

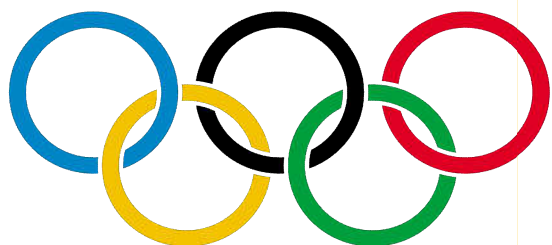
Directorate of Youth Services and Sports
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002

Note

The draft of Himachal Pradesh State Sports Policy-2020 has been prepared and suggestions or opinions from the interested parties / individuals/ Departments are requested to be given on or before 31st December, 2019 on the departmental e-mail i.e. deputydirectoryss@gmail.com

A high jumper is captured in mid-air, clearing a bar on a red track. The athlete is wearing a white shirt, black shorts, and orange shoes. The background is a green field.

Himachal Pradesh Sports Policy 2020



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1. Introduction

The existing Sports policy was framed in 2001, since then there have been several developments including state players successfully competing in various international events like Olympics, Common Wealth and Asian Games. The State government has taken various initiatives in developing modern sports infrastructure, promoting sports in the state and honouring outstanding State's sportspersons, who brought laurels for the country. **11 Himachali players from different sports have donned Indian colours during the 19th Asian Games in 2018 at Jakarta-Palembang.**

For scaling newer heights, rejuvenate, train and equip sportspersons and propel a better sport environment, there is an imperative need of a new Sports Policy. This policy aims at consolidating the progress made so far, espousing new initiatives that shall enable the State Government to promote sports with a renewed resolve and fresh vigour. The policy also aims at providing excellent opportunities for emerging and promising sportspersons.

The proposed State Sports Policy 2019 envisages that the State Government will pursue the twin objectives of **'Broad-basing of Sports'** and **'Achieving Excellence in Sports at the National and International level'**. Sports in which the State has inherent potential strength and competitive advantage, need to be vigorously promoted. Sports and Physical Education would be integrated more effectively with Educational Curriculum. The broad basing of sports will, primarily remain a responsibility of the State Governments and the Central Government will actively supplement their efforts in this direction and for tapping the latent talent, including in the rural and tribal areas.

It is therefore, pertinent to mention here that the objective of this Sports policy is to build a culture of sports, where sportspersons of the state shall be inculcated with higher moral and ethical values, spirit of comradeship and the desire to excel. This can be done by channelizing vibrant youth energy for sports activities and physical fitness, and by nurturing upcoming sports talent in the State to an optimum level by motivating them to serve their State.

2. Vision, Mission, Principles Values and Objectives

2.1 Vision

To create an environment which takes Himachal Pradesh to a position of becoming a 'Sports State' that encourages and strengthens sportspersons through talent development specific approach with an aim to create a wholesome wellness of society.

2.2 Mission

Our aim is to provide a competitive and sportive environment that encourages and supports sportspersons irrespective of their social and economic background.

- a) To closely collaborate and co-ordinate with schools, districts and state associations and guide them in matters of common interest and concern
- b) To introduce schemes for promotion of fitness and development of sports as a career option among youngsters, coaches and community

2.3 Principles

For attainment of its vision, following principles need to be undertaken which shall boost upcoming sports activities in the State:

- a) Sports with ethics

All sports activities intend to increase ethical conduct among sportspersons and instil intrinsic worth within the sports activities

- b) Grass root approach
Himachal sports activities have an objective of providing flourishing opportunities to sports enthusiasts with an even-handed approach
- c) Long term sportsperson development
The focus has always been for the long-term development of State's sportspersons by providing them hi-tech facilities and scientific techniques.
- d) Ensuring participation of different sectors
Sports is an important part of various other sectors, most importantly education, health and recreation. It is therefore imperative to promote these through linkages with sports clubs, sports associations, and private sector.
- e) Objective based outcome
Sports programs are created to fulfil important motives for enthusiastic sportspersons of Himachal to achieve their desired outcomes.
- f) Monitoring impact
For achieving continuous improvement, innovation and accountability, regular monitoring and evaluation of various sports programmes and policies is imperative.

