

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

SENATE BILLS DIGEST

THE SPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 5 OF 2026)

Sponsor: Hon. Irene Nyakerario Mayaka, MP (National Assembly Bill)

Committee referred to: Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare

Type of Bill: Ordinary Bill

Date of First Reading: 8th September, 2026

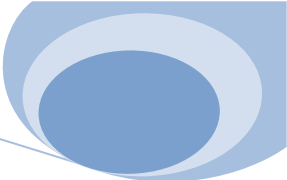
Background

Sports is a function assigned concurrently to the national and county governments under the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution with the national government responsible for sports policy, standards and national sports institutions. The Sports Act (Cap. 223) is the principal statute governing the regulation, administration and development of sports in Kenya and establishes Sports Kenya, the Office of the Sports Registrar and the Sports Disputes Tribunal, among other institutions.

The Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (National Assembly Bills No. 5 of 2026) sponsored by Hon. Irene Nyakerario Mayaka, MP was passed by the National Assembly, with amendments, on 19th August, 2026. The Bill responds to recurring allegations of match-fixing and manipulation of sporting competitions in Kenya, including in football, and seeks to close a gap in the country's sports governance framework by introducing, for the first time, a statutory definition of "manipulation of a sports competition" together with a dedicated investigative process and criminal and disciplinary sanctions for the offence.

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of the Bill is —

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1. to establish a framework for the investigation of manipulation of a sports competition, involving both the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and relevant sports organisations; and
 2. to create an offence of manipulation of a sports competition, with corresponding criminal penalties and disciplinary sanctions.

Overview of the Bill

What key definition does the Bill introduce?

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to introduce the definition of “manipulation of a sports competition” to mean an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition, in order to remove all or part of its unpredictable nature, with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.

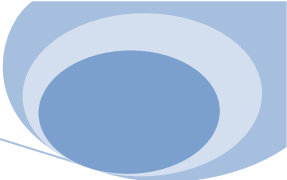
How does the Bill provide for the investigation of manipulation of a sports competition?

Clause 3 provides that where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has committed the offence of manipulation of a sports competition, the matter is to be investigated by—

1. the Directorate of Criminal Investigations; and
2. the relevant sports organisation to which the person belongs, in accordance with its constitution, rules, regulations, codes of conduct or disciplinary procedures.

The two investigations are independent of each other, and neither is dependent upon the commencement, progress, suspension, conclusion or outcome of the other. For purposes of its investigation, a relevant sports organisation may require any athlete, coach, technical official, referee, administrator, club, league, intermediary, support personnel or other person subject to its jurisdiction –

1. to provide information, records or explanations;
2. interview any person subject to its jurisdiction;

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3. cooperate and exchange information with law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, betting regulators, sports organisations and other competent authorities, subject to applicable confidentiality and data protection law; and
 4. take any other reasonable investigative measure authorised by its rules and regulations.

The imposition of a disciplinary sanction by a relevant sports organisation under the new proposed section 64A does not prevent the Directorate of Criminal Investigations from investigating any criminal liability arising from an act of manipulation of a sports competition.

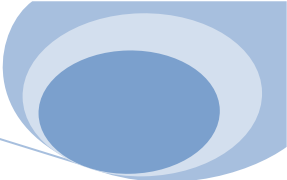
Both the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the relevant sports organisation are required to afford any person under investigation the right to be heard before any adverse finding or sanction is made, except where interim measures are necessary to protect the integrity of a sports competition.

What offence and penalties does the Bill create for manipulation of a sports competition?

Clause 4 provides for that a person commits an offence where such person participates directly or indirectly, or aids, enables or assists, in the manipulation of a sports competition. the penalty for manipulation of a sports competition is a fine not exceeding three times the value that was the subject of the manipulation or ten million shillings, whichever is higher; or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years; or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Despite the criminal penalty, where a relevant sports organisation finds that a person has committed the act of manipulation of a sports competition, it may impose such disciplinary sanctions as its rules and regulations provide, including—

1. reprimands or warnings;
2. fines;
3. suspension from participation in sporting activities;
4. temporary or permanent bans from participation in any sport or sports-related activity;

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5. de-registration or cancellation of registration;
 6. re-registration subject to such conditions as the organisation may determine;
 7. forfeiture of any proceeds or benefits gained as a result of the manipulation of a sports competition; or
 8. any other disciplinary measure authorised under its governing instruments.

Where the act of manipulation of a sports competition is committed by a sports club or sports association, the club or association may additionally be sanctioned with forfeiture of the outcome of the match that was the subject of the manipulation.

Way Forward

What next?

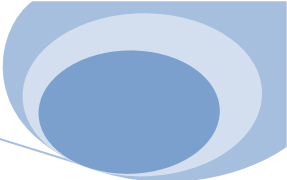
The Bill was read a First Time in the Senate on 8th September, 2026 and committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare which will be required, pursuant to standing order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, to facilitate public participation and to take into account the views and recommendations of the public in preparing its report to the Senate.

What is expected of members of the public?

Members of the public and stakeholders, including Sports Kenya, the Office of the Sports Registrar, the Sports Disputes Tribunal, national sports federations such as the Football Kenya Federation, the National Olympic Committee of Kenya, the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya, betting and gaming regulators, athletes and clubs, among others, are expected to present their views to the Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare for its consideration.

What is expected once the Bill becomes law?

1. the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and relevant sports organisations will be required to establish or align their internal procedures for the independent investigation of manipulation of a sports competition under the new proposed section 54A;

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2. sports organisations will be required to align their rules, regulations, codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures with the investigative and sanctioning framework under the new proposed sections 54A and 64A; and
 3. law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, betting regulators and sports organisations will be expected to put in place mechanisms for cooperation and exchange of information contemplated under section 54A(3)(c).

Next steps

The Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 19th August 2026, with amendments, and endorsed for presentation to the Senate under standing order 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders. The Bill was read a First Time in the Senate on 8th September, 2026, following which the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare is required to report on the Bill, within thirty days, pursuant to standing order 148(1) of the Senate Standing Orders.

If both Houses of Parliament approve the Bill, (with any necessary mediation in case of differences), the Bill will be presented to the President for assent. Upon Presidential Assent, the Act will be published in the Kenya Gazette and shall come into force on the date specified in the Act or upon publication.

Any comments on the Bill may be submitted to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, 1st Floor, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi, Kenya, through P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi, Kenya or email: clerk.senate@parliament.go.ke and copied to laboursocialwelfarecomm.senate@parliament.go.ke.

Note:

1. The Digest reflects the Bill as passed by the National Assembly on 19th August, 2026, and does not cover any subsequent amendments to the Bill.
2. The Digest does not have any official legal status.