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ESSD-RM-2026-185

Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION IV-A CALABARZON

10 March 2026

**Regional Memorandum**  
No. 185 s. 2026

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ZERO-WASTE 2026 REGIONAL  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEET (RAAM)**

To: **Schools Division Superintendents**

1. In reference to the request of the **City Government of Batangas** and in line with the Region's advocacy for environmental protection and sustainable event management, this Office, through the Education Support Services Division, announces the **Zero-Waste Guidelines for the 2026 Regional Athletic Association Meet (RAAM)**.
2. To ensure a climate-resilient and sustainable sporting event, all delegations are directed to strictly comply with the following environmental protocols in all billeting schools and event venues:
  - a. **Prohibition on single-use plastics** and disposable packaging (plastic bags, sachets, styrofoam, plastic cups, straws, and cutlery).
  - b. **Prohibition on disposable drinking bottles**, with the mandatory use of personal, refillable water containers.
  - c. **Prohibition on non-biodegradable decorations** (flaglets, balloons, bunting, and small-sized tarpaulins).
  - d. **Mandatory implementation of a 4-bin waste segregation system;** and
  - e. **Mandatory on-site composting** of food waste in designated areas prepared in every billeting school.
3. To encourage active participation, the City Government of Batangas will recognize outstanding performance through the **Most Eco-Responsible Delegation** and **Most Eco-Friendly Billeting School Awards**. Winners for both categories will receive **Php 50,000 (1st Place)**, **Php 30,000 (2nd Place)**, and **Php 20,000 (3rd Place)** during the RAAM 2026 Closing Ceremony. The detailed breakdown of these awards is **attached as Annex E** for your reference.
4. Monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted daily by a joint team from the DepEd Regional/Division Offices and the City ENRO. Evaluation tools, including the **Zero-Waste Compliance Checklist (Annex B)**, **Scoring Rubric (Annex C)**, and **Ranking System (Annex D)**, are likewise attached.

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5. For inquiry, kindly contact the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Batangas City or the Education Support Services Division (ESSD) CALABARZON through the RAAM 2026 Secretariat.
6. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance with this Memorandum are highly expected.

  
**ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE, CESO II**  
 Regional Director 



Republic of the Philippines  
City Government of Batangas

Office of the City Environment  
and Natural Resources Officer



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BAGONG PILIPINAS

February 16, 2026

Atty. Alberto T. Escobarte, CESO II  
Regional Director

Department of Education – Region IV-A (CALABARZON)  
Gate 2, Karangalan Village, Cainta, Rizal

**RE: Request for Support in Disseminating Zero-Waste Guidelines for the Batangas City Regional Athletic Association Meet (RAAM) 2026**

Dear Director Escobarte,

Warm greetings from the City Government of Batangas.

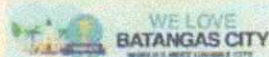
As Batangas City prepares to host the **Regional Athletic Association Meet (RAAM) 2026**, we are committed to ensuring that the event becomes a model of environmental responsibility and sustainable event management. In line with our long-standing advocacy for ecological protection and climate-resilient governance, the City aims to implement a **Zero-Waste RAAM 2026**, consistent with national and local policies on ecological solid waste management.

To support this initiative, we respectfully request the assistance of the Department of Education Region IV-A in **disseminating the Zero-Waste Guidelines** to all Schools Division Offices, participating schools, coaches, athletes, and delegation officials. Your leadership and endorsement are vital in ensuring that all delegations are well-oriented and fully prepared to observe the environmental protocols during the event.

We kindly seek your support in circulating the following key directives for strict compliance in all billeting schools and event venues:

1. **Prohibition on the use of single-use plastics and disposable packaging materials**, including but not limited to plastic bags, sachets, styrofoam, plastic cups, straws, and cutlery.
2. **Prohibition on the use of disposable drinking bottles**, encouraging instead the use of personal, refillable water containers.
3. **Prohibition on the use of flaglets, balloons, buntings, small size tarpaulins, and other non-biodegradable decorative materials** within billeting schools and activity areas.
4. **Promotion of reusable, recyclable, and environmentally preferable alternatives**, aligned with waste reduction and circular economy principles.

City Environment and Natural Resources Office  
Sky Garden, GKK Bldg., P. Burgos St., Batangas City  
Telefax (63 043) 723-884



To ensure a balance between reasonable use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of a

5. **Practice of on-site composting of all food waste** using the composting areas that will be designated and prepared in every billeting school, to ensure proper organic waste management and minimize landfill disposal.

