

NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
46TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2025



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

NATIONAL SPORTS INCENTIVE ACT 2025

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NATIONAL SPORTS INCENTIVE ACT 2025

AN ACT to establish a National Sports Incentive Framework for the Republic of the Marshall Islands to formally recognize, reward, and support the achievements of Marshallese athletes; to provide for matters related to sports development and national representation; and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

§101. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the National Sports Incentive Act 2025.

§102. Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to:

- (a) Institutionalize a system of incentives for Marshallese athletes who represent the Republic at national, regional, and international competitions;
- (b) Recognize and reward athletic achievement, including the achievements of athletes with disabilities, as a source of national pride and unity;
- (c) Encourage greater participation in sports as a vehicle for youth development, national identity, and leadership;
- (d) Promote sports as a catalyst for economic growth, tourism, and social well-being.

- (e) Ensure the full inclusion of athletes with disabilities in national, regional and international sports recognition, incentives, and development programs.

§103. Interpretation.

In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "**Athlete**" means a person who is a national of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and who competes in sporting events recognized under this Act, including athletes with disabilities competing Paralympics, Special Olympics, or other recognized disability sports events.
- (2) "**Minister**" means the Minister responsible for Ministry of Education, Sports and Training.
- (3) "**Recognized Competitions**" include international, regional, and other competitions, and specifically include the Olympic Games, World Championships, Youth Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Oceania Championships, Pacific Games, Pacific Mini Games, Micronesian Games, Special Olympics, or any other competition approved by Cabinet.
- (4) "**Elite Athlete**" means an athlete ranked within the top 40 internationally or who is a medallist at a recognized competition.
- (5) "**Schedule**" means the Schedule to this Chapter which outlines the prescribed incentive amounts and categories.

§104. Qualification for Incentives.

To qualify for an award or benefit under this Act, an athlete must:

- (a) Be a national of the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- (b) Be ranked in the top 40 internationally or be a medallist in a recognized competition, whether international, regional, or other competitions; and
- (c) Have represented the Republic of the Marshall Islands in a recognized competition sanctioned or approved by the Cabinet.

§105. Incentive Structure.

- (1) Cash Awards. Eligible athletes shall receive monetary awards based on achievements at competitions and in the amounts set out in the Schedule to this Chapter.
- (2) Review and Adjustment. The Cabinet shall retain discretion to reassess the values prescribed in the Schedule and may, by regulation, amend the Schedule from time to time to reflect changes in policy or economic conditions.

§106. Additional Support and Incentives.

To promote long-term development and sustainability in sports, the Government shall:

- (a) Exempt import duties on sporting equipment and training goods for national athletes and sports organizations;
- (b) Facilitate employer cooperation to protect the earnings and benefits of national athletes during periods of national training or competition;
- (c) Recognize sports administrators, coaches, and officials who contribute significantly to national sports development.

§107. Administration and Regulations.

- (1) The Minister shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this Chapter in collaboration with the National Olympic Committee.
- (2) The Minister may, with Cabinet approval, promulgate regulations necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Chapter, including procedures for application, disbursement, reporting, and amendment of the Schedule.

§108. Appropriation.

Funds necessary to implement this Chapter, including the cash incentives outlined in the Schedule, shall be appropriated by the Nitijela through the Annual Budget or a supplementary allocation as approved by the Cabinet. The administration and disbursement of such funds shall be carried out by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Training in collaboration with the National Olympic Committee, pursuant to a formal agreement between the Ministry and the Committee approved by Cabinet.

§109. Consequential Amendment.

- (1) *The Import Duties Act 2002 is amended by inserting a new section 209A following section 209.*

§209A. Exemption for Sporting Equipment and Training Goods.

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Chapter, any sporting equipment or training goods imported by or on behalf of:
- (a) a national athlete selected to represent the Republic of the Marshall Islands in a national, regional, or international competition approved by the Minister; or
 - (b) a sports organization recognized registered under the Association Law for the purposes of national representation, training, or competition;

Shall be exempt from import duties.

- (2) The exemption under this section shall apply only if:
- (a) the equipment or goods are certified by the Minister of Education, Sports and Training and the National Olympic Committee as being necessary and exclusively intended for training, preparation, or participation in competition; and
 - (b) the goods are not intended for resale or for purposes unrelated to sports development.
- (b) The Ministry of Education Sports and Training and National Olympics Committee, in coordination with the Customs Division of the Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services, may issue administrative procedures for certification and verification of eligibility under this section.

§110. Effective Date.

This Act shall come into force on the date of certification in accordance with Article IV, Section 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify:

1. That Nitijela Bill No: 62ND1 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 29th day of September 2025; and
2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Bill No: 62ND1 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 6th day of October 2025.



Hon. Brenson S. Wase
Speaker
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Attest:



Morean S. Watak
Clerk
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

SCHEDULE

CASH AWARD STRUCTURE

Competition	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympic Games	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$25,000
World Championships	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Approved International Competitions	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$2,500
Oceania Championships (Team Event)	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$500
Oceania Championships (Individual Event)	\$700	\$500	\$300
Pacific Games (Team Event)	\$2500	\$1500	\$750
Pacific Games (Individual Event)	\$500	\$400	\$300
Pacific Mini Games (Team Event)	\$2500	\$1500	\$750
Pacific Mini Games (Individual Event)	\$500	\$400	\$300
Youth Olympic Games (Team Event)	\$2000	\$1500	\$1000
Youth Olympic Games (Individual Event)	\$1000	\$750	\$500
Micronesian Games (Team Event)	\$2000	\$1500	\$1000
Micronesian Games (Individual Event)	\$500	\$400	\$300