

Normative Documents of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Physical Education Policy

Zulfiyya Yolchiyeva 

Abstract. *The article examines the objectives of physical education policy as articulated in normative documents of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Central to this policy is the cultivation of patriotism among the younger generation, fostering respect for the history of the Azerbaijani people, cultural heritage, the state language and symbols, as well as national and spiritual values. The policy emphasizes strengthening military-patriotic education and preparing youth for military service; implementing preventive measures against legal violations, drug addiction, and other harmful habits; identifying talented young individuals and creating conditions for the development of their abilities; supporting youth entrepreneurship and equipping them with knowledge of market economy fundamentals; enhancing professional training and ensuring employment opportunities. Furthermore, the policy addresses assistance for socially vulnerable youth, including young families; safeguarding youth health through targeted measures; promoting active participation of young people in the socio-political life of the country; facilitating the formation and development of children's and youth organizations; and advancing international cooperation projects, including the establishment of global partnerships among youth organizations and supporting their participation in international events. Collectively, these measures underscore the significant role of physical education policy in the socio-political and cultural development of Azerbaijan.*

Keywords: *legal-normative framework, responsibilities, objectives, legislation, rights, professional training, state policy*

Azerbaijan Sports Academy, Doctoral student, Baku, Azerbaijan
E-mail: zulfiyya.yolchuyeva@sport.edu.az

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Azərbaycan Respublikasının normativ sənədlərində fiziki tərbiyə siyasəti

Zülfiyyə Yolçiyeva 

Xülasə. *Məqalədə normativ sənədlərdə fiziki tərbiyə siyasətinin əsas məqsədi kimi gənc nəsildə vətənə məhəbbət, Azərbaycan xalqının tarixinə, mədəni irsinə, dövlət dilinə və rəmzlərinə, milli-mənəvi dəyərlərinə hörmət ruhunda tərbiyə olunmasına, gənclərin hərbi vətənpərvərlik tərbiyəsi işinin gücləndirilməsi və onların hərbi xidmətə hazırlanması, gənclər arasında hüquq pozuntularının, narkomaniyanın və digər zərərli vərdişlərin profilaktikası sahəsində tədbirlərin həyata keçirilməsi, istedadlı gənclərin aşkar edilməsi, onların öz qabiliyyətlərini inkişaf etdirə bilmələri üçün şəraitin yaradılması, gənclərin sahibkarlıq fəaliyyətinin dəstəklənməsi, bazar iqtisadiyyatının əsaslarına dair biliklərə yiyələnməsi, peşə hazırlığının yüksəldilməsi və məşğulluğunun təmin edilməsi məqsədi ilə tədbirlərin həyata keçirilməsi, sosial müdafiəyə ehtiyacı olan gənclərin, o cümlədən gənc ailələrin*

problemlərinin həllinə köməklik göstərilməsi, gənclərin sağlamlığının qorunması sahəsində tədbirlərin həyata keçirilməsi, ölkənin ictimai-siyasi həyatında gənclərin fəal iştirakı, uşaq və gənclər üzrə təşkilatların formalaşması və inkişafı üçün şəraitin yaradılması, gənclərin beynəlxalq əməkdaşlığı sahəsində layihələrin həyata keçirilməsi, gənclər təşkilatlarının beynəlxalq əlaqələrinin qurulması, onların nümayəndələrinin beynəlxalq tədbirlərdə iştirakına köməklik göstərilməsi və s. məsələlər öz əksini tapır. Bütün bunlar fiziki tərbiyə siyasətinin ölkəmizdə böyük əhəmiyyət kəsb etdiyini göstərir.

Açar sözlər: hüquqi-normativ baza, vəzifə, məqsəd, qanun, hüquq, peşə hazırlığı, dövlət siyasəti

Azərbaycan İdman Akademiyası, doktorant, Bakı, Azərbaycan

E-poçt: zulfiyya.yolchuyeva@sport.edu.az

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Introduction

In June 1993, following the political course initiated by Heydar Aliyev, who came to power in Azerbaijan, a period of fundamental transformation began in the country. These changes, of a positive nature, encompassed all spheres of public life, including the organization of physical education and the development of sports. The preparation of a state policy and a specific sports strategy aimed at promoting the development of sport in the Republic of Azerbaijan also necessitated the creation of a legal and normative framework for the organization of physical education and the advancement of sports (Aliyev, 2001, p. 18).

