



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

June 28, 2021

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No. 2021 - 0034

**TO : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, REGIONAL OFFICES AND SERVICES; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS; AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : PSC-GAB-DOH Joint Administrative Order No. 2021-0002 Supplemental Guidelines to the Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001 entitled "Guidelines on the conduct of Health Enhancing Physical Activities and sports during the COVID-19 Pandemic" relative to the conduct of Athletic Bubble-Type Training and Competitions during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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Attached for your information and guidance is a copy of the dated PSC-GAB-DOH Joint Administrative Order No. 2021-0002 Supplemental Guidelines to the Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001 entitled "Guidelines on the conduct of Health Enhancing Physical Activities and sports during the COVID-19 Pandemic" relative to the conduct of Athletic Bubble-Type Training and Competitions during the COVID-19 Pandemic dated June 22, 2021.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

**LILIBETH C. DAVID, MD, MPH, MPM, CESO I**  
Undersecretary of Health  
Health Facilities and Infrastructure Development Team



**PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION  
GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

JUN 22 2021

**JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

No. 2021 - 0002

**SUBJECT: Supplemental Guidelines to the Joint Administrative Order No. 2020 - 0001 entitled, "Guidelines on the Conduct of Health-Enhancing Physical Activities and Sports during the COVID-19 Pandemic" relative to the conduct of Athletic Bubble-Type Training and Competitions during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**I. BACKGROUND**

On July 27, 2020, The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Games and Amusements Board (GAB), and the Department of Health (DOH) issued the Joint Administrative Order entitled, "Guidelines on the Conduct of Health-enhancing Physical Activities and Sports during the COVID-19 Pandemic". The JAO provides guidance on the minimum public health standards for the conduct of health-enhancing physical activities and sports in different risk severity areas for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Order is issued to provide further guidelines on the conduct of sports and other physical activities under a bubble-type modality.

**II. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- A. Athletic Bubble-type Training and Competitions** - refer to conditions in which a specific league, sports organization or promotion with competing sports teams or athletes of team events are subjected to strict isolation from the general public for a limited period of time for the purpose of holding a sporting activity without spectators in attendance in a restricted-environment set up where there is constant vigilance towards adherence to public health guidelines, conscientious conduct of participants, and enforced standard controlled measures in place to mitigate the risk of possible hazards to public health and safety.
- B. COVID status** – refers to the timeline or test-based definition of an individual's COVID-19 characteristics based on the definitions established by the DOH.
- C. Environment** – refers to an imaginary area of interaction, behaviors of individuals or a series of interactions in a particular defined location based on their known COVID status.

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1. **Closed environment** – refers to interaction between individuals with similar COVID status (i.e. COVID negative individuals or group of individuals) who are all in a defined location
  - a. **Closed Circuit** – “semi-bubble” (interaction between individuals with similar COVID status (i.e. COVID negative individuals or group of individuals) who are all in a defined location and **travel only** to league designated venues which are maintained COVID free and are disallowed from travelling to any other location
  - b. **No Circuit** – “full bubble” (i.e.: **ALL** individuals have a known COVID negative status including ancillary staff, workers and are billeted in the same venue/s as the players/ coaches with training and playing venues located in the same location or complex **without the need to travel** to an open environment;
2. **Open Environment** - refers to interaction between individuals wherein ones COVID negative status is known while the other individuals’ status is unknown or possibly non-negative
  - a. **Open Circuit** – any league wherein individuals with unknown COVID status can interact with those with known COVID negative status and then travel to venues with unknown integrity when it comes to a COVID free status
  - b. **Closed Circuit-** “semi bubble” (i.e.- any league wherein individuals with unknown COVID status can interact with those with known COVID negative status but travel **ONLY** to venues defined by or restricted to by the league (i.e. Staying in a league designated hotel that is otherwise open to the public / wherein ancillary staff are not part of the bubble) but travel **ONLY** to venues defined by the league and are disallowed from travelling to any other location.
- D. Individuals** – refers to the live body, can be subclassified based on their role and or work description (i.e. players, coaches, officials, referees, ancillary, media, support, hotel workforce, venue workforce).
- E. Interaction** – refers to the time-based contact between two individuals.
- F. Location boundaries** - refers to the imaginary sphere defining an area of potential interaction.
- G. Movement** – refers to actual travel of an individual or group of individuals between venues (i.e. as in a circuit) and can be classified as Closed or Open based on the known COVID negative status or integrity of a particular location.
  1. Closed Circuit- movement across venues wherein individuals located at that venue have an established COVID free status.
  2. Open Circuit- movement across venues wherein individuals transfer from a venue with an established COVID free status to a venue with unknown or possibly non-negative COVID status.
- H. Venue** – refers to an actual physical space occupied by individuals or groups of individuals with a potential for interaction.
  1. Subtypes
    - a. Billeting / Home – physical location where individuals will retreat prior to or after training or competition
    - b. Training Venue – physical location where individuals can converge or gather for sports related or physical activities related to sport.