2.4 Objectives

- a) To educate and create awareness amongst people of the State to participate in active sports and make sports an integral part of their daily life
- b) To encourage, train and support sportspersons for participation in national and international championships
- c) To promote and encourage excellence in sports, in the process produce sportspersons of National and International repute to attract large number of tourists to the State
- d) To encourage public-private partnership in creating sports infrastructure
- e) To lay special emphasis on developing, maintaining and optimally utilizing high quality sports infrastructure and providing facilities in educational institutions
- f) To recognize talent in sports and reward young women and men, who achieve excellence in sports
- g) To recognize special needs of differently-abled and facilitate their participation in sports
- h) To provide equal opportunities to all and encourage participation in sports

3. Approach

- a) The promotion of sports shall be a collaborative effort of all stakeholders, especially various departments and organizations of the State Government, educational institutions, sports bodies, panchayats, sportspersons and other persons actively involved in sports
- b) On ground level, the promotion of sports shall be a varying combination of an outreach, bottom-up approach. It shall involve use of local facilities, building on existing structures and traditions, involving local people, adopting a 'need-based' sports development approach.

4. Strategies

4.1 Expansion of Infrastructure

Development of infrastructure at village, block, district and State level including educational institutions. Building of sports hostel for nurturing sports talent in scientific environment. Sirmour, Kangra districts can be targeted for athletes, Kabbadi; whereas Kullu district for high altitude explosive, adventure sports.

4.2 Expansion of Sport facilities

- a) Provide facilities in terms of employment or other benefits to outstanding sportspersons to retain them within the State
- b) Ensure participation of promising sportspersons from Himachal Pradesh in sports activities at National/International level
- c) Encourage sports in educational institutions and government departments

4.3 Dissemination of Sports Information

Media plays a key role in dissemination of information, popularization and promotion of sports amongst masses. Efforts shall be made for proper coverage in print and electronic media on important sports tournaments held in the State.

An adequate publicity budget and a well-planned communication strategy shall be devised for advocacy of sports, encouraging active participation in sports among masses and popularising State's sports tournaments through available media platforms, public representatives, printed literature and functionaries of various Departments. Educational institutions may also be partnered for this purpose.

5. Development of Infrastructure

The creation and availability of sports infrastructure equipped with all the modern-day facilities throughout the State is a basic ingredient for development and broad-basing of sports. The State Government is keen to promote Himachal Pradesh as a Sports Training Destination for the Indian sportspersons prior to their international commitments. For accomplishing this goal, a proposal for construction of facility equipped with state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, amounting to INR 58.00 Cr, has been submitted to the GOI. The State Government will also solicit involvement of agencies like Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Local Bodies, educational institutions, sports federations/associations, clubs and industrial establishments for creation, utilization and maintenance of sports infrastructure. Private investment for creation of Sports infrastructure & even for its maintenance will also be encouraged.

While existing play fields and stadiums, both in rural and urban areas, will be maintained for sports, suitable plan will be devised for developing open areas to promote sports activities. Steps would be initiated to evolve low cost functional and environment-friendly designs in this regard, so that maximum benefits could be derived with relatively low levels of investment. **Efforts will also be made to optimally utilize the available infrastructure and manpower and Special coaching camps organized during the vacations, to provide intensive training to talented sports persons, even as they pursue their academic work. Besides this, a certification mechanism for infusing professionalism in sports activities e.g. UIAA certification needed to be developed for ABVIMAS Manali.**

5.1 Creation or adoption of High-Altitude Sports Infrastructure

As we need to prepare our young sportspersons to adapt to climatic conditions of sporting venues in various temperate regions. The creation or adoption of a high-altitude sporting center will improve their abilities as players. Therefore, in the beginning Sports Authority of India's High-Altitude training center at Shilaroo in Shimla district would be used for frequent sports training camps till a new High-Altitude Training Centre or Academy is developed at an appropriate place.

5.2 Sports facilities in rural areas

The State Government has implemented several schemes to provide rural sports infrastructure, as it is important to provide infrastructure for internationally recognized sports for encouraging sportspersons. Under “**Mukhya Mantri Yuva Nirman Yojna**”, two multipurpose playgrounds equipped with gym facilities will be constructed in every assembly constituency of the State in a phased manner. Procurement and replenishment of sports equipment and consumables (such as footballs volleyballs etc.) and maintenance of the grounds and facilities shall also be taken care of.

