

**NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

7TH REGULAR Session, 2024

Y.C.B. No. 19-**05**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Requiring Background Checks for Youth
Affiliated Sports Administration, Coaches,
Trainers, and Instructors; and for other
purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:**

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** The Act shall be known as “The CNMI Youth Sports
2 Protection Act of 2024.”

3 **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Youth Congress finds that youth
4 related sports activities are essential to the education, health and welfare of the
5 youth in our communities. “Youth Affiliated Sports” refer to organized events and
6 sports tournaments provided by established organizations for the youth, including
7 but not limited to all public and private elementary schools, middle schools, and
8 high schools in the Northern Mariana Islands.

9 The Youth Congress recognizes and prioritizes the need to protect and
10 secure the well-being of our youth and students during sports activities. With the
11 alarming instances of underage interaction and predatory behavior from sports
12 administration, coaches, trainers, and instructors across the nation, the Youth

1 Congress proposes the need to conduct background checks and personnel screening
2 for all positions previously listed. By conducting background checks, the activity
3 and community surrounding sports would ensure safety and appropriate
4 interactions between the youth and sports administration. Additionally, conducting
5 background checks would benefit the Youth Congress and the Northern Mariana
6 Islands as mitigating these behaviors would establish trust in the events and
7 organizations that our youth is placed in.

8 **Section 3. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision
9 Commission, the following provisions are hereby enacted:

10 **§101. Background Checks for Youth Affiliated Administration,**
11 **Coaches, Trainers and Instructors.**

12 (a) Background checks for Youth Affiliated Administration, Coaches,
13 Trainers, and Instructors are hereby required for all Youth Affiliated Sports on
14 Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

15 (b) “Youth Affiliated Sports” refer to organized events and sports
16 tournaments provided by established organizations for the youth, including but not
17 limited to all public and private elementary schools, middle schools, and high
18 schools in the Northern Mariana Islands.

19 **§102. Defining Criminal Background Checks.**

20 “Criminal Background Checks” refer to the notes and legislation from
21 Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Title 55, more specifically §55-

1 40.1-226: (d) All applicants, their employees, and anyone else at the facility whose
2 activities involve the care or supervision of children or unsupervised access to
3 children shall provide a criminal background check.

4 **§103. Parameters and Conditions of Checks.**

5 (a) Comprehensive background checks for coaches and trainers must be
6 submitted every two years and/or start of employment.

7 (1) Any individual eighteen years of age or older, who is applying
8 for a job as a youth sports coach, trainer, or instructor must submit a
9 comprehensive background check including but not limited to criminal
10 history records.

11 (b) Background checks are required for all public and private high schools
12 in the CNMI wishing to participate in sport events and tournaments in the CNMI.

13 (c) Background checks shall be required for all youth sports personnel
14 relating to the following CNMI high school, middle school, and elementary sports
15 but not limited to:

16 (1) Volleyball

17 (2) Athletics (i.e. Cross Country, Track and Field, etc.)

18 (3) Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC)

19 (4) Badminton

20 (5) Va'a (Outrigger Canoe Paddling)

21 (6) Soccer

1 (7) Beach volleyball

2 (8) Basketball

3 (9) Softball

4 (10) Baseball

5 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
7 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
8 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
9 shall not be affected thereby.

10 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
11 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
12 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
13 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
14 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
15 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
16 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

17 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
18 the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

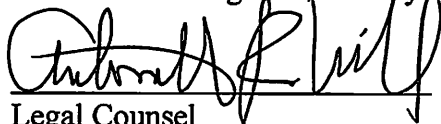
Prefiled: 3/22/04

Date: 4/12/2024

Introduced by:


Senator Soledad Maria T. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


Legal Counsel