Text consolidated by Valsts valodas centrs (State Language Centre) with amending laws of:

9 June 2011 [shall come into force on 30 June 2011].

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The *Saeima*1 has adopted and

the President has proclaimed the following law:

**On the Status of a National Sports Facility**

**Section 1. Terms Used in the Law**

The terms used in the Law correspond to the terms used in the Sports Law if this Law does not specify otherwise.

**Section 2. Purpose of the Law**

The purpose of the Law is to promote the development of national sports facilities in order to create conditions for the preparation of Latvian athletes for competing at the Olympic Games, World and European Championships, and other sports competitions, and also for hosting international sports competitions in Latvia.

**Section 3. Scope of Application of the Law**

The Law prescribes the procedures for granting the status of a national sports facility, regulates the provisions for operation of a national sports facility and the procedures for supervision thereof.

**Section 4. National Sports Facility**

A national sports facility is a structure as well as the environment built or adapted exclusively for sport (fields, tracks for sports activities, health tracks, etc.) to which the status of a national sports facility has been granted in accordance with the procedures specified in this Law regardless of the ownership of the structure or the environment.

**Section 5. Conditions for Granting the Status of a National Sports Facility**

(1) The status of a national sports facility may be granted to a sports facility which conforms to all of the following conditions:

1) it has been registered in the Register of Sports Facilities;

2) the operation and technical condition thereof conforms to the requirements of laws and regulations;

3) the operation thereof are organised by giving preference to the events organised by recognised sports federations or professionally oriented sports educational institutions;

4) it is able to provide regular training of participants of national teams, and also sporting events for children, young persons, and persons with disabilities;

5) it is appropriate for the organisation of World and European Championships, matches, cups, and qualification competitions;

6) the events related to sport organised therein make up at least 50 per cent of the actual load of the sports facility;

7) continuous operation thereof in the field of sport is ensured;

8) the objects contained therein are not used for purposes incompatible with the promotion of sport and a healthy lifestyle.

(2) The conformity of a sports facility with the conditions of Paragraph one of this Section shall be evaluated during the last year prior to the submission of the application for granting the status of a national sports facility.

(3) The conformity of the sports facility with the condition referred to in Paragraph one, Clause 5 of this Section shall be certified by at least one relevant international sports federation or a relevant sports federation recognised in accordance with the procedures specified in the Sports Law which is authorised by the international sports federation.

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**Section 6. Procedures for Granting the Status of a National Sports Facility**

(1) An owner of a sports facility or a possessor of a State sports facility (hereinafter – the owner of a sports facility) shall submit an application to the Ministry of Education and Science for granting the status of a national sports facility (hereinafter – the application) and documents confirming the conformity of the sports facility with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law. The Cabinet shall regulate the sample form of the application, the procedures for the submission of the application and the documents to be appended to the application confirming the conformity of the sports facility with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law.

(2) The Ministry of Education and Science shall examine the application of the owner of the sports facility within four months after receipt thereof. If there are objective reasons, the examination of the application may be extended for a period not exceeding six months from the day of receipt of the application, notifying the owner of the sports facility thereof.

(3) If the owner of a sports facility has not submitted all the necessary documents to the Ministry of Education and Science or the information included therein is incomplete, the Ministry of Education and Science shall send a respective written notification to the owner of the sports facility, specifying therein the deadline for elimination of deficiencies. If deficiencies are eliminated within the time period specified in the notification, the Ministry of Education and Science shall perform the activities referred to in Paragraph 3.1 of this Section.

(31) Upon examining the application, the Ministry of Education and Science shall inspect the conformity of the sports facility with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law (hereinafter – the initial inspection of the sports facility) and request an opinion from the Latvian National Sports Council (hereinafter – the Council) regarding the conformity of the sports facility with the status of a national sports facility (conformity with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law).