With the successful implementation of the state program, the number of Azerbaijan's achievements in international sports competitions increased significantly. The formation of the legal and normative foundations of sports policy in Azerbaijan also coincides with international practice. For instance, bibliometric analyses conducted in the field of sports law and governance demonstrate the scientific basis of this direction (Kamenecka-Usova et al., 2025). Recent theoretical studies also emphasize that effective sports governance depends on coherent legal regulations, institutional accountability, and clearly defined policy frameworks, which constitute the foundation of sustainable sports development (Cho et al., 2024).

Methods

In the preparation of this article, methods such as the analysis of normative-legal documents, comparative analysis, historical analysis, analytic-synthetic approach, and generalization were particularly employed. During the research, the laws, state programs, strategic documents, and other normative-legal acts regulating the field of physical education and sports in the Republic of Azerbaijan were examined, and their impact on the formation and development of physical education policy was studied from a scientific perspective. The selection of research methods was guided by qualitative research methodology and document analysis principles (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Results

The first step in establishing the legal and normative framework for the organization of physical education and the development of sports in the country was the Presidential Decree No.179 dated July 26, 1994, and the Resolution No. 861 of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the same date, which created the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This

decree marked the initial stage in building the legal and normative foundations for the organization of physical education and the development of sports (Aliyev, 2001, p. 18).

Following the adoption of this document, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan was established by the Presidential Decree of July 26, 1994. By creating and properly directing such a ministry, Heydar Aliyev introduced significant changes in the field of sports. In the form of this second institution, which was essential for addressing issues in the sphere of sports, he laid the foundation for a body tasked with a greater, more important, and more complex mission, which was vital during the transition period (Aliyev, 2001, p. 18).

The Presidential Decree of 1994 on the establishment of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan further strengthened the legal and normative framework for the organization of physical education and the development of sports in the country. In this regard, another key document signed by President Heydar Aliyev - the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Physical Education and Sports" (No. 417-IQ, dated December 23, 1997) - was a legal step aimed at regulating relations in the field of physical education and sports (Legal Documents on Physical Education and Sports, 2008, p. 8).

At the modern stage, Azerbaijan's youth and sports policy is implemented through consistent state programs (Yusifli, 2026). The objectives of the Law were to ensure citizens' right to engage in physical education and sports; to provide legal guarantees for the functioning and development of the physical education and sports system; to define the rights, duties, and responsibilities of individuals and legal entities in the field of physical education and sports; and to regulate the relations arising in this sphere (Legal Documents..., 2008, p. 18).

Another significant step in the establishment of the legal framework for the organization of physical education and the development of sports in Azerbaijan was the "State Program on Azerbaijani Youth" (2005–2009), signed in 2005 by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev. The "State Program on Azerbaijani Youth" (2005–2009) envisaged the fulfillment of the following tasks: fostering the younger generation in the spirit of love for the Motherland, respect for the history, cultural heritage, state language and symbols, and national and moral values of the Azerbaijani people; supporting the implementation of projects in the field of international cooperation among youth; facilitating the establishment of international relations of youth organizations; and assisting the participation of their representatives in international events, among others (State Program on Azerbaijani Youth, 2005, p. 9).

Sports policy in Azerbaijan plays an important role in the social integration of youth and in the formation of a healthy lifestyle (Quliyev, 2025). On June 30, 2009, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, signed a new Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Physical Education and Sports." This law defined the organizational-legal and socio-economic foundations of activities in the field of physical education and sports, established the main principles of state policy, regulated relations arising in this sphere, and guaranteed the right of every individual to engage in physical education and sports (Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2009, p. 8). As a result of the consistent sports policy pursued by the Azerbaijani state, the development of sports in the country has reached its highest stage.

Physical education is a pedagogical process aimed at the development of human physical qualities, the improvement of the form and functions of the organism, preparation for labor activity and defense of the Motherland, equipping individuals with motor skills, habits, and specialized knowledge, and fostering healthy, cheerful, and morally strong individuals (Rzayeva & Jafarov, 2004, p. 5). In Azerbaijan, the physical education program is a unified state program that encompasses all members

of society, from young children to the elderly. Its implementation is supported by methodological teaching materials prepared on a scientific basis by institutions of physical education and pedagogy.

