



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENT

SENATE BILLS

(Bill No. 45 of 2024)

**THE SPORTS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2)
BILL, 2024**



(A Bill published in the Kenya *Gazette* Supplement No. 167 of 27th August, 2024
and passed by the Senate, with amendments, on Tuesday, 21st July, 2026)

THE SPORTS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2024

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to amend the Sports Act to create county academies of sports, to protect minors in sports and for connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows —

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Sports (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2024.

Amendment of section 2 of Cap 223.

2. Section 2 of the Sports Act, in this Act referred to as the “principal Act”, is amended by inserting the following new definitions in their proper alphabetical sequence—

“child abuse” has the meaning assigned to it under section 2 of the Children Act (Cap 141);

“committee” means a committee constituted under section 38C to manage a county academy;

“county academy” means a county sports academy established under section 38A;

“county executive committee member” means the county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to sports;

“minor” means an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years;

“professional sports contract” means an agreement under which a person agrees to render services as a player on a professional sports team or as a professional athlete.

Amendment of section 34 of Cap 223.

3. Section 34 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) in paragraph (a) by inserting the words “at the national level of government” immediately after the words “sports training academies”;

(b) by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (a) –

(aa) build the technical capacity of county academies.

Insertion of new heading in Cap 223.

4. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new heading immediately after section 38 –

PART IVA – COUNTY SPORTS ACADEMIES

Insertion of new sections in Cap 223.

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new sections immediately after section 38 –

Establishment of county academies.

38A. Each county shall establish and maintain at least one county academy within its jurisdiction.

Objectives of a county academy.

38B. (1) The objectives of a county academy shall be to –

(a) identify and nurture sporting talent within the county;

(b) provide specialised coaching and training in various sports disciplines; and

(c) collaborate with the Academy in talent development within the county.

(2) In order to achieve its objectives under subsection (1), each county academy shall –

(a) design and implement diverse sports programmes covering various disciplines and which shall cater to persons with

disabilities and to individuals of different age groups and gender;

- (b) establish systems for talent identification and development, including through organization of regular talent scouting events;
- (c) involve the local community in the county academy's activities;
- (d) collaborate with local sports organisations, schools and universities;
- (e) partner with other county academies and with national and international sports organisations for exposure, sponsorships and exchange programmes;
- (f) collate and analyse data to continuously improve the quality of training and support provided; and
- (g) create awareness about the benefits of sports and the opportunities available at the county academy.

Management of
a county
academy.

38C (1) Each county academy shall be managed by a county academy management committee.

(2) The committee shall comprise of—

- (a) a chairperson, who shall be a person who holds a degree from a university recognised in Kenya and is knowledgeable in sports, finance, commerce or law, appointed by the

respective county governor;

- (b) the respective county executive committee member or a county public officer designated by the member in writing;
- (c) the county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to finance or a county public officer designated by the member in writing;
- (d) two persons nominated by the County Public Service Board from among persons with knowledge in sports management, management of sports facilities or coaching;
- (e) two persons nominated by county sports associations with knowledge in sports management, media studies, finance or economics who shall be from different sporting disciplines; and
- (f) two persons nominated by national sports organisations at the county level with knowledge in sports management, finance or economics who shall be from different sporting disciplines from the disciplines represented under paragraph (e).

(3) The members of the committee nominated under subsection (2) (d), (e) and (f) shall be appointed by the county executive committee member by notice in the *Gazette*.

(4) The Chairperson and the members of the committee appointed under subsection (3) shall serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one

further term of three years.

(4) In appointing persons as members of the committee under subsection (2) (d), (e) and (f), the county executive committee member shall ensure that the appointments afford equal opportunity to men and women, youth, persons with disabilities, minorities and marginalized groups and that they observe regional balance.

Qualifications
for appointment
to the committee.

38D. (1) A person shall be eligible for appointment as a Chairperson or member of the committee under section 38C (2) (d), (e) and (f) if that person—

- (a) is a citizen of Kenya;
- (b) holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a university recognized in Kenya;
- (c) has knowledge and experience of not less than five years in sports management, finance, media studies, law or economics; and
- (d) meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

(2) A person shall not be eligible for appointment as a member of the committee under section 38C if that person—

- (a) has at any time been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding six months;
- (b) is declared to be of unsound mind;
- (c) is an undischarged bankrupt;

- (d) has been found, in accordance with any law or parliamentary report, to have misused or abused a state office or public office or in any way to have contravened the provisions of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

Vacancy of the office.

38E. (1) The office of the chairperson or member of a county academy management committee shall become vacant if the holder—

- (a) resigns from office by notice in writing to the appointing authority;
- (b) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the committee without lawful cause;
- (c) is adjudged bankrupt or enters into a composition scheme or arrangement with his creditors;
- (d) is convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding six months;
- (e) is incapacitated by prolonged physical or mental illness;
- (f) is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge his duties; or
- (g) dies.

Powers of a county academy management committee

38F. (1) A county academy management committee shall be responsible for policy matters and giving strategic direction to the respective county academy.

(2) The committee shall have all the powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the county academy under this Act and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the committee shall have the power to—

- (a) manage, control and administer the assets of the county academy in such manner and for such purposes as best promote the purposes for which the county academy is established;
- (b) receive any gifts, grants, donations or endowments made to the county academy or any other monies in respect of the Academy and make disbursements therefrom in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- (c) approve the strategic plan for the county academy; and
- (d) open a banking account or banking accounts for the funds of the Academy.

