

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC
PRESERVATION, YOUTH AND RECREATION

BILL NO. 30-0418

Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

June 11, 2014

An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 18 to establish the Virgin Islands Sports Commission and a National Sports Policy within the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation that would be responsible for regulating sports, recreation, leisure and wellness programs in the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senator Myron D. Jackson

1 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature declares that it is the intent of this act to ensure that there is
2 established a Virgin Islands Sports Policy for the territory to be administered by a Sports
3 Commission under the auspices of the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation; and

4 **WHEREAS**, it is recognized that in the Virgin Islands there is no coherent well-
5 coordinated and well organized national sports policy and program for the development and
6 promotion of individual and team sports, and recreational, leisure and wellness programs in the
7 territory; and

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SENATOR
MYRON D. JACKSON

1 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to establish a framework for the development of polices that
2 define the vision, values, strategic directions and objectives that would provide guidance for the
3 development of national sports, recreation, leisure and wellness programs; and

4 **WHEREAS**, there has been and continues to be a total absence of appropriate record
5 management of local sports events, including the retention of official records for all organized
6 sports and major recreational events; and

7 **WHEREAS**, there is a need for public and private-sector organizers of sport events to
8 begin the process of developing a culture of record management, documentation and retention of
9 all aspects of sports records which would help to preserve the history of sports and recreation in
10 the territory for future generations; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there is no national policy that provides guidance for the administration,
12 supervision and conduct of school sports in the Territory; and

13 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to improve the delivery of sports and recreational programs,
14 including school sports, throughout the Territory and encourage greater participation of Virgin
15 Islanders in sports, recreation, leisure and wellness programs as a means of enhancing
16 intellectual, physical health and the pursuit of excellent in mind and body; and in order to
17 establish minimum standards for sports, recreation, leisure and wellness programs, and facilities
18 for residents and visitors there is a need to adopt territory-wide guidelines for these programs and
19 their organizers; Now, Therefore,

20 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

21 **SECTION 1.** Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 18 is amended by designating the
22 existing provisions as subchapter I and adding subchapter II to read as follows:

23 “Subchapter II the Virgin Islands Sports Commission.

24 **§311.** As used in this subchapter the following terms have the following meaning

1 (1) "Commission" means the Virgin Islands Sports Commission established in
2 section 312;

3 (2) "Exercise" means a physical activity that is planned, structured, and repetitive for
4 the purpose of conditioning any part of the body;

5 (3) "Games" means an activity providing entertainment or amusement or a
6 competitive activity or sport in which players engage in an activity;

7 (4) "Leisure and recreation" means a time for off-work activity which refreshes a
8 person's health or spirits by relaxation and enjoyment;

9 (5) "Physical Education" means instruction in the development and care of the body
10 ranging from simple callisthenic exercises to a course of study;

11 (6) "Sports" means all forms of usually competitive physical activity which, through
12 casual or organized participation, aim to use, maintain or improve physical ability and skills
13 while providing entertainment to participants, and in some cases, spectators;

14 (7) "Sports for All" means sport and physical education as a fundamental right for all
15 according to United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

16 §312 (a) There are established within the Department of Sports, Parks & Recreation the
17 Virgin Islands Sports Commission comprised of:

18 (1) the Commissioner of Sports, Parks and Recreation who serves ex-officio;

19 (2) the president of the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee;

20 (3) three representatives from the Virgin Islands Sports Federations,
21 recommended by the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee, who rotate among the
22 federations every three years;

23 (4) the Commissioner of the Department of Education, or a designated
24 representative;

1 (5) the Commissioner of the Department of Tourism, or a designated
2 representative;

3 (6) the Chief Executive Officer of the Virgin Islands Economic Development
4 Authority, or a designated representative;

5 (7) the Chair of the Virgin Islands Horse Racing Commission;

6 (8) the Chair of the Virgin Islands Boxing & Wrestling Commission;

7 (9) the Chair of the Virgin Islands Automobile Racing Commission; and

8 (10) One individual from the private sector appointed by the Governor.

9 (b) Members on the Commission shall serve staggered three-year terms with the
10 exception of the Commissioners of Sports, Parks and Recreation, Education, Tourism and the
11 Chief Executive Officer of the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority. The
12 representatives of the VI Sports Federations shall begin with two year terms and thereafter serve
13 three terms. The representative from the private sector shall begin their terms as a three term.