(32) During the initial inspection of the sports facility, the Ministry of Education and Science is entitled to request documents and explanations from the owner of the sports facility, and also to perform a survey of a sports facility in the presence or absence of the owner thereof. The Ministry of Education and Science shall warn the owner of the sports facility in writing about the initial inspection of the sports facility at least five working days in advance. The Cabinet shall determine the procedures by which the initial inspection of the sports facility is performed.

(33) The Ministry of Education and Science shall, within a month after receipt of the opinion of the Council, submit to the Cabinet the application of the owner of the sports facility, the opinion of the Council, and other documents referred to in this Section.

(4) The Cabinet shall issue an order on the granting of the status of a national sports facility. If the Cabinet order on the granting of the status of a national sports facility is appealed, the operation of the Cabinet order shall not be suspended.

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**Section 7. Refusal to Grant the Status of a National Sports Facility**

(1) Granting of the status of a national sports facility may be refused in the following cases:

1) if the sports facility does not conform to the conditions of Section 5 of this Law;

2) if the owner of the sports facility has not eliminated the detected deficiencies within the time period specified in the notification of the Ministry of Education and Science provided for in Section 6, Paragraph three of this Law.

(2) The Cabinet shall issue an order on the refusal to grant the status of a national sports facility. If the Cabinet order on the refusal to grant the status of a national sports facility is appealed, the operation of the Cabinet order shall not be suspended.

(3) The application for granting the status of a national sports facility may be re-submitted not earlier than one year after the issuance of the Cabinet order on the refusal to grant the status of a national sports facility.

**Section 8. Procedures for Withdrawal of the Status of a National Sports Facility**

(1) The status of a national sports facility may be withdrawn in the following cases:

1) if it is requested by the owner of the sports facility;

2) if it has been detected that the operation of the sports facility does not conform to the conditions of Section 5 of this Law.

(2) In the case provided for in Paragraph one, Clause 1 of this Section, the owner of the sports facility shall submit the application for withdrawal of the status of a national sports facility to the Ministry of Education and Science which shall submit the respective documents to the Cabinet within 20 days after receipt thereof.

(3) In the case provided for in Paragraph one, Clause 2 of this Section, the Ministry of Education and Science shall aggregate the documents which show the non-conformity of the operation of a national sports facility with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law and request an opinion from the Council regarding the conformity of the sports facility with the status of a national sports facility (regarding the conformity to the conditions of Section 5 of this Law). The Council shall, within 40 days, submit the abovementioned opinion to the Ministry of Education and Science which shall submit the respective documents to the Cabinet within 20 days after receipt of the opinion.

(4) The Cabinet shall issue an order on the withdrawal of the status of a national sports facility. If the Cabinet order on the withdrawal of the status of a national sports facility is appealed, the operation of the Cabinet order shall not be suspended.

(5) If a sports facility is being withdrawn the status of a national sports facility, it may re-apply for granting the status of a national sports facility not earlier than one year after the issuance of the Cabinet order on the withdrawal of the status of a national sports facility.

**Section 9. Notification of Actions Involving Immovable Property Forming Part of a National Sports Facility**

If the immovable property forming a national sports facility is divided (also if any individual part is being separated therefrom), alienated or encumbered with property law in accordance with the procedures specified in laws and regulations, the owner of the sports facility has an obligation to notify the Ministry of Education and Science in writing of the respective transaction within 30 days after conclusion thereof (in case of the division of immovable property – after making the respective changes in the State Immovable Property Cadastre).

**Section 10. Supervision of the Operation of a National Sports Facility**

(1) The Ministry of Education and Science shall constantly supervise the conformity of the operation of a national sports facility with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law and the requirements of other laws and regulations and shall organise an inspection of the operation of the national sports facility at least once every four years.

(2) Within the scope of the competence specified in Paragraph one of this Section, the Ministry of Education and Science is entitled to request documents and explanations from the owner of the sports facility, and also to perform the survey of a national sports facility in the presence or absence of the owner thereof. The Ministry of Education and Science shall warn the owner of the sports facility in writing about the inspection of the national sports facility provided for in Paragraph one of this Section at least five working days in advance.

