

The development of an elite sport index for Belgium

Leblicq, S., De Bosscher, V. & De Knop, P.
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

The purpose of a Belgian Elite Sport Index is to create an objective measure for the evaluation of the performances of the Belgian athletes. The concept of the Belgian Elite Sport Index is based on existing sport indices from three countries, namely:
the Elite Sport Index and Olympic Index from the Netherlands (NOC*NSF);
the World Sporting Index from the United Kingdom (UKSport);
the National Sporting Index from Canada (Sport Canada).

Research method

For the calculation of the index value, top 8 places at European Championships, World Championships and Olympic Games since 1992 are taken into consideration. The results have to be obtained in a sport subsidized by the General Commissioner's Office for the Advancement of Physical Development, Sports and Outdoor Recreation (Blos) or in an Olympic sports discipline. In total 26 sports are incorporated in the index.

Points are attributed to the top 8 places by two systems:

1. first 8 places: 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 points;
2. winner-final-semi final-quarter final: 10-8-5,5-2,5 points.

The assigned points are weighted in two ways:

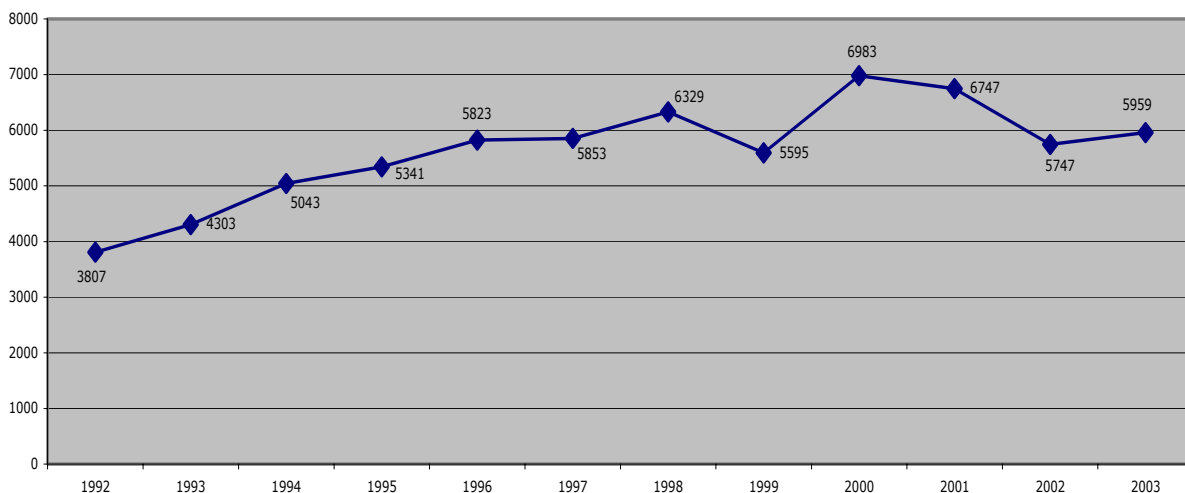
- according to the size of the sport (defined by the number of national federations affiliated with the international umbrella federation);
- according to the status of the competition:
 - European Championships weight factor 2
 - World Championships weight factor 4
 - World Championships weight factor 6

The results obtained during an event are replaced by the results of the next competition of the same status. In other words an EC is replaced by an EC, a WC by a WC and Olympic Games by Olympic Games.

Calculation of the Belgian Elite Sport Index

Figure 1 reflects the value of the Belgian Elite Sport Index in the period between 1992 and 2003.

Figure 1: Value of the Belgian Elite Sport Index in the period between 1992 and 2003



There is no consistency in the performances of the Belgian athletes. The global index value shows a slightly upward trend in the period between 1992-2003. The most important conclusions for each sport separately are represented in table 1.

Table 1: Most important conclusions of the Belgian Elite Sport Index

<i>Most points earned</i>	<i>Least points earned</i>	<i>Positive evolution in performances since 2000</i>	<i>Negative evolution in performances since 2000</i>	<i>No points earned</i>
Judo Lifesaving Rollerskating Waterskiing	Fencing Squash	Athletics Cycling Tennis	Archery Judo Lifesaving Rollerskating Rowing Swimming Table tennis	Badminton Football Gymnastics Handball Volleyball

Conclusion

Through the analysis of the Belgian Elite Sport Index it became clear that in almost every sport successful and less successful periods relieve each other. This indicates that the success of Belgium in elite sport depends on individual talents and that a structured policy is needed.

The composition of the index will be determined by the purpose that is put first. The Belgian Elite Sport Index is meant first of all to be a policy tool to show the effect of certain initiatives on the performances of the Belgian athletes.

References

- NOC*NSF (2003). De Topsportindex en de Olympische Index. Website: <http://www.sport.nl>
 Sport Canada (2003). National Sporting Index.
 UK Sport (2002). UK Sport World Sporting Index.

Contact co-ordinates author

Sylvie Leblicq
 Faculteit LK – SBMA
 Pleinlaan 2
 1050 Brussel
sleblicq@vub.ac.be