- c. Competition Venue- physical location where individuals can converge or gather for purposes of contesting play.

### **III. SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

This Order shall apply to all individuals, athletes, professional and non-professional sports leagues and associations, and all other entities engaged in the conduct of health-enhancing physical activity and sports.

### **IV. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES**

- A. Non-contact and contact sports shall be permitted under a bubble-type training modality in general community quarantine (GCQ) and modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) areas, subject to the following conditions:

1. The bubble training and competition shall be conducted for at least 15 days;
2. The risk of bubble training and competition shall only be at Level A or B (See Annex A) based on formal risk assessment conducted by the organizer and the LGU where the bubble is conducted;
3. The size of the bubble shall not exceed 100 individuals including all athletes, coaches, and other support personnel at any given time. No live audience shall be allowed within the bubble (See Annex B);
4. The bubble shall be registered to their governing agency and the local government where the bubble will be conducted prior to the initiation of the bubble:
  - a. Professional athletes and sports leagues and associations shall register to the Games and Amusement Board; and
  - b. Non-professional athletes and sports leagues and associations shall register to the Philippines Sports Commission

For further guidance, please refer to Joint PSC-GAB Resolution No.2020-001 (See Annex C).

5. Athletes and personnel shall undergo medical examination and be cleared by a physician prior entry to the bubble. Any individual with a history of any COVID-19 symptoms or exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases for the past 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the bubble. A copy of the medical clearance shall be provided to the governing agency where the bubble is registered. In the event that the sports league/association decides to conduct COVID-19 testing of athletes and personnel, the cost of the testing shall be borne by the sports league/association;
6. Scenario-specific protocols of the sports leagues and associations shall outline and detail any COVID-related eventuality to ensure a smooth conduct of the bubble training for its entire duration from ingress to the reintegration of athletes and personnel back to their respective LGUs and communities;

7. Athletes and personnel for the bubble training and competition shall register with the respective governing agency at least 10-14 days prior to the start of the activity;
8. Foreign athletes and personnel who are participating in the bubble shall comply with the requirements and guidelines of the IATF and the Department of Foreign Affairs on travel into and out of the country;
9. A Bubble Central Oversight Committee shall be formed composed of the governing agency, the main organizer, an MD appointed by the Organizer, and an MD from the host LGU or City/Municipal Health Office; or in case, there is a need, based on the assessment for higher level of infection risk characterizing the sports leagues by the approving agency, an infectious disease specialist shall be included.
10. Athletes and personnel shall have an in-house doctor/s to provide services such as but not limited to injury assessment and treatment, physical therapy, during competitions, among others;
11. Sports leagues and associations shall designate a temporary isolation facility within the premises of the bubble training for individuals needing further assessment due to the presence of flu-like symptoms, exposure to a suspect or probable COVID-19 case, or awaiting transport to the appropriate health facility;
12. Athletes and personnel shall stay within the bubble for at least 14 days to complete the quarantine cycle and ensure integrity of the bubble. They shall be allowed to exit the bubble training but shall only be allowed to reenter after the completion of a 14-day quarantine and other requirements set by the governing agency;
13. The designated Health and Safety Officer shall continuously monitor the health status of all individuals involved in the bubble training including coaches and other personnel during and after the activity:
  - a. The Health and Safety Officer shall submit health reports on all individuals involved in the bubble weekly following the prescribed format issued by the governing agency.
14. Symptomatic individuals shall be reported immediately to their respective Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) in compliance with the proper quarantine, monitoring, and reporting protocols including referral to the appropriate facility. In the event that an individual is confirmed to be COVID-19 positive, the conduct of the athletic full bubble-type training and competition shall be suspended; and
15. All waste including bio waste hazards and disposable PPE shall be safely disposed of. Individuals handling waste products shall be provided with the appropriate PPE.