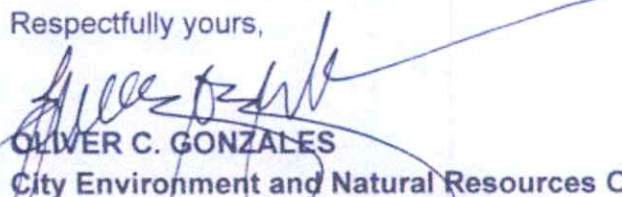
These measures are essential to reducing the environmental footprint of the RAAM and to showcasing CALABARZON as a region that champions sustainability in large-scale youth events. To further encourage compliance, we propose giving incentive and recognition to the delegations and billeting school that demonstrate exemplary adherence to the Zero-Waste RAAM 2026 guidelines. With DepEd's support, we can ensure that the Zero-Waste protocols are clearly communicated, understood, and implemented by all participating delegations.

Our office is ready to provide your team with the complete set of guidelines, IEC materials, and orientation modules for dissemination. We also welcome the opportunity to conduct briefings or coordination meetings with your office and the Schools Division Offices at your convenience.

We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership in promoting environmental stewardship and youth development. Together, we can make RAAM 2026 a meaningful demonstration of our shared commitment to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable CALABARZON.


Thank you very much, and we look forward to your favorable response.

Respectfully yours,



**OLIVER C. GONZALES**  
City Environment and Natural Resources Officer

Noted by:



**MARIO VITTORIO A. MARINO**  
City Mayor

*atta: Annex A-Local Ecological Solid Waste Management Guidelines for RAAM 2026, ANNEX B-ZeroWaste Compliance Checklist, Annex C-Zero Waste Scoring Rubric, Annex D-Ranking System for the Most Eco-Responsible Delegation, Annex E-Awards Criteria*

*cc: DepED Batangas City, All City Department and Concern Offices*

## ANNEX A

### Local Ecological Solid Waste Management Guidelines for RAAM 2026

#### I. Purpose

These guidelines aim to ensure the effective implementation of a **Zero-Waste RAAM 2026** by promoting waste reduction, proper segregation, resource recovery, and environmentally responsible practices in all billeting schools, competition venues, and activity areas within Batangas City.

#### II. Scope

These guidelines apply to:

- All participating delegations (athletes, coaches, officials)
- All billeting schools and host institutions
- Event organizers, suppliers, concessionaires, and service providers
- Volunteers, support staff, and partner agencies

#### III. Guiding Principles

- **Waste Prevention First:** Reduce waste generation at source.
- **Resource Recovery:** Maximize reuse, recycling, and composting.
- **Environmental Safety:** Avoid materials that harm the environment or create long-term pollution.
- **Shared Responsibility:** All delegations and host schools must actively participate in Zero-Waste practices.

#### IV. Waste Management Requirements

##### A. Waste Segregation at Source

All billeting schools and venues must implement **four-bin segregation**, properly labeled and color-coded:

## Waste Category Color Code Examples

<b>Biodegradable</b>	Green	Food scraps, fruit peels, leftover rice
<b>Recyclable</b>	Blue	PET bottles, cans, clean paper, cardboard
<b>Residual</b>	Black	Sanitary waste, contaminated packaging
<b>Special Waste</b>	Yellow	Batteries, bulbs, electronic waste

Clear signage must be posted in dining areas, hallways, and common spaces.

## V. Prohibited Materials and Practices

### A. Single-Use Plastics and Disposable Packaging

The following are **strictly prohibited**:

- Plastic bags, sando bags, and thin film plastics
- Plastic straws, stirrers, cups, plates, and cutlery
- Styrofoam food containers
- Sachets and single-use condiment packets
- Disposable drinking bottles

**Allowed alternatives:**

- Reusable containers, tumblers, and utensils
- Refillable water bottles
- Cloth bags, eco-bags, and reusable food carriers

### B. Non-Biodegradable Decorations

The following are **not allowed** in billeting schools and event venues:

- Small flaglets
- Balloons
- Plastic buntings
- Small sized Tarpaulins (unless reused from previous events)

- Glitter, confetti, and other non-biodegradable décor

**Allowed alternatives:**

- Reused cloth banners
- Recycled paper decorations
- Painted plywood signage
- Digital signages and bulletin boards

## **VI. Food Waste Management and Composting**

### **A. Mandatory On-Site Composting**

All billeting schools shall:

- Establish a **designated composting area** (pit, bin, or drum-type composter).
- Ensure **all food waste** from kitchens, dining areas, and delegations is collected separately.
- Coordinate with the City ENRO for technical guidance and monitoring.

### **B. Acceptable Compostable Materials**

- Cooked and uncooked food scraps
- Fruit and vegetable peels
- Coffee grounds and tea leaves
- Paper towels and napkins (unsoiled by chemicals)

## **VII. Water Refill and Hydration Stations**

To eliminate disposable bottles:

- Hydration stations shall be installed in all billeting schools and venues if possible.
- Delegations must bring **personal refillable water bottles**.
- Concessionaires must serve beverages in **reusable or paper-based containers** only.

