gold medalist

may be endorsed to represent the region, subject to the discretion and approval of the Head of Delegation (Regional Director).

III. ONE-SPORT LIMIT

Student-athletes are restricted to competing in only one sport to safeguard their welfare, prevent fatigue/injury, and promote fair competition. Participation in multiple events within the single sport remains permitted in accordance with its technical guidelines.

IV. MINIMUM PARTICIPANTS (NO-CONTEST RULE)

No competition shall be held for any sport/event with fewer than three (3) participants/delegations. Events with only one or two entries will be declared "no contest," and no medals will be awarded.

I. TWO-PHASE REGISTRATION

A. **Registration by Number**: A predictive delegation headcount per event/category to help Quezon City plan logistics.

B. **Registration by Name**: Final submission of confirmed, screened/accredited athletes.

II. COMPETITION UNIFORMS

A. Sponsor logos on uniforms are permitted, provided they do not exceed the dimensions of the official *Palarong Pambansa* and Quezon City hosting logos.

B. Delegations must provide two sets of uniforms in contrasting light and dark colors (or utilize reversible uniforms/alternative arrangements if facing budget constraints).

Key Agreement

The agreement reflected herein represents the consensus reached during the online meeting and shall remain subject to the approval of the *Palarong Pambansa* Board prior to implementation.

I. ROSTER SELECTION PRIORITY (COMPLEMENTARY ATHLETES & MODIFIED +3 ATHLETES)

A. **Selection Order**: Complementary athletes must be chosen first, or selected concurrently/simultaneously with the Modified Winner-Take-All student-athletes.

B. **Forfeiture Clause:** If a team selects their Modified Winner-Take-All student-athletes before choosing complementary athletes, the opportunity to select complementary athletes is forfeited.





Prepared by:

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Approved by:

MARIVIC B. TOLITOL, Ph.D.
Officer-in-Charge
Palarong Pambansa Secretariat

Supplemental Provisions to Memorandum No. OM-OUGOPS-2026-05-03056 [*Clarification on Section 7 (Paragraphs 2 and 3) of the Guidelines on Athlete Eligibility for the Division, Regional, and Palarong Pambansa*]

***PALARONG PAMBANSA* SECRETARIAT**
Office of the Undersecretary for Governance & Operations
Department of Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Memorandum, issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations (OUGOPS), provides additional guidance on the implementation of the Modified Winner-Take-All Policy, team composition, student-athlete replacement, and academic eligibility during the transition to the Three-Term School Calendar. The memorandum aims to preserve the integrity of champion teams while ensuring flexibility and fairness in athlete representation.

TEAM COMPOSITION CONCEPT

Palarong Pambansa

I. Core Team

- Refers to the team comprising student-athletes enrolled in the same school bearing the same unique School ID, regardless of whether the school fields the minimum or maximum number of student-athletes.

II. Complementary Athletes

- Refers to student-athletes who are included in an undersized Core Team to complete the maximum allowable number of athletes in the roster, in accordance with the applicable technical requirements of the sport.

TEAM COMPOSITION CONCEPT

Palarong Pambansa

III. Modified +3 Athletes

- Up to three (3) additional athletes who may be included in the final team roster beyond the Core Team and Complementary Athletes.
- May be drawn from: **student-athletes from the same region who are not from the winning school**; and/or **student-athletes required to represent their Home Region**.

MAJOR POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

Palarong Pambansa

Preservation of Team Composition

- **Core Team** members and **Complementary Athletes** shall remain part of the team for the entire competition cycle.
- Replacements are allowed only in cases involving Home Region Representation Rule compliance; medical incapacity; unforeseen events; force majeure; or other meritorious circumstances approved by the appropriate authority.

MAJOR POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

Palarong Pambansa

Modified Winner-Take-All Policy

- Teams may modify or replace student-athletes under the Modified +3 category as the team advances from one level of competition to another.
- A waiver and certification must be executed acknowledging that these student-athletes may be replaced in subsequent levels of competition.
- The student-athlete and parent/guardian must sign an undertaking acknowledging possible replacement.

MAJOR POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

Palarong Pambansa

Academic Eligibility During the Three-Term School Calendar Transition

- Student-athletes may be provisionally allowed to participate when official academic records are not yet available due to the transition to the Three-Term School Calendar.
- A certification from the School Head or Registrar must be submitted to justify the temporary unavailability of records.
- Academic records must be submitted immediately upon release.
- Student-athletes advancing to higher competition levels must present the required records during screening and accreditation.
- Failure to submit the records or satisfy academic eligibility requirements may result in disqualification.

ROSTER COMPOSITION PER TEAM SPORT (Min./Max.)