14 §313 Powers and Duties of the commission. The Commission shall:

15 (1) Develop and enforce all laws s and policies that govern sports and recreation in
16 the Virgin Islands;

17 (2) Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a Virgin Islands Sports Hall of
18 Fame;

19 (3) Induct athletes, administrators into the Virgin Islands Sports Hall of Fame based
20 on appropriate criteria established by regulations promulgated by the Commission;

21 (4) Make recommendations for the honoring of sports achievers in ways other than
22 induction into the Hall of Fame;

23 (5) Establish policies and guidelines for training and selecting Virgin Islands elite and
24 potential elite athletes in collaboration with the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee;

- 1 (6) Establish a Sports Tourism Policy in collaboration with the Department of
2 Tourism, the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee and Virgin Islands National Sports Federations;
- 3 (7) Act as an arbitrator either by itself or by persons duly appointed by it to deliberate
4 on matters affecting sports, recreation, leisure and wellness programs in the Territory and to
5 advise the Government on the implementation of the National Sports Policies;
- 6 (8) Identify locations and advise on the establishment, use, and maintenance of
7 playing facilities in the territory;
- 8 (9) Include for activities for children, youth, adults, senior citizens, and the
9 challenged;
- 10 (10) Offer coaching development opportunities;
- 11 (11) Recommend to the Government and the VI Olympic Committee areas of priority
12 for providing funds for training and the development of personnel and athletes;
- 13 (12) Generate and administer funds for the administration of the Sports Commission
14 through programs and fees generated from sports tourism programs and activities;
- 15 (13) Serve as a link between local non- Olympic sports associations/organizations, the
16 Virgin Islands Olympic Committee, local sports federations, inter-scholastic sports and
17 organized recreational and wellness programs;
- 18 (14) Recommend to the National Hall of Fame Committee, persons who are deserving
19 of national awards;
- 20 (15) Provide assistance to sports, recreational and other related organizations where
21 possible; such assistance will be based on accountability and proper management systems;
- 22 (16) Set and monitor standards to guide athletes and sports development in areas such
23 as safety, health, conditions, etc.;

1 (17) Establish and maintain records of the activities of organized sports activities
2 territory wide;

3 (18) Serve as the custodian of all records for all organized sports and major
4 recreational activities in the territory;

5 (19) Work closely with sports organizations to help strengthen their financial
6 management and accountability systems;

7 (20) Develop as a funding source for the Commission's operation revenues collected
8 from activities related from sports tourism programs;

9 (21) Make sports, recreation and leisure programs accessible to all;

10 (22) Facilitate an environment and culture in which there will be increased
11 participation in sports and recreational activities;

12 (23) Create career opportunities in sports, recreation, leisure and wellness;

13 (24) Promote a coordinated and structured program of sports, recreation and leisure
14 that support the development of athletes' wellbeing and elite status;

15 (25) Coordinate with all sports federations to create and disseminate a sports calendar
16 to help prevent major sports events from happening at the same time;

17 (26) Ensure widespread representation and collaboration with the Territory's sporting
18 entities;

19 (27) Increase professional sports opportunities for youth;

20 (28) Change the Territory's Olympic code to something more recognizable;

21 (29) Advocate for a sports complex to accommodate multiple sports and a dormitory;

22 (30) Incorporate competence, confidence, connections, character, and caring in sports
23 activities;

- 1 (31) Create a national uniform standard and logo for Virgin Islands athletes in
2 international competition;
- 3 (32) Organize elimination tournaments to select the best athletes for international
4 competition;
- 5 (33) Work to incorporate sports into the curriculum from elementary school to college;
- 6 (34) Build the Virgin Islands as a sports destination for international competition;
- 7 (35) Adopt an anti-doping policy;
- 8 (36) Conduct robust assessment of current and future needs of sports in the Virgin
9 Islands;
- 10 (37) maintain, enhance, and protect sports and recreational facilities;
- 11 (38) Ensure sports training is offered by certified or competent individuals;
- 12 (39) Organize and offer clinics for coaches, recreation leaders, game officials, and
13 Department of Sports, Parks & Recreation specialists;
- 14 (40) Offer elite summer camps and child safeguarding courses;
- 15 (41) Advocate for renovating existing sports facilities;
- 16 Seek business sponsorships for national sports representatives;
- 17 (42) advocate for free inter-national travel for National team members to train and
18 practice together;
- 19 (43) promote opportunities for the economic development of the Territory and
20 prosperity through sports;
- 21 (44) promote the development of public/private partnerships in the Virgin Islands and
22 abroad among the Virgin Islands' Diaspora for funding and financial support for sports;
- 23 (45) promote healthy lifestyle and wellness for all;
- 24 (46) institute a program for the collection, management and retention of sports records;

1 (47) promote the participation of Virgin Islanders in international and national sports
2 through the VI Olympic Committee, local sports organizations, Interscholastic Sports programs
3 and community based physical and wellness activities;

4 (48) advocate for the enhancement and a well-coordinated development plan for sports
5 facilities; and

6 (49) promote sports education and the achievement of national sport figures
7 throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands via the media.

