



## The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism's call to normalize school sports leaves only empty echo

“There is nothing the association can do. “There are many times when I feel angry, but it is reality.”

It was last year. After the Boys' Sports Festival and with high school entrance exams just around the corner, a parent who heard the sudden noise that the school's sports team was being disbanded requested an SOS. It was an angry cry that there was no place to complain and no place to listen to the passion of young people whose dreams had not yet bloomed.

The sports association told a surprising story, saying, “We too were suddenly notified.” “The power to disband the school sports team and appoint leaders are all at the discretion of the principal. Since this is the Ministry of Education's policy, the association has no way to do anything about it. “There are more than one place where this has happened,” he said with a confused expression.

The school principal said, “It is an unavoidable choice in terms of running the school. It takes a lot of money to maintain the sports department, but the results are minimal. The college entrance rate is competitive, but if national competition scores are not guaranteed, government support will be reduced. “It’s a choice for the school,” he said. Student athletes who will be kicked out of school ahead of high school entrance exams have already been excluded from consideration. Eventually, the athletic department was disbanded and the student athletes were scattered.

Before the shock even wore off. Another school news arrived. It is a prestigious handball team and has produced star players, but the newly appointed principal announced that it would be disbanded to switch to other sports. “We decided that it would be better to run a sports club that would be helpful to the school, such as golf,” was all the school principal explained to parents.

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