- B. Depending on the type of environment, the level of interaction among individuals and its corresponding risks for exposure shall identify the risk associated with the conduct of training and sports competitions.
1. Sports leagues and associations shall conduct a formal risk assessment on the sport-related event to tailor fit their desired training and competition models based on their capabilities, finances, resources and other factors related to the nature of the sport and identify the allowable threshold for the conduct of the activity:
  2. Based on the risk assessment found in Annex A, only Level A (Closed Environment, No Travel) and Level B (Closed Environment, Closed Circuit Travel) are allowed to resume in areas placed under moderate-risk and low-risk community quarantine classifications.
- C. All sports leagues and associations shall comply with the approval procedures for bubble training and competition of non-professional and professional sports and activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
1. Professional Athletes, Sports or Competitions as defined by the PSC-GAB Joint Resolution No. 2020-01 shall adhere to the guidelines and requirements established by the Games and Amusements Board (See Annex D).
    - a. Pursuant to the Executive Order no. 392, series of 1950 and Presidential Decree No. 871, GAB shall exercise supervision and regulation over the operation and conduct of professional sports and other activities arising out of professional sports. As such, GAB shall implement and enforce laws, rules and regulations governing professional sports and activities of professional athletes, game officials, and officiating sports personnel. GAB shall also have the power to initiate, undertake, hear and decide any investigation for any violation of its rules and regulations concerning professional sports and games and, in connection therewith, may issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum.
  2. For non-professional athletes, sports or competitions, only members of the National Teams bound for Olympic Games or IOC recognized international multisport events in World, Continental and Regional, as well as Paralympic events as recognized by Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC) and respective National Sports Associations (NSA) shall be allowed to return to training.
    - a. The PSC, in close coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) through their respective Chef-de-Missions, and the participating National Sport Association (NSA's), shall determine the actual athletes, coaches and support staff who will resume training for Olympic Games or IOC recognized international multisport events in World, Continental and Regional events. The Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC) shall likewise closely coordinate with the PSC on the actual athletes, coaches and support staff who will resume training for Paralympic, ASEAN Para Games and Asian Para Youth Games; and

- b. The national teams that have been allowed to undergo training by PSC, POC and PPC shall adhere to all conditions to this order. The PSC, POC, PPC with their respective Chef-de-Missions and National Sports Associations shall monitor the compliance with conditions in the implementing guidelines.
3. Sports leagues and associations that will conduct bubble training and competition in areas with post community quarantine status which have less restrictions in place shall conduct a risk assessment following the World Health Organization's Mass Gathering Sports Risk Assessment Tools (Annex E). For this purpose, the following factors shall be considered in the implementation of the appropriate mitigation measures:
  - a. Local transmission of COVID-19: Clustering of Cases, Community Quarantine Classification, Community Transmission
  - b. The number of participants and their individual risk profiles: Participating athletes and personnel at higher risk of severe COVID-19 Diseases (e.g. age or with comorbidities)
  - c. Location: One or multiple venues: Indoors or outdoors
  - d. Nature of activity: Contact or Non-Contact Sports
  - e. Other factors that may be deemed necessary
4. Upon review of the submitted requirements and/or compliance with the established guidelines, the PSC and GAB shall issue a certification to officially approve the resumption and/or conduct of training, event, and other related activities. The respective governing agency shall reserve the right to review, revoke, or reissue the form/approval of any changes to the submitted guidelines, policies and violations to the approved conditions;
5. For the bubble exit protocols and return to the general population, bubble participants shall comply with the relevant guidelines of the IATF Omnibus Guidelines, the DOH-GAB-PSC JAO 2020-0001, DOH Memorandum 2020-0439, and LGU requirements as part of their exit clearance and return to community:
  - a. Undertaking of continued post- competition self-quarantine and monitoring;
  - b. Medical certificate for travel/return to LGU certified by the league physician or any authorized government physician;
  - c. Testing or quarantine protocols based on DOH guidelines and the receiving LGU; and,
  - d. Coordination with LGU where they are returning and compliance with its requirements.

## **V. REPEALING CLAUSE**

Other related issuances not consistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby revised, modified, or rescinded accordingly. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a limitation or modification of existing laws, rules and regulations.