## **VIII. Concessionaires and Food Providers**

All food providers must:

- Use reusable or biodegradable food containers
- Avoid sachets and single-use condiments
- Provide bulk dispensers for sauces, sugar, and seasonings
- Participate in segregation and composting protocols

#### **IX. Recycling and Resource Recovery**

- Recyclables will be collected and turned over to accredited junk shops or barangay MRFs.
- Schools must maintain a **temporary holding area** for recyclables.
- Delegations are encouraged to bring home recyclable materials they generate.

#### **X. Clean-Up and Monitoring**

- Daily clean-up schedules must be implemented in all billeting schools.
- The City Government Team, DepEd representatives, and school coordinators will conduct **daily monitoring** using a standardized checklist.
- Non-compliance will be documented and addressed through coordination with delegation heads.

#### **XI. Recommended Eco-Friendly Alternatives for RAAM 2026**

##### **A. For Delegations**

- Refillable water bottles
- Reusable food containers and utensils
- Cloth towels instead of disposable wipes
- Eco-bags for personal items

##### **B. For Schools**

- Reused cloth banners
- Chalkboards or whiteboards for announcements

- Recycled paper for signages
- Potted plants instead of decorative plastics

#### **C. For Events and Ceremonies**

- Digital scoreboards and announcements
- Reusable stage backdrops
- Eco-friendly medals and tokens (wood, bamboo, recycled metal)
- Paper-based accreditation passes

#### **XII. Support and Coordination**

The City Government thru respective concern departments will provide:

- IEC materials
- Orientation sessions
- Composting guidance
- Monitoring tools
- Technical assistance for schools and delegations

**ANNEX B**  
**ZERO-WASTE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST**  
*RAAM 2026 • Batangas City*

**A. GENERAL COMPLIANCE**

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Zero-Waste Guidelines visibly posted in key areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Orientation conducted for delegation members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daily clean-up schedule implemented	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**B. WASTE SEGREGATION**

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Four-bin system available (Green, Blue, Black, Yellow)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bins properly labeled and color-coded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Segregation practiced by athletes and staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste collection area clean and organized	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**C. PROHIBITED MATERIALS**

***No single-use plastics***

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
No plastic bags used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No plastic cups, plates, cutlery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No straws, stirrers, sachets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
No styrofoam containers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No disposable drinking bottles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**No non-biodegradable decorations**

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
No balloons or small flaglets hanging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No plastic bunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**D. COMPOSTING OF FOOD WASTE**

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Designated composting area established	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
All food waste collected separately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Compostable materials properly processed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**E. HYDRATION & WATER REFILL STATIONS**

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Hydration/refill stations available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delegations using refillable bottles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No sale or distribution of bottled water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## F. FOOD PROVIDERS & CONCESSIONAIRES

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Reusable/biodegradable containers used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bulk condiment dispensers provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No sachets or single-use condiments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Proper segregation practiced in kitchen area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## G. ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Delegations use reusable utensils and eco-bags	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Schools use recycled or reused décor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Digital signages used where possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## H. DAILY MONITORING & REPORTING

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Daily inspection conducted by City Govt/DepEd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Issues reported and addressed promptly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delegation head informed of non-compliance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Overall Compliance Rating**

- Fully Compliant
- Partially Compliant
- Non-Compliant

**Inspector/Monitor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Conforme:

**ANNEX C**  
**ZERO-WASTE COMPLIANCE SCORING RUBRIC**  
**RAAM 2026 • Batangas City**

**I. SCORING SCALE**

Rating	Description	Score
Fully Compliant (FC)	Indicator fully met; consistently implemented; no corrective action needed	3 points
Partially Compliant (PC)	Indicator partially met; implementation inconsistent; minor corrective action needed	2 points
Minimally Compliant (MC)	Indicator minimally met; major gaps observed; immediate corrective action required	1 point
Not Compliant (NC)	Indicator not met; no evidence of implementation	0 points

**II. SECTION SCORING**

Section	No. of Indicators	Maximum Score
I. General Preparedness	3	9
II. Waste Segregation System	4	12
III. Prohibited Materials	8	24
IV. Food Waste Management & Composting	4	12
V. Hydration & Water Refill Stations	3	9
VI. Food Providers / Concessionaires	4	12
VII. Eco-Friendly Practices	3	9
VIII. Daily Monitoring & Reporting	3	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32 indicators</b>	<b>96 points</b>

## ANNEX D

### RANKING SYSTEM FOR THE "MOST ECO-RESPONSIBLE DELEGATION"

*RAAM 2026 • Batangas City*

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#### I. PURPOSE

This ranking system provides a standardized, objective, and transparent method for identifying delegations that demonstrate exemplary adherence to the **Zero-Waste Guidelines** during RAAM 2026. It promotes environmental responsibility, discipline, and sustainability among all participating divisions.

