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Published on the website on May 2024

Law No. (8) of 2021 regarding Sports Professionalism, as amended

We Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Legislative Decree No. (5) of 1983 amending Emiri Decree No. (2) of 1975 establishing a Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, as amended;

Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions, promulgated by the Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989, as amended;

And the Legislative Decree No. (41) of 2002 regarding the Privatization Policies and Regulations,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

Article (1)

In applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

¹**Authority:** The General Sports Authority established pursuant to Decree No. (61) of 2021, or any other entity named by decree.

²**Chairman:** Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Sports Authority or any person named by decree.

Olympic Committee: Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Sports Game Federation: A non-governmental entity responsible for managing a specific sport or sports and organizes this sport or sports at

¹ Amended per Legislative Decree No.40 of 2025

² Amended per Legislative Decree No.40 of 2025

the local level, and it is affiliated with the relevant international sports federation.

Contracted Entity: Any legally acknowledged sports club registered with the Authority, or any sports federation that is a member of the Olympic Committee, or any licensed institution authorized to represent professional athletes.

Sports Professionalism: Engaging in the field of sports as a profession or occupation to achieve financial returns according to a contract between the contracting parties.

Professional Athlete: A player, member of the technical, medical, administrative or refereeing staff or others working in the sports field who receive financial compensation as a salary or bonus for providing their administrative, technical, mental or physical expertise to the contracted entity based on a specific contract between them and the contracted entity.

Professional Contract: An agreement made between the professional athlete and the contracted entity, in which the professional athlete undertakes to provide any administrative, technical, mental, or physical expertise to the contracted entity according to specified procedures and working hours in exchange for an agreed-upon financial compensation.

Article (2)

a- The contracted entities may enter into contracts with professional athletes for the practice of the specific sports activity mentioned in the professional contract.

b- The professional contract shall be registered and approved by the sports federation of the specific sport, and both parties shall adhere to the rules of the national and international federations.

Article (3)

a- The sports federation shall establish an office responsible for registering the professional contracts subject to the provisions of this Law, including any modifications to such contracts, and preparing the necessary records.

b- A decision shall be issued by the board of directors of the sports federation defining the procedures for the operation of the office and the registration process.

c- A decision shall be issued by the board of directors of the sports federation, after the approval of its general assembly, to determine the fees for registering and approving professional contracts and any amendments thereto. The contracted entity shall register and approve the professional contracts at its own expense.

Article (4)

A- The Chairman shall issue a general regulatory framework for the regulations related to the sports professionalism system and contracts for professional athletes, provided that it includes the general rules regulating sports professionalism contracts and the contractual relations arising from them, in a way that ensures that these contracts are consistent with the provisions of the relevant laws, and in accordance with the systems and regulations of international sports federations.

B- The Sports Federation shall issue the regulations for the sports professionalism system and professional athletes' contracts, which include all technical issues related to sports professionalism, including the terms and conditions of sports professionalism, the sports covered by the sports professionalism system and the type of professionalism that is applied, whether in whole or in part, as well as the terms and rules of professional athletes' contracts and the periods after which they are entitled to transfer,

and the financial rights resulting from that All of this is in accordance with the regulatory framework referred to in Paragraph (A) of this Article and in a manner that does not conflict with the regulations and rules of international sports federations.

Article (5)

The Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 17 Shaaban 1442 A.H.

Corresponding to: 30 March 2021