## **VI. PENALTIES**

Penalties as administrative fines shall be imposed through DOLE Department Order No. 198 S. 2018 for any willful failure to comply with this Joint Administrative Order. Further, any person or entity found to have violated the provisions in this Order shall be subject to penalties and other legal actions in accordance with, but not limited to, existing laws and orders for the COVID-19 response, Republic Act No. 11332 - Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, Republic Act No. 11058 - Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards Act, and other applicable laws, guidelines, and issuances within the jurisdiction of GAB and PSC.

## **VII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

Should any provision of this Order or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

## **VIII. EFFECTIVITY**

This Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon filing with the University of the Philippines Law Center (UPLC) / UP-Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of three (3) certified copies of this Order.



**ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA**

*Chairman*

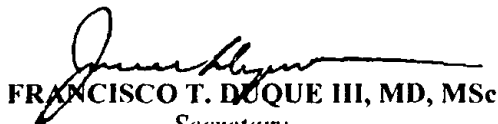
Games and Amusements Board



**WILLIAM I. RAMIREZ**

*Chairman*

Philippine Sports Commission



**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**

*Secretary*

Department of Health



**Annex A. Risk Assessment Based on the Type of Environment**

LEVEL of exposure risk for sport	Level Descriptor
B	CLOSED ENVIRONMENT, CLOSED CIRCUIT TRAVEL
C	OPEN ENVIRONMENT ; CLOSED CIRCUIT TRAVEL

**Annex B.1 Allowable Threshold for National Teams bound for Olympics and Paralympics, Olympic and Paralympic Qualifiers as recognized by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, and Philippine Paralympic Committee**

4Ps FRAMEWORK	RISK SEVERITY RATING				
	High Risk Areas		Moderate Risk Areas		Low Risk Areas
	ECQ	MECQ	GCQ	MGCQ, with modifiers	MGCQ
<b>Person/ Participants</b>	Solo/ Individual	Solo/ Individual	Maximum 5 athletes per sport/activity	Maximum 10 athletes per sport/activity	Maximum 10 athletes per sport/activity
			Skeleton workforce but total number of Individuals shall not exceed 10	Skeleton workforce but total number of individuals shall not exceed 25	Skeleton workforce but total number of individuals shall not exceed 50
			For bubble training, the allowable threshold shall be based on the risk assessment conducted by the sports league/association. However, only a maximum of 50 athletes per sport/activity and an absolute total of 100 individuals including coaches and personnel are allowed at any given time		
<b>Public/Private Location</b>	Private Space Only	Private Space or Public Space	Private Space or Public Space	Private Space or Public Space	Private Space or Public Space
<b>Physical Environment</b>	Indoors Only	Indoors or Outdoors	Indoors or Outdoors	Indoors or Outdoors	Indoors or Outdoors
<b>Participation</b>	Non-Contact Sports and Activities Only		Non-Contact Sports and Activities only except for Bubble-type training		

*\*subject to Minimum Public Health Standards*

**Annex B.2. Allowable Threshold for Professional Sports and Physical Activities per Risk Severity Area**

4Ps FRAMEWORK	RISK SEVERITY RATING				
	High Risk Areas		Moderate Risk Areas		Low Risk Areas
	ECQ	MECQ	GCQ	MGCQ, with modifiers	MGCQ
<b>Person/ Participants</b>	Solo/ Individual	Solo/ Individual	Maximum 6 athletes per sport/activity  Skeleton workforce but total number of individuals shall not exceed 10	Maximum 10 athletes per sport/activity  Skeleton workforce but total number of individuals shall not exceed 25	Maximum 20 athletes per sport/activity  Skeleton workforce but total number of individuals shall not exceed 50
			For bubble training and professional sports competition, the allowable threshold shall be based on the risk assessment conducted by the sports league/association. However, only a maximum of 50 athletes per sport/activity and an absolute total of 100 individuals including coaches and personnel are allowed at any given time		
<b>Public/Private Location</b>	Private Space Only	Private Space or Public Space	Private Space or Public Space	Private Space or Public Space	Private Space or Public Space
<b>Physical Environment</b>	Indoors Only	Indoors or Outdoors	Indoors or Outdoors	Indoors or Outdoors	Indoors or Outdoors