5.2.1 Gram Panchayat level

- a) Every gram panchayat will have one mini stadium developed in each Gram Panchayat as per the availability of open space, in phased manner as per the availability of funds with the requirement of 2 acres of land. The mini stadium, if already created in some of the villages, is to be attached with the nearby school. The responsibility for maintenance of playfields will be on gram panchayats, who will maintain them out of their own resources and such infrastructure provided by the State Government should be made accessible to public.
- b) An outdoor facility for sports will be created in each gram panchayat area
- c) All schools at the panchayat level may be given priority for development of playfields according to availability of required land

5.2.2 Development of Block Level sports Infrastructure

- a) One block level sports complex will be developed along with both indoor and outdoor facilities in each block of all the districts in the State over a period of next five years as per the availability of land with the department. In these stadiums, sports facilities along with sports equipment of requisite quality would be created by convergence of resources under different schemes.
- b) The block level sports stadium would be located within the premises of an existing school/college playground, provided the available area is minimum 6-7 acres.
- c) The sports infrastructure at block panchayats will also be made available for community sports beyond working hours and during holidays. It will be managed by suitable local arrangements or sports youth club/ registered youth clubs, as decided by elected block panchayat or block development officer of block or district sports council.

5.2.3 District level stadiums

District level stadiums up-gradation would be created having facilities for minimum ten sports disciplines Volleyball, Hockey, Football, Athletics etc. These stadiums would be owned, managed and operated by respective district sports council. Other sports may also be run depending on availability of space and facilities. Coaches would be available at district headquarters and coaching centers will run in each district headquarter. Facility of coaches will be made available in rural areas where there is potential for sport.

5.2.4 Multi Sports stadiums

Developing Multi Sports Stadium/infrastructure for various sporting activities to overcome the challenge of inadequate open space in the hill state will be given preference.

6. Sports facilities in urban areas

The State Government intends to introduce and implement the sports programme in urban areas, under the **'Khelo India National Programme'** launched by Government of India and Playing Field Association schemes for financially supporting municipal bodies and other urban local institutions to provide basic safe places for sports in poorer areas in convergence with other schemes. The municipal bodies will need to provide the minimum prescribed on a realistic basis.

- a) Encourage municipal bodies and private institutions to allocate more resources for investment in sports infrastructure, equipment and trained staff in selected sports and games in each urban area to make available sports facilities for the public on commercial terms;
- b) Conscious efforts shall be made with stakeholders concerned to promote physical activity and sport in everyday context at work and home. All organizations shall be encouraged to provide facilities to their employees for promoting physical fitness.

6.1 Sports facilities in municipal towns

- a) Minimum one stadium in each municipal town will be created on availability of 4-5 acres of land for outdoor sports facilities. Schools/colleges may be given priority subject to availability of requisite quantum of land with them.
- b) Playgrounds may be developed as municipal town stadiums; which can be used for community sports beyond working hours and during holidays. Sports stadiums would be constructed by the department in urban areas within its jurisdiction and requisite sports facilities would be created in a time bound manner.
- c) Wherever open spaces/green spaces/playfields are available within the municipal area, these would be developed and preserved for the use of community for sports and physical activities
- d) One stadium with international level facilities would be created on availability of land. Additional resources would be mobilized for development of sports infrastructure in the State making through PPP model.

6.2 Sports facilities in educational institutions

This policy reiterates the critical importance of sports and games in educational institutions for the achievement of sports policy's objectives and seeks to:

- a) Make physical education and sports as an integral part of the curriculum up to higher secondary level
- b) Guidelines may be put in place for recruitment of physical education teachers, instructors, and provision of developed playfield and sports equipment, for recognition of schools and colleges by education department;
- c) Encourage the management of educational institutions in both public and private sectors to allocate adequate resources in a time-bound manner for infrastructure, equipment and trained staff whereby ensuring each student with a minimum prescribed standard of facilities for a minimum number of selected sports and games;
- d) Encourage them to optimally utilize institution's sports facilities by making them available on commercial terms during off-hours or week-ends or vacations to local communities/youth/sports clubs for regular practice, or for reputed players/organizations to run coaching academies or conduct tournaments

6.2.1 Sports infrastructure in schools

Playfields shall be developed in all schools in the State. One Outdoor game facility in elementary schools, two outdoor games facilities in secondary schools and three outdoor games facilities in senior secondary schools would be provided.

6.2.2 Sports infrastructure in colleges

For colleges, at least five outdoor games facilities would be provided. Multipurpose halls in colleges would be remodelled for use as indoor stadium for indoor games, wherever feasible.