8 **§314. Virgin Islands sports policy.**

9 (a) The Commission shall develop and publish a National Sports Policy that serves as
10 the framework for the development, guidance and administration of sports, recreation, leisure
11 and wellness programs in the Territory.

12 (b) The Commission shall administer sports policies and has oversight responsibility
13 for the regulation and enforcement of all matters related to the implementation and management
14 of the National Sports Policy.

15 (c) The Commission shall adhere to the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on
16 Sport for Development and Peace that adapted the following definition of Sport:

17 “All forms of physical activities that contribute to physical fitness, intellectual and
18 economic well-being; as well as social interaction, such as play, recreation, organized or
19 competitive sport, indigenous sport and games.”

20 (d) The Commission shall adhere to the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on
21 Sport for Development adoption of the following policy: “Sport for Development and Peace:
22 Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, outlines the universal appeal and
23 unique attributes of sport and reflects on the important and diverse role it plays in virtually every
24 society.”

1 § 315. Strategy plan. The Commission shall establish from its inception a five or ten-
2 year strategy master plan with a vision statement, mission statement, and policy objectives.
3 Until the Commission adopts a new vision and mission statement and policy objectives, the
4 following vision statement, mission statement, and policy objectives are in effect:

5 (1) Vision Statement: To create a Virgin Islands society in which the residents
6 participate in sports, recreation and leisure activities for all while building relationships with
7 individuals inside and outside of their communities and enhancing individual personal wellbeing.

8 (2) Mission Statement: The Mission of the National Sports Policy Statement is to
9 provide guidance for the development of the Virgin Islands into a leading sports country in the
10 region and the rest of the world.

11 (3) Policy Objectives: This national sports policy is intended to serve as a vehicle to a
12 new era in the development and administration of sports, recreation and leisure events that would
13 improve the sports performance of individuals locally and internationally and the physical
14 wellbeing of Virgin Islanders.

15 §316. The Major Aims of the Virgin Islands Sports Commission are to:

16 (1) Improve programming to ensure that sports are accessible, equitable and inclusive
17 to meet the needs and interests of all participants, including individuals with special needs.

18 (2) Increase participation in competitive, recreational and leisure sports and activities.

19 (3) Increase students' participation and graduation rates.

20 (4) Increase appreciation for the cultural values of the Virgin Islands, the values of
21 fair play, ethical practices, including a commitment to dope-free sports and leadership among all
22 participants.

23 (5) Increase enhanced health, wellness and prosperity for all.

1 (6) Implement a program for the collection, management and retention of sports
2 records in the Territory.

3 (7) Support the development of a program for the advancement of national and
4 international athletes.

5 §317. Mandatory programs. The following programs must be included as part of the
6 programming of the Commission and may be reviewed for continuation at a later date.

7 (1) Physical Education and Interscholastic Sports in Educational Institutions in the
8 Virgin Islands.

9 (2) Sports Tourism.

10 (3) Sports for All.

11 (4) Private Sector Sponsorship and Investment Sports, Recreation and Leisure
12 activities.

13 (5) Print, Broadcast and Other Media in Promoting Sports, Recreation and Leisure
14 activities.

15 (6) Sports Culture and the Environment.

16 (7) Health and Wellness for All.

17 (8) Drug Free Sports Environment.

18 (9) Virgin Islands Archives and the Collection and Retention of Sports Information.

19 §318. Financial accountability

20 (a) The Commission shall institute a system of financial accountability and
21 expenditures for the development of sports and recreation in the Territory.

22 (b) The Commission shall:

1 (1) assume a leadership role in identifying and seeking financial support for
2 sports and recreation programs from the Virgin Islands Government, the public and
3 private sector and the federal government;

4 (2) administer the allocation of financial resources for sports in the Virgin
5 Islands;

6 (3) collaborate with sports organizations and coordinate their plans to
7 undertake fund-raising programs; and

8 (4) Assist in identifying sports that have high potential as viable economic
9 opportunities for the territory.

10 **§319 Training and development**

11 (a) The Commission shall ensure that a Training and Development program is
12 established for the enhancement of Virgin Islanders to pursue higher goals in sports, education,
13 recreation and wellness.

