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**Law No. (30) of 2022 amending Some Provisions of the Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989**

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;

Commerce Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (7) of 1987, 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;

Commercial Companies Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 2001, as amended;

Law No. (18) of 2012 regarding Trade Names;

And Legislative Decree No. (27) of 2015 regarding Commercial Register, as amended;

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

**Article One**

The definition of (private bodies working in the field of youth and sports) contained in Article Two of Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989 promulgating the Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions shall be replaced with the following definition:

**(Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports):**

Any organized group composed of several natural persons or legal entities, the purpose of which is to provide care for youth from cultural, social, and physical aspects, or to provide national sports services and all related social, spiritual, health, and recreational services, without generating financial profit for its members. These bodies shall include clubs, associations, sports bodies, sports federations, the Olympic Committee, the Paralympic Committee, youth empowerment centres and youth bodies.

**Article Two**

The phrase (clubs and sports complexes) shall be replaced by the word (clubs) in the title of Chapter Two of Part Three of the Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989, and the texts of Articles (59), first paragraph, (60), second paragraph, (61), (62), and (63) of the same Law shall be replaced with the following texts:

**Article (59) first paragraph:**

The sports activity in the Kingdom shall be carried out by youth empowerment centres, youth bodies, clubs, sports complexes, sports federations, sports bodies members of federations, the Olympic Committee and the Paralympic Committee, in accordance with the Law.

**Article (60) second paragraph:**

A candidate for membership in the Board of Directors of a club, complex, sports body, youth empowerment centre, or youth body shall not be affiliated with any political association, engage in political activities or be a member of either the Shura Council or the Council of Representatives. Additionally, it is not permissible to hold membership on the Board of Directors of more than one club or more than one sports federation or to combine membership in the Board of Directors of a club and a sports federation.

**Article (61):**

Individuals who have reached the age of eighteen years and are not subject to any legal impediments are allowed to be among the founders of clubs, complexes, sports bodies, youth empowerment centres, or youth bodies, and to assume the presidency or membership of their Board of Directors.

The presidents and members of the Boards of Directors of such bodies shall carry out their duties in exchange for remuneration determined according to the regulations set by the competent administrative body.

**Article (62):**

A club is a body that manages one or more sports teams with the aim of participating in competitions, public entertainment, and achieving accomplishments. It shall be based at one of the sports complexes. The founding membership of the club shall consist of at least twenty individuals if the founders are natural persons.

A sports complex shall be a body that aims to promote sports, social education, and social cohesion among its members. It provides the means and facilitates ways to invest their leisure time, resulting in health, social, spiritual, or physical benefits. The founding membership of the sports conglomerate shall consist of at least twenty individuals if the founders are natural persons. The sports complex shall be managed by an elected Board of Directors according to the provisions of this Law, with a term of four years.

Clubs shall be allowed to establish or acquire a sports complex or be entrusted with its management.

**Article (63):**

Clubs and sports complexes shall be prohibited from engaging in the following:

a- Engaging in politics or religion.

b- Engaging in commercial activities or entering into financial speculation without the approval of the competent administrative authority.

**Article Three**

New Article No. (60 bis), (61 bis), (61 bis 1), (61 bis 2), (61 bis 3) and (61 bis 4) shall be added to the Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989 with the following texts:

**Article (60 bis):**

The general assemblies of sports clubs, complexes, bodies, youth empowerment centres and youth bodies shall be composed of all active members who have fulfilled their obligations, without requiring a specific period of membership.

**Article (61 bis):**

The competent administrative authority shall establish an electronic register in which all contracts concluded by sports clubs, complexes, bodies, youth empowerment centres and youth bodies are recorded.

Those bodies are required to register the contract within a maximum period of fifteen days from the date of conclusion.

**Article (61 bis 1):**

A decision issued by the competent minister, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, shall specify the categories of fees for the services provided by the competent administrative authority, as well as the rules and percentages of their increase and reduction, and cases of exemption therefrom.

**Article (61 bis 2):**

Except for the Olympic Committee, the Paralympic Committee, and sports federations, the competent administrative authority, upon establishing any violation of the provisions of this Law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof, shall have the right to issue a warning to the violator to immediately cease the violation, eliminate its causes and effects, within a specified time frame. If the violator does not comply, the competent authority shall issue a decision imposing one of the following penalties:

a- Impose an administrative fine calculated on a daily basis, to compel the violator to cease the violation and eliminate its causes, not exceeding one hundred dinars per day where the violation is being committed for the first time and two hundred dinars per day where the same violation is being committed within three years following the date on which a decision in respect of the previous violation had been issued. In all cases, the total of the administrative fine shall not exceed twenty thousand Dinars.

b- Impose a total administrative fine not exceeding fifty thousand Dinars.

c- Closure until the causes of the violation are eliminated.

