



Ministry of Youth & Sports

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

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1.0 **POLICY OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this policy is to institute a clear and manageable framework to guide and enhance the delivery of sports programmes in Fiji through a coordinated and partnership approach at all levels of participation by government, statutory and community governing bodies to ensure maximum return.

2.0 **POLICY**

2.1 **Participation**

To ensure equality in participation and support of interested persons in the sports of their choice.

2.2 **Sports Development**

To promote sports opportunities, provision of relevant equipment, play grounds, programmes and personnel throughout Fiji.

To support and encourage clear career pathways for athletes and administrators.

2.3 **Elite Athlete Development**

To promote excellence at national and international levels of competition to enhance personal and national image and goodwill.

2.4 **National Sporting Organisations**

To assist national sporting organisations develop a more strategic approach to the development of their sports and encourage direct accountability of resources and developments.

2.5 **Sports Education**

To develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport in the interest of social welfare of the individual and the enjoyment of leisure among the people of Fiji and to promote the health and fitness of the nation through sport.

2.6 **Sport Science, Information and Research**

To support the continued development of sports science, sports medicine, sports education, information and research technology to benefit all stakeholders.

2.7 **Sports Industry and Tourism**

To support further development of sports into a viable and sustainable industry.

2.8 Drug Free and Safe Sport

To support and encourage all efforts to keep sports in Fiji drug free and safe.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Fiji values and promotes sport as a primary means to building an active, healthy society and a socially progressive nation. This can be achieved through wide participation in sports, fitness and recreation at every level, from village and community to elite sports involvement in international competitions.

3.2 To implement this vision, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (herein after abbreviated to MYS) will promote participation by all in sports and recreational activities, ensuring that all citizens of Fiji receive every opportunity to enrich their lives through quality sports programmes.

3.3 This policy is based on the premise that sports is an important economic and social activity that can contribute positively to the education, social and economic enhancement of individuals and the Fiji community as a whole.

3.3.1 *At an individual level, sports contribute to:*

- a. development of self-realization, including the joy of efforts and the spirit of competitiveness;
- b. improvement of physical fitness and health;
- c. meaningful and wholesome leisure-time activity;
- d. alleviation of the stresses of modern living;
- e. meaningful social interactions; and
- f. the development of basic skills.

3.3.2 *At society level, sports contributes to:*

- a. the development of physical and moral qualities necessary for a socially fit nation
- b. an environment for social interaction, unification and reconciliation that is essential for fostering improved community health and productivity
- c. assisting in the prevention of crime and juvenile delinquency, through the provision of opportunities for quality use of leisure time.

3.3.4 *At an international level, sports contributes to:*

- a. achievement of excellence at the highest level
- b. enhancement of Fiji's sporting image
- c. the fostering of international friendships, and
- d. generation of foreign exchange.

4.0 **DEFINITIONS**

4.1 **Elite Athletes**

Group of players considered to be the best or most important because of their skills, knowledge, talent and performance selected for national representation.

4.2 **Fijian sports drug free and safe**

Refers to keeping all playing venues free from the consumption of drugs and compulsory anti-doping practices enhanced.

4.3 **Quality coaches**

Quality coaches are those who have been certified by their respective NSO's and qualified to undertake coaching programs.

4.4 **Sports science**

A discipline that studies the application of scientific principles and techniques with the aim of improving sporting performance of elite athletes

4.5 **Sports medicine**

Sports medicine is an area of health and special services that apply medical and scientific knowledge to prevent, recognize, manage, and rehabilitate our athletes to enhance performances at community, national, regional and international events.

4.6 **Sports education**

Sports Education is the enhancement of required knowledge to improve human resource capabilities in sports skills, sports experience and facilitate development programs and conduct encouragement activities at the grass root level emphasizing athletes development and well-being.

4.7 **Juvenile delinquency**

Refers to children and adolescents behaving in abnormal social and illegal behavior and practices.

4.8 School Sports

Refers to all physical activities and sports programs organized for Physical Education and elite athlete development purposes for the students within the ambits of the school curriculum.