4Ps FRAMEWORK	RISK SEVERITY RATING								
	High Risk Areas		Moderate Risk Areas						Low Risk Areas
	ECQ	MECQ	GCQ			MGCQ, with modifiers			MGCQ
Participation	Non-Contact Sports and Activities Only		NON-CONTACT			NON-CONTACT			Non-contact and contact sports training and competition including individual and team sports are allowed for professional sports provided that the MPHS are observed and or if necessary, a bubble modality may still be required by GAB
			Individual-Based		Team Based	Individual-Based		Team Based	
			(i.e., Esports, Chess, Golf)		(i.e., Billiard, Esports)	(i.e., Esports, Chess, Golf)		(i.e., Billiard, Esports)	
			Training	Competition	Training	Competition	Training	Competition	
			Allowed provided MPHS are observed or if necessary, a bubble modality may still be required by GAB	Allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble  (Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)	Allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble	Allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble	Allowed provided MPHS are observed or if necessary, a bubble modality may still be required by GAB  (Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)	Allowed provided MPHS are observed or if necessary, a bubble modality may still be required by GAB  (Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)	

\*subject to Minimum Public Health Standards (MPHS)

Participation		CONTACT				CONTACT				
		Individual-Based		Team Based		Individual-Based		Team Based		
		<i>(i.e., Boxing, MMA, Muay Thai, Kickboxing)</i>		<i>(i.e., Basketball, Volleyball, Football)</i>		<i>(i.e., Boxing, MMA, Muay Thai, Kickboxing)</i>		<i>(i.e., Basketball, Volleyball, Football)</i>		
		Training	Competition	Training	Competition	Training	Competition	Training	Competition	
		Allowed provided MPHS are observed or if necessary, a bubble modality may still be required by GAB	Allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble  <i>(Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)</i>	Non-contact strength and sport-specific training are allowed.  Meanwhile, contact strength and sport-specific training are allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble  <i>(Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)</i>	Not allowed	Allowed provided MPHS are observed or if necessary, a bubble modality may still be required by GAB	Allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble  <i>(Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)</i>	Non-contact strength and sport-specific training are allowed.  Meanwhile, contact strength and sport-specific training are allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble  <i>(Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)</i>	Allowed provided done/ conducted in athletic bubble  <i>(Type of environment, depending on level of risk descriptor to be determined by GAB with reference to GAB Medical Guidelines)</i>	

\*subject to Minimum Public Health Standards (MPHS)

**Annex C. GAB-PSC Joint Resolution No. 2020-01 entitled, "Guidelines on the Definitions of Professional Athlete and Professional Sports or Competitions"**



**GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS BOARD  
AND PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION  
JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01**

**"GUIDELINES ON THE DEFINITIONS OF PROFESSIONAL  
ATHLETE AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS OR COMPETITIONS"**

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the State to promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 871 and Executive Order No. 120, the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) is the government agency under the Office of the President mandated to regulate and supervise all professional sports and games in the country;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Republic Act No. 6847, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) is the government agency attached to the Office of the President to serve as the sole policy-making and coordinating body of all amateur sports development programs and institutions in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for GAB and PSC to define the terms "*Professional Athlete*" and "*Professional Sports or Competition*" for it to adopt to the present situation to effectively and efficiently perform its respective functions in the supervision and regulation of the sports and games in the country;

**WHEREAS**, the GAB, in its letter dated 21 September 2020, has proposed for the adoption of a Joint Resolution between ISC and GAB, which will formalize the definitions of professional and amateur sports, among other provisions, and which will serve as a guide for all sports stakeholders;

**WHEREAS**, at the Special Virtual Board meeting of the Board of Commissioners of ISC held on 5 October 2020, the ISC approved the adoption of the proposed definitions for the terms "*Professional Athlete*" and "*Professional Sports or Competition*" through Resolution No. 1025(A)-2020;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, premises duly considered, the following are hereby adopted:

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

**1.1. "*Professional Athlete*"** shall refer to any natural person, who is paid a sum of money or other equivalent compensation as a salary or prize money for participating, either as an individual or member of a team, in a game, bout, tournament or contest of professional sport: **PROVIDED**, That it shall not include those who are paid 'token amounts' or such amounts that do not exceed the reasonable expenses incurred by the athlete in attending the competition or match, such as uniform, sports equipment, transportation, board and lodging, but not pre-competition training expenses.

**1.2 "*Professional Sports or Competitions*"** shall refer to individual or team sports, games, contest, bouts, tournaments or competitions,

a) whereby the participating athletes are paid sums of money or other forms of compensation as salary or prizes for