The nature and seriousness of the violation, the obstinacy shown by the violator, the benefits he has gained, and the damage caused by this shall be taken into account when imposing the penalty. The collection of fines shall be by the methods prescribed for collecting the amounts due to the State.

A person against whom a decision of one of these administrative penalties has been issued may appeal against it before the competent court within sixty days from the date of notification of the decision.

The decision issued for the fine may have the force of the writ of execution upon expiry of the period referred to in the preceding paragraph, unless the court orders a stay of its implementation.

**Article (61 bis 3):**

The competent administrative authority, upon establishing the commission of a violation by the president or any members of the boards of directors of clubs, complexes, sports bodies, youth empowerment centres or youth bodies, of the provisions of this Law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof, shall have the right to issue a decision imposing one of the following penalties:

1- Written warning.

2- Suspension for a maximum period of 6 months.

3- Imposing an administrative fine not exceeding one thousand Dinars, and the fines shall multiplied by the number of violations.

4- Removal from the presidency or membership of the Board of Directors.

The nature and seriousness of the violation, the obstinacy shown by the violator, the benefits he has gained, and the damage caused by this shall be taken into account when imposing the penalty.

The collection of fines shall be by the methods prescribed for collecting the amounts due to the State.

A person against whom a decision of one of these penalties has been issued may file a grievance against it before the administrative authority within fifteen days from the date of notification of the decision. The grievance shall be decided upon within fifteen days from the date of its submission. Failure to decide on the grievance within the aforementioned period shall be considered as an implicit rejection of it. The concerned party may appeal the decision issued to explicitly or implicitly reject the grievance before the competent court within sixty days from the date of being notified of the rejection of the grievance or considering it to be implicitly rejected, whichever is less.

**Article (61 bis 4):**

Taking into account the provisions of the other relevant laws, sports clubs, complexes, sports bodies, youth empowerment centres, youth bodies, and sports federations may establish commercial companies to serve one or more of the activities on which they are based, after the approval of the competent minister.

**Article Four**

Two new chapters shall be added to Chapter Three of the Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989, namely Chapter Three entitled (Youth Empowerment Centres and Youth and Sports Bodies), which includes Articles (65 bis) and (65 bis 1), and Chapter Six entitled (Paralympic Committee), which includes Articles (73 bis 1) and (73 bis 2), and the rest of the chapters shall be rearranged accordingly:

**Chapter Three**

**Youth Empowerment Centres and Youth and Sports Bodies**

**Article (65 bis):**

a- The Youth Empowerment Centre is a non-profit youth educational institution of public benefit, composed according to the provisions of the law by several natural persons or legal entities or both together. It contributes to the comprehensive development of youth, preparing them spiritually, morally, culturally, physically, socially and economically, by investing their leisure time in engaging in various cultural, social, sports and national youth activities. It fosters the discovery, refinement, and nurturing of talents and instils social cohesion and solidarity in the minds of the youth. It aims to equip them with the skills that ensure their ability to assume responsibility within the framework of the law and the public policy of the Kingdom.

b- The Youth body is an educational body of public benefit, composed according to the provisions of this Law by several natural persons or legal entities or both together. It contributes to taking care of young people and youth, and contribute to their comprehensive development preparing them spiritually, morally, culturally, physically, socially and economically, enabling them to actively participate by investing their leisure time in engaging in various cultural, social, sports and national youth activities. It instils social cohesion and solidarity in the minds of the youth. It aims to equip them with the skills that ensure their ability to assume responsibility within the framework of the law and the public policy of the Kingdom.

c- The sports body is a group consisting of several natural persons or legal entities, or both, formed for the purpose of providing sports or recreational sports services, organizing sports events or lessons, and related services.

**Article (65 bis 1):**

The term of the boards of directors of youth empowerment centres, youth bodies, and sports bodies shall be four years. The provisions of Articles (63) to (65) of this Law shall also apply to these centres and bodies.

**Chapter Six**

**Paralympic Committee**

**Article (73 bis 1):**

The Bahrain Paralympic Committee is an independent body with a legal personality and financial, administrative, and technical independence. It enjoys all rights and assumes all the obligations provided for in the Paralympic Charter. Its headquarters shall be in the city of Manama or any other place determined by the Committee.

**Article (73 bis 2):**

The provisions of Articles (72) to (73 bis) of this Law shall apply to the Paralympic Committee in a manner that does not conflict with its nature.

**Article Five**

Any text that contradicts the provisions of this Law shall be repealed.

**Article Six**

The Prime Minister and the 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 the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

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