

Sport facilities in Brazil: a preliminary analysis

Authors: Maria Tereza Silveira Böhme, Leandro Mazzei, Cacilda Amaral, Flávia da Cunha Bastos

Institution: School of Physical Education and Sport of University of São Paulo

E-mails: terbohme@usp.br; lemazzei78@yahoo.com.br; cacilda.amaral@gmail.com; flaviacb@usp.br

Keywords

Sports facilities; elite sports

Aim:

The aim of this study was to diagnose the Sports Facilities in Brazil, mainly Sports Training Centers. This country wants to succeed in major international sports events, especially in 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

Theoretical Background:

In the last years there was an increase on the number of nations that invests large amounts of money on Sport. Nations look for political, social and economic benefits, originated from the achievements on main international competitions (DE BOSSCHER, BINGHAM, SHIBLI, VAN BOTTENBURG, DE KNOP, 2008; HOULIHAN, GREEN, 2008). With the professionalism level of sports today, the success of athletes depends on the ability of the sport structures to effectively use all the available resources. Therefore, some countries try to develop sports policies that change their management models and structures into something capable of an efficient sportive progress. Among other factors, the success of elite athletes depends on the access to good sport facilities to train. Sport Facilities can improve the children's access to sport, and mainly, in Sports Training Centers, to develop and prepare high performance athletes. In this context, similarities and differences among some countries have been studied, in order to understand the international sporting success. Elite sports training facilities (sports training centers, for example), should be developed in a manner which takes into account the needs, the availability, the accessibility, the quality and the comfort of elite athletes and coaches (GREEN; OAKLEY, 2001; DIGEL, 2002; DE BOSSCHER et al, 2006; 2008).

Methodology:

This study is part of the initial data analysis of SPLISS Consortium Group research project based on the nine pillars of SPLISS model (Sports Policies Leading to International Sport Success). Three questionnaires were used. In this paper the results of a question about the Pillar 6 (Sports Facilities) is related. The first questionnaire/inventory was answered by the researcher, based on the collected documents about the existing sport facilities. The other two questionnaires were answered by a sample composed of 284 elite athletes and 42 elite coaches. A descriptive statistical analysis was realized about the question: "How do you rate the quality and the availability/accessibility of the

training & competition facilities/accommodation at elite level sport in your country, as you experience them?"

Results/Discussion:

The analyzed information from the sport facilities overall elite sport policy inventory showed that Brazil does not have a governmental or national policy of implementation and maintenance of Sports Training Centers for Elite Athletes. There is some initiative for the development of Sports Training Centers in some of the Brazilian states, like São Paulo and Amazonas. The Brazilian government usually uses financial resources in Sports Facilities, but they are destined to the sport events. Only in 2012 there were some concrete initiatives to develop training centers for Brazilian athletes preparation, seeking 2016 Olympic Games. However, they remain isolated initiatives, concentrated in major economic centers (Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo). The Brazilian Olympic Committee (BOC) affirms in official reports that 17 (58,62%) National Governing Bodies have a Sports Training Centers - 18 (43,9%) disciplines of the Olympic program. However, the BOC reports do not inform characteristics or details of these sport facilities. National Governing Bodies develop their own sport facilities, sometimes with government support, or in most cases, they financing and management with self-initiative. Many private clubs have high quality sport facilities too, but not everyone practitioner have access to Brazilian sports facilities. This is confirmed on the descriptive analysis of the answers of athletes and coaches to the sport facilities elite sports climate survey. 79% of the Athletes and 88,2% of the coaches say that the availability/accessibility of the sport facilities goes from reasonable to very low (45,2% and 57,2% respectively and low and very low). Furthermore, 73% of the athletes say they do not have full access to a National Sports Training Center for high performance sport, when answering yes/no about this theme. Also, 71,1% of the athletes and 78,6% of the coaches say that the quality of the existing facilities goes from the reasonable to very low (30,3% and 42,9% respectively are low and very low).

Implications/Conclusions:

Brazil wants to improve its international sport results, especially for the summer Olympics. Better results are already expected for London 2012 and Rio 2016; to achieve these aims, Brazil intends to be among the top ten countries. According to the obtained results, Sport Facilities for training does not seem to be a priority for the institutions that control the sports in the country.

References:

- De Bosscher, V.; Bingham, J.; Shibli, J. B.; Van Bottenburg, M.; De Knop, P. (2008). The global Sporting Arms Race. An international comparative study on sports policy factors leading to international sporting success. Aachen: Meyer & Meyer.
- De Bosscher, V., De Knop, P., Van Bottenburg, M., & Shibli, S. (2006). A Conceptual Framework for Analysing Sports Policy Factors Leading to International Sporting Success. *European Sport Management Quarterly*, 6(2), 185-215.
- Digel, H. (2002). A comparison of competitive sport systems. *New Studies in Athletics*. v.17, n.1, p.37-50.

- Green, M.; Oakley, B. (2001). Elite Sport development systems and playing to win: uniformity and diversity in international approaches. *Leisure Studies*, 20:247-267.
- Houlihan, B.; Green, M. (2008). Comparative elite sport development. In: Houlihan, B. & Green, M. (eds). *Comparative Elite Sport Development: Systems, Structures and Public Policy*. Oxford: Elsevier, Butterworth-Heinemann.