5.0 RELEVANT LAWS AND AUTHORITIES

- 5.1 Olympic Charter - 2007
- 5.2 Pacific Games Council Charter - 2010
- 5.3 FASANOC Charter - 2008
- 5.4 Constitutions of national regional & international sporting organizations
- 5.5 National Youth Policy - 2011
- 5.6 Roadmap for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development 2009 – 2014
- 5.7 Charter for Change, Peace and Progress - 2008
- 5.8 Fiji Sports Council Act, Cap.217.
- 5.9 National Disability Policy
- 5.10 Higher Education Promulgation No. 28 of 2008
- 5.11 National Qualifications Framework - 2012

6.0 PROCEDURES

6.1 Participation

MYS shall:

- 6.1.1 provide opportunities and facilities for the active participation of all citizens in sports towards the fulfillment of basic social and physiological needs.
- 6.1.2 provide leadership for a national participation strategy that includes national coordination, marketing, research and monitoring of national sports and recreation.
- 6.1.3 encourage the delivery of quality programmes through community sports and recreation clubs and Government coordinated outreach programmes to all members of the community.
- 6.1.4 coordinate a collaborative approach to increased participation in sports, by both the public and private sectors.
- 6.1.5 coordinate the inter-ministerial sports programme involving Government Ministries and Departments.

6.2 Sports Development

- 6.2.1 All citizens shall be given the opportunity to participate in sports and recreational activities at a level that suits them, according to their interest

and ability.

6.2.2 MYS shall in close collaboration with the National Sporting Organizations, Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC), Fiji Sports Council and educational institutions establish programmes and delivery models to cover the whole range of sports involvement from recreational and healthy activities and sports at grass roots level through to elite athlete development and support.

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6.2.3 School Sports

MYS shall:

6.2.3.1 work in close collaboration with the authority responsible for school sports in developing policy and guidelines to streamline and regulate the development and participation of students in school sports competitions.

6.2.3.2 support and work in close collaboration with stakeholders on the provision of a fair and equitable opportunity for school team members to be selected to compete at a competitive level that is appropriate to their performance in that year.

6.2.3.3 support the strengthening of Physical Education programmes in schools in close collaborations with the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education.

6.2.3.4 support the compulsory teaching of Physical Education Programmes in both Primary and Secondary Schools.

6.2.3.5 assist in establishing a corporate and integrated approach towards the regulation and administration of student talent identification and their further uptake and development by national sporting organizations.

6.2.3.6 support and improve the capability of available expertise to meet the increased demand for sports science, sports education and sports medicine in school sports education.

6.3 Access and Equity

MYS shall:

- 6.3.1.1 create opportunities for all citizens to participate in sporting activities of their choice using available facilities without any element of discrimination.
- 6.3.1.2 encourage and provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate freely in sports and recreational activities at their desired level, to achieve personal goals.
- 6.3.3 encourage a greater participation in sports of people with disabilities through the provision of educational programmes; availability of more, higher level competitions; funding; and infrastructural assistance.
- 6.3.4 encourage women to actively participate in sports and recreational activities with due considerations to sensitive social, economic and cultural values.

6.4 Participation in Sports

All participants shall be encouraged under this policy to:

- 6.4.1 enjoy sporting activities.
- 6.4.2 Treat each other with dignity and respect.
- 6.4.3 experience a wide range of sporting and recreational activities.
- 6.4.4 have access to quality coaches, administrators, support staff, suitable facilities and equipment.
- 6.4.5 receive proper and relevant support for sports activities and physical activities.
- 6.4.6 participate in all sports of their choice according to their aspirations and abilities.
- 6.4.7 participate according to the rules and values that are appropriate to their level of development and which reflect traditional and culturally acceptable ideas.
- 6.4.8 share in decision-making processes that affect them.
- 6.4.9 have equal opportunity to participate in sport at any level within the community, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, gender, physical condition or socio-economic background.

6.5 Elite Athlete Development

MYS shall:

- 6.5.1 work with stakeholders to promote and support elite athletes through access to venues, equipment, funding, career development, etc.
- 6.5.2 support elite sports development programmes.