(3) The Ministry of Education and Science shall, within a month after inspection of the operation of the national sports facility, inform the owner of the sports facility of the results of the inspection and invite him or her to express his or her opinion on them. After getting acquainted with the opinion of the owner of the sports facility, the Ministry of Education and Science shall provide a final report.

(4) If violations have been detected in the operation of a national sports facility, the deadline for elimination thereof and, where appropriate, the measures to be taken shall be indicated in the final report. If the detected violations are not eliminated within the time period and according to the procedures specified in the final report, the Ministry of Education and Science shall request the opinion of the Council regarding the conformity of the sports facility with the status of a national sports facility (regarding the conformity with the conditions of Section 5 of this Law) and shall submit the abovementioned documents to the Cabinet within 20 days after receipt of the opinion of the Council for taking the decision on the withdrawal of the status of a national sports facility.

(5) The Cabinet shall determine the procedures by which the inspection of the operation of a national sports facility is performed and the authorities to be involved therein.

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**Section 11. Register of National Sports Facilities**

Information on the sports facilities which have been granted the status of a national sports facility in accordance with the procedures specified in this Law shall be aggregated in the Register of National Sports Facilities. The Ministry of Education and Science shall be the holder and manager of the Register of National Sports Facilities. The Cabinet shall determine the content and the procedures for the updating of information to be included in the Register of National Sports Facilities.

**Section 12. Support for the Operation of a National Sports Facility**

A local government may participate in the funding of a national sports facility within the territory thereof.

**Transitional Provisions**

1. By coming into force of this Law, Decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia of 3 November 1992 On Granting the Status of a National Sports Facility (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1992, No. 46, 47, 48; *Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1997, No. 6, 16; 1999, No. 2; 2001, No. 15; 2002, No. 22; 2004, No. 13; 2006, No. 15; 2007, No. 24; 2008, No. 14, 16; 2009, No. 3) is repealed.

2. A sports facility which has acquired the status of a national sports facility by 31 July 2009 in accordance with the Decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia of 3 November 1992 On Granting the Status of a National Sports Facility and which after 31 July 2009 operates as a sports facility shall keep the status of a national sports facility until 31 December 2010, and information on such facility shall be included in the Register of National Sports Facilities in conformity with the provisions of Section 11 of this Law.

3. The national sports facility referred to in Paragraph 2 of the Transitional Provisions shall keep its status also after 31 December 2010 if the owner thereof has submitted the application for granting the status of a national sports facility and the documents to be appended to the application in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 6, Paragraph one of this Law by 31 May 2010 and the Cabinet has issued a respective order on the granting of the status of a national sports facility.

4. If the owner of the sports facility referred to in Paragraph 2 of the Transitional Provisions has not submitted the application for granting the status of a national sports facility in accordance with the procedures specified in this Law by 31 May 2010, the respective sports facility shall lose the status of a national sports facility from 1 January 2011.

5. The national sports facilities owned by the State or a local government which have been granted such status until 31 July 2009 in accordance with the Decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia of 3 November 1992 On Granting the Status of a National Sports Facility may be alienated, taking into account the opinion of the Latvian National Sports Council. Alienation provisions shall provide for the obligation of the acquirer of the object to preserve, to economically and financially guarantee the profile of operation of the sports facility, and also to observe the conditions for organisation of sports competitions (including international sports competitions). The Ministry of Education and Science shall evaluate the possibility of organisation of sports competitions in the respective sports facility. In case of further alienation, the abovementioned conditions shall also be binding on the acquirers of the sports facility (including the acquirers of a privatised national sports facility).

6. The Cabinet shall, by 31 July 2009, issue the regulations referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one, Section 10, Paragraph five, and Section 11 of this Law.

The Law shall come into force on 1 August 2009.

The Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 19 March 2009.

Acting for the President, the Chairperson of the *Saeima* G. Daudze

Rīga, 7 April 2009