6.2.3 Sports infrastructure in Universities

Requisite sports infrastructure would be created in all universities in the State. National level sports facilities in at least five games would be created/upgraded in universities. The State Government would support universities in up-gradation of their sports infrastructures either from its own sources or making funds available from Government of India. Each university would have high quality infrastructure such as Astro turf, synthetic track etc. The faculty of physical exercise and sports sciences would be opened in universities. Sports labs would also be setup in the universities, wherever feasible.

6.3 PPP model for development of sports infrastructure

The PPP model would be used to mobilize additional resources for development and maintenance of sporting infrastructure as approved by state government from Winter Games point of view as well. Various commercial aspects, such as selling the Naming Rights and Branding inside the stadiums will be done to make these facilities financially sustainable. Inputs from the department of Mountaineering and Allied Sports will also be invited and solicited in this regard.

The Department shall outreach various investors for the development of sports infrastructure, “equipped with all modern-day facilities” in the State. Special emphasis shall be laid on the development of high-altitude sports training centers both for regular & winter sports. The concept of developing sports villages shall be accorded top priority. The investors would be encouraged for developing sports-oriented schools in the state.

7. Broad-basing of Sports

7.1 Integrating of Sports and Education

The integration of sports and physical education with educational curriculum, making it a compulsory subject up to Secondary school level and incorporating the same in the evaluation system of student, will be actively pursued.

A fitness program would be introduced in all schools. Steps initiated to augment the availability of infrastructure, including play fields, sports equipment and action taken to provide Physical Education Teachers in educational institutions with main emphasis on competitive sports. This process will fetch good results at the college and university level and will also improve the performance of those who have the potential to excel in sports. An appropriate Inter-School and Inter-College/Universities competition structure would be introduced at District and State level.

Suggestive measures that are required at school level for introducing sports education in schools are stated below:

- a) Physical activity for 3-4 hours a week to be made compulsory
- b) Every school should have a Physical Trainer or a specific Sports Coach
- c) Attendance relaxation for athletes performing at district, divisional, state and national level competitions

- d) Crash courses on weekends to cover syllabus missed on account of participation in sports competitions
- e) Supporting environment and facilities to be available at schools to enhance athletes' performance

7.2 Sports as a Career Option

The State Government will take steps to develop sports as a viable career option for talented youth. To achieve this, it will make accessible necessary infrastructure, resources and competitive opportunities to high performance players. It will take viable steps to provide them a sense of security through awards, government jobs and boost their morale through public felicitation and civic reception. It will harness their appeal and skills to further promote sports among masses in the state and assist budding players in actualizing their potential.

7.3 Vocational Training for Sportspersons

The State Government understands that there is an urgent need for combining practical and vocational training to prepare State's sportspersons for a secondary career or a higher education in the Sports related areas. The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Himachal Pradesh plans to tie-up with training service providers registered with Sports, Physical Education, Fitness & Leisure Skill Council (SPEFL-SC) to impart vocational education through various certificate courses. This would enable a secondary career option for those who opt out of sports due to injury, age and various reasons. A plan to introduce vocational courses for up-skilling athletes has been envisaged. In sports area, Vocational courses for men and women can be for Sports Coach/ Ayurvedic Sports Massage/ Fitness Trainer or Coach/ Gym Trainer/Sports Masseur / Sports Massage Therapist/ Sports Nutritionist/ Sports Turf/ Field Maintenance Worker.

8. Recognition of Sportspersons

8.1 Incentives and Rewards for Sportspersons

Incentives provide recognition and financial security to distinguished sportsperson, during and after their sporting careers, and motivate youth in serious pursuit of sports activities. Social recognition, conferment of awards and honours at national, state and district levels incentives in form of cash awards and avenues of employment will be important elements of the State Sports Policy, 2020.

Along with sportspersons, suitable incentives will be provided to Coaches, Judges and referees for developing skills and enriching experience. Sportspersons Welfare Fund already introduced will further be rationalized to extend benefits.

Increments will be given to the employees who get first, second and third position in recognized National/ International competitions. The total number of such increments shall not exceed five in the entire career. These increments would continue to be drawn at the same rates till retirement and would count for retirement benefits but not for pay fixation. These incentives would not be given to employees recruited under the vacancies reserved for sportspersons.