Out of these:

- 6.5.2.1 young exceptional potential athletes will be identified, developed in elite training institutions both locally and abroad, offered high level competition opportunities abroad and given special privileges to fully support and encourage the national quest of producing internationally successful athletes.
- 6.5.2.2 The National Sporting Organisations will be responsible for the specific task of developing elite athletes for national representation by developing and implementing high-standard programmes in partnership and consultation with all stakeholders.
- 6.5.3 Assist other Institutions and authorities, such as the educational system, to play effective supportive roles to properly align young people to the challenges of being elite athletes.

6.6 National Sporting Organizations (NSO)

MYS shall:

- 6.6.1 assist in improving the management and operations of NSOs by providing financial, advisory, and other resource support.

6.7 Sports Education

MYS shall:

- 6.7.1 establish a corporate and integrated approach to improve the human resource capabilities required to upgrade sports knowledge, improve sports skills, organize competitions, officiate in tournaments, facilitate development programmes and conduct encouragement activities at the grassroots level.
- 6.7.3 facilitate the provision of necessary resources to all stakeholders for a robust education system that supports continued human resources development at all levels.

6.8 Sports Science, Information and Research

MYS shall:

- 6.8.1 support the continued development of athletes and coaches in attaining the best

services in sports science areas like sports medicine, biomechanics, nutrition, sports information, sports technology and equipment, education, computing and research.

6.9 Sports Industry and Tourism

MYS shall:

- 6.9.1 support the promotion of sporting excellence in terms of skills and infrastructure as part of a broader tourism strategy.
- 6.9.2 acknowledge and support sports' major impact on the economy as a source of income and employment.
- 6.9.3 encourage and broaden the scope of cultural and traditional activities that relate to sports.

6.10 Drug Free and Safe Sports

MYS shall:

- 6.10.1 encourage and support fair play and drug free sport and continue working with the international and local agencies that oversee and implement drug free sport and green environment programmes.

7.0 GUIDELINES

- 7.1 A National Sports Commission within the Ministry is to be set up to establish higher standards of excellence in all sports delivery systems. It should ensure that only athletes who are competitive internationally will receive funds for overseas competition, greater accountability of all sporting bodies and help eliminate conflicts of interest currently practiced by some federations. Future planning and greater accountability of federations and sporting bodies should be enforced by the Commission recognizing that individual sports federations are bound by rules and regulations of their international federations.
- 7.2 Participation forms the basis of sports development. The task of sports development is to identify priorities and implement and provide suitable programmes to meet those needs.
- 7.3 Corresponding participation capacities will determine the needs in competition, facilities, human resources and finance. This provision applies to all sections of our society, from children in schools to mature-aged citizens.
- 7.4 To be successful in sport at the elite level, it is vital that we have a broad

and effective base, together with effective pathways for young athletes to maximize their potential. Beyond this it is equally important this base provides a foundation for health and fitness within the wider Fijian community.

7.5 The sports delivery system needs reorganization and support guided by an ambitious government policy and backed by a firm budget, efficient and effective funding strategies, a strategic and planned approach by governing bodies, effective delivery agents, an integrated approach from grassroots participation to the elite level, and by world standard programmes, products and expertise.

7.6 To move ahead, our sports systems must be practical and dynamic in order to achieve better returns on investments from all levels of the sports delivery system.

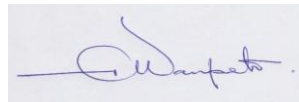
8.0 **EFFECTIVE DATE..... 05/06 /12**

9.0 **REVIEW DATE.....05/06/13**

10.0 **KEY SEARCH WORDS**

Elite Athlete, Sport Science, Sports Education, Ministry of Youth & Sports (MYS), Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC), National Sporting Organizations (NSO), Fiji Sports Council, School Sports.

11.0 **ENDORSED BY THE MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS HON. VILIAME NAUPOTO.**



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SIGNATURE

01/05/2012

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DATE

12.0 **APPROVED BY THE CABINET ON TUESDAY THE 5th DAY OF June, 2012.**