14 (b) The Commission shall endeavor to adequately improve the standard of sports and
15 efficiency in implementing programs, training and development opportunities which must be
16 provided to sports practitioners. To attain these ideals, the Commission shall give attention to
17 development of human resources and to the following:

18 (1) establishment of a program for the provision of technical support for
19 approved national sporting bodies on an agreed criterion;

20 (2) Providing scholarships for sports persons to allow for exposure at a higher
21 level of performance and to encourage professional development through education;

22 (c) Training for officials to enhance their capacity to officiate and administer sporting
23 activities;

1 (d) Acquiring and developing resource material such as manuals, coaching kits and
2 electronic aids, which will assist in improving knowledge and advancing the technical skills of
3 sport persons; and

4 (e) Exposing national sport representatives to specialized personal development
5 activities which will assist in their overall development.

6 **§320.** The Commission shall encourage the wider coverage and promotion of sports
7 activities and shall undertake to advocate for:

8 (1) Increase in the publicity and exposure to sporting activities that highlight the
9 endeavor of our sports persons and to stimulate public support and participation;

10 (2) Assurance that all media houses play an active role in promoting sports as a
11 healthy lifestyle and encourage the participation of all;

12 (3) National sport organizations and affiliates to undertake marketing and
13 promotional activities aimed at increasing and sustaining spectator attendance at sporting
14 activities;

15 (4) Educational activities to be developed to instruct the general public about the
16 rules and skills of different sporting disciplines;

17 (5) Media houses to be encouraged to record sporting events and develop structured
18 sports programs; and

19 (6) Media houses must pay due regard to the rights of the sporting bodies for their
20 events.

21 **§321** Sporting activities within the school system

22 (a) The Commission shall promote its recognition that it is a fundamental objective of
23 the Virgin Islands Education System to nurture an enquiring mind in a fit body and the future
24 emergence of sports elite will depend on the development of a structured approach to sports in

1 the primary, secondary and university levels of education. The Virgin Islands National Sports
2 Policy must therefore seek to ensure that:

3 (1) Sports are included as an integral part of the school curriculum and that a
4 teaching manual be designed for physical education in schools, public and private;

5 (2) Sports are promoted as a viable career opportunity;

6 (3) All schools establish a structured sporting program which incorporates
7 every student unless medically certified;

8 (4) Physical education is taught at all levels of the education system; and

9 (5) Every teacher receives basic training in physical education.

10 (b) The Virgin Islands Sports Commission shall encourage the wider coverage and
11 promotion of sports activities and shall undertake to advocate for:

12 (1) increase in the publicity and exposure to sporting activities that highlight
13 the endeavor of our sports persons and to stimulate public support and participation;

14 (2) ensure that all media houses play an active role in promoting sports as a
15 healthy lifestyle and encourage the participation of all;

16 (3) National sport organizations and affiliates to undertake marketing and
17 promotional activities aimed at increasing and sustaining spectator attendance at sporting
18 activities;

19 (4) Educational activities to be developed to instruct the general public about
20 the rules and skills of different sporting disciplines;

21 (5) Media houses to be encouraged to record sporting events and develop
22 structured sports programs; and

23 (6) Media houses must pay due regard to the rights of the sporting bodies for
24 their events.

1 **§322 Long term goals**

2 The Commission shall advocate for high standards and safety, and improved performance
3 as part of a National Sports Policy. The Sports Policy must seek to ensure that:

4 (a) Facilities of an acceptable standard are established to allow for the development
5 of a range of sports disciplines;

6 (b) A proper system of management is established for the management and
7 maintenance of sporting facilities;

8 (c) Government ensures the availability of recreational space at schools, communities
9 and housing developments; and

10 (d) A special package of incentives is provided to the private sector for the
11 establishment of sporting infrastructure.

12 **§323. Promoting sports within the private sector.**

13 (a) The Commission shall promote a supportive atmosphere that inspires and
14 facilitates the emergence of elite performers. The Commission shall encourage greater
15 recognition to sports personalities and administrators by Government, national sporting bodies
16 and affiliates, the private sector and community organizations.

17 (b) The Commission shall work towards national representatives and teams to have
18 free access to all facilities to prepare for approved international competitions;

19 (c) Special consideration must be given to outstanding national sports representatives
20 to assist in securing employment and other benefits;

21 (d) All departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the Government of the Virgin
22 Islands shall cooperate with the Commission in implementing the Virgin Islands Sports Policy.

23 **§324.** If there is a conflict between this subchapter and other law, this subchapter
24 controls.

BILL SUMMARY

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This bill establishes the Virgin Islands Sports Commission which is responsible for the creation and development of a national sports policy within the guidelines established in this bill.

BR14-1294/June 9, 2014/AA