Palarong Pambansa

Excluding the +3 additional athletes under the Modified Winner-Take-All Policy

SPORT	ELEMENTARY				SECONDARY			
	BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
BASEBALL	12	12	-	-	12	12	-	-
BASKETBALL (5x5)	9	12	-	-	9	12	9	12
FOOTBALL	16	18	-	-	16	18	16	18
FUTSAL	-	-	9	12	-	-	9	12
SEPAK TAKRAW*	-	-	-	-	9	12	-	-
SOFTBALL	-	-	12	12	-	-	12	12
VOLLEYBALL	9	12	9	12	9	12	9	12

** A delegation may register a minimum of nine (9) athletes and a maximum of twelve (12) athletes for Sepak Takraw. This number refers to the total team roster, not the number of players in a single regu. The athletes shall be drawn from the registered regus of the regional athletic associations / delegations.*

New Regular Sports to be Featured in the 2027 *Palarong Pambansa*

***PALARONG PAMBANSA* SECRETARIAT**
Office of the Undersecretary for Governance & Operations
Department of Education

KARATE

COMPETITION RULES and CATEGORIES

ELEMENTARY INDIVIDUAL EVENTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS (age 10-12 years old)

A. Open Kata Boys
B. Open Kata Girls
C. Open Kumite Boys
D. Open Kumite Girls

SECONDARY INDIVIDUAL EVENTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS (age 13-15 and 16-18 years old)

A. Open Kata Boys
B. Open Kata Girls
C. Open Kumite Boys 13-15 years old
D. Open Kumite Girls 13-15 years old
E. Kumite Boys 16-18 years old
F. Kumite Girls 16-18 years old

AGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Elementary Category (10-12 years old): Athletes must remain below 13 years of age until the conclusion of the *Palarong Pambansa.*

Secondary Category (13-15 years old): Athletes must remain below 16 years of age until the conclusion of the *Palarong Pambansa.*

Secondary Category (16-18 years old): Athletes must remain below 18 years of age until the conclusion of the *Palarong Pambansa.*

KICKBOXING
COMPETITION RULES and CATEGORIES

Competition Participants:

- The KICKBOXING event in the 2026 *Palarong Pambansa* is open for student – athletes from both Elementary and Secondary who qualified from their regional meets and will be representing their respective regions. Athletes should also pass through the District Meet; Provincial/ City Meet then the Regional Meet. There should only be 1 athlete per weight category.

Composition:

Secondary

1. 1 Coach for Boys
2. 1 Coach for Girls
3. 2 Co – Coaches (boys and girls - optional)
4. 1 Chaperon if needed
5. **6 boys and 6 girls (12 athletes)**

Events to be Competed:

A. Older Cadets: 13 – 15 years old (born January 01, 2011 – December 31, 2013)
B. Juniors: 16 – 18 years old (born January 01, 2008 – December 31, 2010)

KICKBOXING
COMPETITION RULES and CATEGORIES

MAT SPORT: SECONDARY (POINT FIGHTING)

A. Older Cadets (13 - 15 years old: must be born from January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2014)
- **Male** - 3 Weight Category
- **Female** - 3 Weight Category

OLDER CADETS: Point Fighting (01/01/2012 – 12/31/2014) Time Duration: (2 x 1 minute and 30 sec. / rounds with 1 minute break) Weight Classes			
MALE	37.1 – 42 kgs	42.1 – 47 kgs	47.1 – 52 kgs
FEMALE	37.1 – 42 kgs	42.1 – 46 kgs	46.1 – 50 kgs

B. Juniors (16 - 18 years old: must be born from January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011)
- **Male -** 3 Weight Category
- **Female -** 3 Weight Category

JUNIORS: Point Fighting (01/01/2009 – 12/31/2011) Time Duration: (2 x 1 minute and 30 sec. / rounds with 1 minute break) Weight Classes			
MALE	42.1 – 47 kgs	47.1 – 52 kgs	52.1 – 57 kgs
FEMALE	42.1 – 46 kgs	46.1 – 50 kgs	50.1 – 55 kgs

SOFT TENNIS
COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

1. Each region/team may have a maximum of four (4) players per category.
2. Each region/team is entitled to two entries (2) in Individual Singles Competition (Singles A & B), one (1) entry in Individual Doubles Competition and one (1) entry in Individual Mixed Doubles Competition.
3. In Mixed Doubles Competition, any one of the four (4) players from the boys can be paired to any one of the four (4) players from the girls.

MEDALS TO BE AWARDED: SECONDARY LEVEL ONLY

EVENTS	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
GIRLS SINGLE	1	1	2
BOYS SINGLE	1	1	2
GIRLS DOUBLES	2	2	4
BOYS DOUBLES	2	2	4
MIXED DOUBLES	2	2	4
TOTAL	8 GOLD	8 SILVER	16 BRONZE

ARNIS (Categories)

Anyo Event (Secondary Level)	Elementary		Secondary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Individual Likha Anyo Single Weapon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual Likha Anyo Double Weapon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual Likha Anyo Spada Y Daga	✓	✓	✓	✓
Synchronized Likha Anyo Single Weapon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Synchronized Likha Anyo Double Weapon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Synchronized Likha Anyo Spada Y Daga	✓	✓	✓	✓

ARNIS (No. of Athletes)

No. of Athletes per Category	Elementary		Secondary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Anyo	3	3	3	3
Labanan – Bladed Weapon Concept (Point System)	5	5	7	7
Labanan – Stick Concept (Padded Continuous Striking) *Over 16 years old to below 18 years old*	-	-	3	3
Sub-Total	8	8	13	13
TOTAL	16		26	

ARNIS (No. of Coaches)

No. of Coaches	Elementary		Secondary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Anyo Coach	1	1	1	1
Labanan Coach	1	1	1	1
Labanan Assistant Coach	-	-	1	1
Sub-Total	2	2	3	3
TOTAL	4		6	

For official updates, announcements, and important information about the ***Palarong Pambansa*** and its related activities, please follow the ONLY official Facebook Page of the ***Palarong Pambansa*** **National Secretariat** at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575453590991