Vacancy of the office. **38G.** (1) The office of the chairperson or member of a county academy management committee shall become vacant if the holder—

- (a) resigns from office by notice in writing to the appointing authority;
- (b) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the committee without a lawful cause;
- (c) is adjudged bankrupt or enters into a composition scheme or arrangement with his creditors;

- (d) is convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding six months;
- (e) is incapacitated by prolonged physical or mental illness;
- (f) is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge his duties; or
- (g) dies.

Appointment of manager.

38H. (1) Each county academy shall have a manager, who shall be competitively recruited and appointed by the respective county public service board.

(2) The manager shall hold office on such terms as the respective county public service board may, on the advice of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, determine.

Qualifications of manager.

38I. (1) A person shall be qualified for appointment as the manager of a county academy if that person—

- (a) has a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;
- (b) has held a similar position or served in management level for a period of at least five years;
- (c) has at least ten years' experience and proven competence in sports and facility management and operation of commerce, industry, finance or general administration;
- (d) has not been convicted of an offence and is not serving a term of

imprisonment; and

- (e) meets the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

(2) The manager of a county academy shall, subject to the general direction and control of the respective county academy management committee, be responsible for the day-to-day operations and administration of the county academy, and in particular for—

- (a) the implementation of the policies and programmes and agreed objectives, performance targets and service standards of the academy;
- (b) the proper management of the funds and property of the academy;
- (c) the organization and control of the staff of the academy;
- (d) the formulation, development and implementation of the strategic plan, business plan, annual plan and operations plan for achieving the academy's objectives;
- (e) co-operation with other agencies, stakeholders and organizations in the sports sector;
- (f) the development of an economic, efficient and cost effective internal management structure;
- (g) the provision of advice as required on all matters within Committee's responsibility; and
- (h) the performance of any other function necessary for the

implementation of this Act as may be assigned to him by the Committee.

Tenure of office. **38J.** The manager of a county academy shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term of three years.

Staff of a county academy. **38K.** The respective county executive committee member may designate such public officers in the respective department to serve as the staff of a county academy as may be necessary for the proper and efficient performance of its functions.

Location and facilities of a county academy. **38L.** (1) Each county academy shall be located at such place as may be recommended by the respective county executive committee member and approved by the respective county executive committee.

(2) The respective county executive committee member shall ensure that there are adequate training facilities for each county academy including training fields, facilities for indoor games, athletics tracks and any other facility that may be required for use by the county academy.

Funds of a county academy. **38M.** The funds of a county academy shall comprise –

- (a) such moneys as may be appropriated by the respective county assembly for purposes of the county academy;
- (b) gifts, grants, loans and additional allocations made to the academy; and
- (c) money from any other source

received by the county academy for the performance of its functions under this Act.

Insertion of new heading in Cap 223.

6. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new heading immediately after section 54 –

PART VI(A) – PROTECTION OF MINORS IN SPORT

Insertion of new sections in Cap 223.

7. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new sections immediately after section 54 –

Protection from child abuse and exploitation.

54A. (1) Every sports institution shall—

- (a) put in place measures to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of minors participating in sports;
- (b) conduct adequate background checks of coaches and other staff working with minors;
- (c) ensure coaches and other staff working with minors are properly trained and accredited where necessary; and
- (d) put in place clear procedures for reporting and addressing any form of misconduct and child abuse within the institution.

Education of minors.

54B. All sports programmes targeting a minor shall—

- (a) provide the minor with an adequate sports education and training in line with the highest national standards;
- (b) in addition to sports education and training, guarantee the minor access to basic education which will allow the minor to pursue a career other than sports should the

minor cease playing professional sports; and

- (c) if residential, ensure that the living standards are optimum for the development and well-being of the minor.

Contracts involving minors.

54C. (1) No contract involving a minor shall be valid unless—

- (a) signed by the minor's parent or guardian; and
- (b) if it is a professional sports contract, the minor involved has attained the age of seventeen years.

(2) The minor's parent or guardian shall be informed in writing of their rights to obtain independent legal advice prior to signing a contract under subsection (1).

Representation of minors by agents.

54D. (1) Minors shall only be represented by agents who are accredited by—

- (a) the national sports association in charge of the relevant sport in Kenya; or
- (b) the international association in charge of the relevant sport for international representation.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a person shall not be eligible to represent a minor if the person—

- (a) has been convicted of human trafficking, a sexual offence or any offence involving fraud; or
- (b) has previously had their accreditation withdrawn due to their involvement in human trafficking, a sexual offence or fraud.

(3) Agents representing minors shall not be entitled to any agency fees except where they represent the minor in signing their first professional sports contract.

Local transfers
of minors.

54D. Any local transfer of a minor shall comply with the rules of the national sports organisation in charge of the relevant sport in Kenya.

International
transfer of
minors.

54E. (1) Any international transfer of a minor shall comply with the rules of –

- (a) national immigration laws;
- (b) international conventions on migration ratified by Kenya;
- (c) the national sports organisation in charge of the relevant sport in Kenya;
- (d) the international association to which the national sports organisation is affiliated; and
- (e) the national sports organisation in charge of the relevant sport in the country of transfer.

(2) All international transfer contracts shall be endorsed by the national sports organisation in charge of the relevant sport in Kenya.

Regulations

54F. The Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary responsible for children matters, make regulations for safeguarding minors participating in sports.

I certify that this printed impression is a true copy of the Bill as passed by the Senate on 21st July 2026

For: Ef
Clerk of the Senate

Endorsed for presentation to the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of standing order 161 of the Senate Standing Orders.

[Signature]
Speaker of the Senate