According to experts, as with other general education subjects, the content of physical education must be determined in accordance with the demands of the socio-political environment in which we live, and it must be continuously improved and updated. The educational activities of teachers and students should carry a developmental, educational, and preventive character, with motor knowledge, skills, and habits realized through educational methods. All of these, in turn, should be directed toward the comprehensive and harmonious development of the individual, the interests of the social environment and society, and the moral development of the younger generation (Ahmadov, 2015, p. 7).

In the sphere of fostering the physical development of youth, schools face even greater responsibilities. From the very first days of children's entry into school, the pedagogical staff must pay close attention to their physical development. Physical education and sports activities should cultivate in young people a sense of collectivism and the ability to subordinate personal interests to those of the collective. The creation and strengthening of sports teams, as well as the proper organization of their activities, constitute the most important responsibilities of coaches and physical education organizers (Abdullayev, 2015, p. 7). During physical education, the following tasks are carried out:

1. Contributing to the proper development of adolescents' organisms and strengthening of the body;
2. Facilitating the formation and improvement of students' natural motor skills and habits while providing knowledge related to new forms of motor activity;
3. Educating a young generation endowed with high moral qualities—resilient, strong-willed, disciplined, courageous, brave, and enterprising;
4. Ensuring the development of key motor qualities such as strength, agility, and quickness.

In the modern era, it is also of great importance to educate young people in the spirit of respect for Azerbaijani identity, statehood, history, traditions, language, national-moral, and universal values. Emphasizing this repeatedly in his meetings with youth, the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has assessed their attachment to the homeland as follows: "Of course, young people must be devoted to their homeland. Today Azerbaijan is developing so rapidly that every person who loves their country proudly says: I am a citizen of Azerbaijan! In general, every individual must love their homeland. In more developed countries, naturally, this manifests itself at an even higher level. I believe that patriotism, knowledge, education, physical preparedness, attachment to one's past, and upbringing in the national spirit should be our main factors" (Hajiyeva, 2015, p. 7).

Normative documents, in addition to guaranteeing the right of young people to engage in physical education and sports, also create conditions for their social and moral development (Hasanov, 2024). In the process of ensuring that the younger generation is physically and morally healthy and harmoniously developed, physical education and sports serve not only as the main means but also as instruments of beauty, taste, and happiness. The primary responsibility for realizing the opportunities provided by these means rests with coaches and teachers.

Discussion and Conclusion

The physical education program requires students to acquire proper habits for performing vital movements. In school physical education classes, children are taught correct walking, running, jumping, throwing implements, and similar activities. These aspects were always at the center of attention of the national leader, Mr. Heydar Aliyev. At the second youth forum, Aliyev stated: "We want the youth of our independent state to develop comprehensively, to run well, to swim well, to

walk briskly and gracefully - in short, to be normal and healthy individuals, ready for labor and defense, developing physically as well as morally in the right way” (Hajiyeva, 2015, p. 7).

At the same time, teaching the skills and habits required in sports competitions, stadiums, sports grounds, swimming pools, and while performing exercises with various gymnastic apparatuses is among the primary responsibilities of physical education teachers. The acquisition of these sports skills holds great importance in the work of physical education. The efforts of physical education teachers and sports coaches foster in young people a sense of national patriotism, love for the homeland and for sports, and also serve to strengthen their self-confidence in achieving sporting success. This was once again confirmed by the words of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, during his meeting with Olympic athletes: “We must educate athletes in such a way that they believe in their own strength, strive tirelessly to improve their sporting achievements, and work with a deep sense of patriotism. Every member of our national teams is obliged to defend the honor of our independent state with dignity and success in international competitions” (Hajiyeva, 2015, p. 7).

Thus, the following conclusions were drawn from the study: In the normative documents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, physical education policy consists of:

1. Guaranteeing citizens' right to engage in physical education and sports;
2. Providing legal assurance for the functioning and development of the physical education and sports system;
3. Defining the rights, duties, and responsibilities of individuals and legal entities in the field of physical education and sports, and regulating the relations arising in this sphere.

All of these are directed toward the comprehensive and harmonious development of the individual, the interests of the social environment and society, and the moral development of the younger generation.

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