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#### II. BASIS FOR RANKING

Delegations will be ranked based on their **Total Compliance Score** from the Zero-Waste Compliance Checklist and Scoring Rubric (Annex A & B).

- **Maximum Possible Score:** 96 points
- **Minimum Score:** 0 points

Scores will be validated by:

- RAAM 2026 Monitoring Teams
- 

#### III. RANKING FORMULA

Delegations will be ranked from **highest to lowest** based on their Final Score Percentage.

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#### IV. AWARD CATEGORIES

##### 1. Most Eco-Responsible Delegation (Champion)

- Score: **90% and above**
- Highest score among all delegations
- Demonstrates outstanding and consistent Zero-Waste implementation
- No major violations recorded

##### 2. Eco-Responsible Delegation (1st Runner-Up)

- Score: **85%–89%**
- Strong compliance with minor gaps
- No repeated violations

### **3. Eco-Responsible Delegation (2nd Runner-Up)**

- Score: **80%–84%**
- Satisfactory compliance with room for improvement

### **4. Special Citations (as applicable)**

These may be awarded at the discretion of DepEd and the City ENRO:

- **Best in Waste Segregation**
- **Best in Composting Practices**
- **Best in Plastic-Free Operations**
- **Best Billeting School–Delegation Partnership**
- **Most Improved Delegation**

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## **V. TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE**

In case of tied scores, the following criteria will be used **in order**:

1. **Highest score in Waste Segregation System**
2. **Highest score in Prohibited Materials Compliance**
3. **Highest score in Food Waste Management & Composting**
4. **Fewest recorded violations**
5. **Earliest submission of complete monitoring forms**

If still tied, both delegations may receive the same award.

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## **VI. DISQUALIFICATION GROUNDS**

A delegation may be disqualified from awards if:

- Found repeatedly violating Zero-Waste rules
- Refuses to comply with corrective actions

- Engages in improper disposal or burning of waste
  - Uses prohibited materials after formal warning
- 

## **VII. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

To ensure transparency, monitors must submit:

- Daily monitoring forms
- Photo documentation
- Summary of findings
- Final consolidated score

All documents must be submitted to the **RAAM 2026 Zero-Waste Secretariat**.

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## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS**

Awardees will be recognized during the **RAAM 2026 Closing Ceremony** and will receive:

- Certificate of Recognition
- Eco-Responsible Delegation Banner
- Special citation from DepEd Region IV-A and the City Government of Batangas

- **Annex D: Ranking System for the Most Eco-Responsible Delegation and Most Eco-Friendly Billeting School**

All billeting schools and delegations are required to comply with these tools.

## 5. MONITORING AND VALIDATION

Daily monitoring shall be conducted jointly by:

- DepEd Regional and Division Monitors
- City ENRO Monitoring Teams
- Billeting School Coordinators

All findings must be supported by photo documentation and submitted to the RAAM 2026 Zero-Waste Secretariat for consolidation and validation.

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BILLETING SCHOOLS AND DELEGATIONS

All concerned are directed to:

- a. Implement the **4-bin waste segregation system**;
- b. Enforce the **prohibition on single-use plastics and non-biodegradable decorations**;
- c. Ensure **mandatory composting of food waste** in designated areas;
- d. Promote the use of **refillable water bottles** and hydration stations;
- e. Maintain cleanliness and orderliness in all billeting and activity areas; and
- f. Cooperate with monitoring teams at all times.

## 7. FUNDING SOURCE

Cash prizes and related program expenses shall be charged to the **City Government of Batangas** and other authorized funding sources, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules.

## Annex E

### Implementation of the RAAM 2026 Zero-Waste Program and Search for the Most Eco-Responsible Delegation and Most Eco-Friendly Billeting School

#### 1. OBJECTIVES

The Zero-Waste Program seeks to:

- a. Ensure full compliance with the RAAM 2026 Zero-Waste Guidelines;
- b. Promote proper waste segregation, composting, and plastic-free operations in all billeting schools and event venues;
- c. Encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives among athletes, coaches, and school personnel; and
- d. Recognize exemplary performance through the **Most Eco-Responsible Delegation** and **Most Eco-Friendly Billeting School Awards**.

#### 2. AWARD CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

##### A. Most Eco-Responsible Delegation

- 1st Place: Php 50,000
- 2nd Place: Php 30,000
- 3rd Place: Php 20,000

##### B. Most Eco-Friendly Billeting School

- 1st Place: Php 50,000
- 2nd Place: Php 30,000
- 3rd Place: Php 20,000

Winners will receive cash prizes and certificates during the RAAM 2026 Closing Ceremony.

#### 3. EVALUATION TOOLS

The following documents shall be used for monitoring and scoring:

- Annex B: Zero-Waste Compliance Checklist
- Annex C: Zero-Waste Scoring Rubric