There is 3% reservation in direct recruitment posts in Class-III and IV categories in all the State Government departments, Boards and Corporations, other than High Court, Himachal Administrative Tribunal, Governor's Secretariat, Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission & Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and 3% reservation to the defined categories with respect of Class-I & II posts in five departments of Himachal Pradesh.

As sportspersons get injuries during practice sessions or important sports events, an adequate assistance is imperative for insurance cover and medical treatment in the event of such eventuality. So, an insurance

scheme would be formulated to insure them in such emergency situations. All the State Level athletes will be insured with a cover money of **INR 1 lakh** for any injuries.

8.2 Cash Incentives

Incentives through cash rewards are one of the best ways to motivate and promote excellence in sports. The State Government would like to revise the cash rewards to align it more towards enhancing performance of the sportsmen. Sportspersons embark on intensive trainings and spend precious time of their youth while ignoring or pursuing other career options. This, therefore, there should be provisions for pension schemes. It should be provided to the talented sportspersons who will achieve laurels at International level events like Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. A monthly income shall be provided through annuity to Arjun Awardees, Dhyan Chand Awardees and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Awardees from the State in addition to the incentives given by Government of India. Such incentives for the outstanding sportspersons will work as a positive reinforcement for many other upcoming talented youths of the state.

8.3 Coach Development Plan

The Sports Department shall take steps to raise their strength as well as their professional standards to national and international level during next five years. The department shall organize clinics and workshops for referees on periodical basis. The department will send coaches for workshops organized by National Institute of Sports Authority of India at Patiala or LNCP Gwalior.

The Sports Policy recognizes that the standards of coaching and scientific back up pertaining to umpires, judges and referees needs to be upgraded. Adequate measures will be taken to strengthen coaches, sports, judges, referees and umpires, in line with international standards.

The Sports Department has cadres of coaches. Recently, it has been decided to make necessary changes in the **R&P rules** of sports coaches, for which the department shall draft new rules for recruitment of quality coaches with adequate promotional avenues.

Coaches will have standard career development programs and proper skill training.

- a) **Seminars and Training sessions in Himachal Pradesh:** The Government will make earnest efforts to bring International/National level coaches to organise training camps for focus sports at least once a year. In addition to developing such expertise on an institutional basis, conferences, seminars, workshops and tournaments will be encouraged. Coaches would receive rigorous training for up-gradation of skills and may also be deputed overseas for the purpose. For certification of referee's, special courses would be organized in collaboration with state sports association, national sports federations. Examination would be conducted to raise strength of qualified referees, umpires and judges and advance training for them for using latest gadgets and technology would be conducted.
- b) **Performance Report and Scrutinizing of Coaches:** Coaches will be evaluated on the annual targets set by the steering committee for coaches. The performance will be **tracked bi-monthly**. They will be reviewed and selected for training sessions and workshops based on their performances.
- c) **Meeting of Coaches of same sport quarterly:** Coaches of same sport from all the 12 districts will have combined learning and sharing sessions quarterly at **High Performance Centres** to enable uniform training methodology benefitting every athlete across the State.
- d) **Cash Awards for Coaches:** To provide coaches a motivation for training the sportspersons with more rigour and complete dedication, the State Government will introduce cash incentives for coaches.

9. Building a Sports Culture

9.1 Fostering a sports club culture:

In an endeavour to encourage and support setting up of sports club in rural and urban areas, with an emphasis on poorer localities, through youth development institutions, registered societies that will be engaged in providing a suitable playing environment to meet their playing needs for young and old, men and women, physically challenged and children, casual players and serious contenders, employees and Professionals. These sports clubs may create their own facilities or provide an access to public of their private facilities through suitable 'pay and play' or 'come and play' schemes for their members. They can avail of State Government programmes and schemes for providing requisite facilities, equipment and technical support.

There are many clubs or private coaching institutions run by private coaches. The department shall provide need-based guidance and assistance club culture shall be promoted to create a competitive sporting environment in the state. For this purpose, a committee shall be set up to suggest a detailed action plan.

The State Government as well as the Sports Federations/Associations will endeavour to promote a "club culture" for the speedier development of sports in the State. In the State Sports Policy, high priority will be accorded to the development of sports in the rural areas to harness the available talent and potential. In this context, the Village Panchayats/Gram Sabhas and rural Youth and Sports Clubs will be mobilized to facilitate development of requisite infrastructure and for identification of talent through an appropriate competition structure in rural areas.

9.2 Sports Museum

Sports plays a key role in influencing and shaping life of an individual. The Sports department is proposing for setting up of a sports museum in consultation with department of Language, Art and Culture & Tourism to showcase the rich history of sports associated with Himachal and to recognize the success achieved by Himachali sportspersons. Further, a committee shall be set up in consultation with the department of Language, Art and Culture & Tourism.

The Sports Museum will house and celebrate sports personalities, achievements, equipment related to sports show casing, determination, responsibility, courage and other qualities possessed by legendary sports personalities of Himachal Pradesh. This new initiative would help increase the interest and involvement of youngsters into sports related activities.

9.3 Sports Library

A Sports Library will be set up in the state. The purpose of library would be to provide sports enthusiasts with enough reading material on their preferred sports discipline. The library would be promoting the sports in the State by disseminating information, offering sports services both for sportspersons as well as camaraderie sports aficionados. The library will have books for all the Olympic sports and indigenous sports to foster a sports learning culture in the State.

10. State Sports Associations

Sports associations play a pivotal role in promotion of sports and the State Government will continue to collaborate with them in creating a sports friendly environment in the State. The State Government will engage different sports associations constructively for the betterment of the sports. They will be further encouraged to professionalize their working and synchronize their activities with the government programs and schemes to achieve even better results. It will be the endeavour of the State Government to have effective coordination with various sports related agencies, such as:

- a) Prior to National Games and National Championships, the State Government shall provide coaching camp to State sports association
- b) Financial assistance for organizing championships. The focus shall be on organizing championships at District and State level on regular basis.
- c) The financial assistance to recognize state sports associations for State level tournaments shall be linked with holding of district level tournaments.
- d) An annual championship in various disciplines in all categories viz. Senior, Junior and Sub Juniors (for both Men and Women) the District and State levels. Each State Association would draw up Annual Calendar of these events sufficiently in advance every year. The Sports Department shall notify the scheme of financial assistance to sports associations separately specially grant in aid for prestigious events.
- e) Clearly defined criterion for determining priority categories for government assistance; a discipline specific project approach to be adopted in processing cases for financial assistance.
- f) An emphasis on professionalizing and upgrading the administrative and financial management of associations.
- g) An emphasis on systems to handle players' grievances.
- h) Recognition of the role of sports promoters, particularly in event management of sports activity.
- i) An important perspective in this exercise is to help associations attain financial self-sufficiency over a period thereby reducing their dependence on the government.

It is recognized that the management and development of Sports are the function of the State Olympic Association and the State Sports Associations, which are Autonomous Bodies and who, in turn, have affiliated District Level Associations. The Government and other concerned agencies and the Associations must, therefore, work together harmoniously and in a coordinated manner to fulfil the objectives of the State Sports Policy, 2020.

At the same time, the State Olympic Association and the various Sports Associations will need to demonstrate orientation towards the achievements of results and ensure tangible progress in the field of Sports, keeping which in view, model bye-laws/organizational structures may be formulated for the State Sports Associations in consultation with them, to make the functioning of the Associations transparent, professional and accountable.

11. Taking care of 'Divyangjan'

Sports Department will take measures to facilitate sporting needs of 'Divyangjan' sports persons. Department will further boost their efforts in providing them barrier-free access at all sports stadiums/complexes, enabling them also to take advantage of the latest sports training facilities in the State. District and state level tournaments with even better facilities for the different categories of Divyangjan shall be organized every year. Adequate opportunities will be provided to them for their participation in Paralympics events. The government considers this aspect as an essential component of the State Sports Policy.

The Department also proposes to organize coaching camps for the Divyang sportspersons in the state. These coaching camps will be organized on the demand/need basis.

12. Talent identification and grooming

Department of Youth Services & Sports will be entrusted with the responsibility of identifying the promising young talent during various sports tournaments organised by the sports and education departments especially in rural areas. A committee of experts will select and shortlist the talented

young players even from the block level tournaments. These selected players through counselling would be motivated and asked to appear in the trials for the various sports hostels being run in the State. Sports disciplines that are suitable for the hill state would be given priority, whereas rest of the disciplines shall be taken up later in a phased manner.

13. Scientific back-up to sports persons

The significance of scientific back-up to sports stands well established. Experts would be associated with each sports discipline or groups of sports disciplines, on a continuous basis, to provide the requisite support in terms of nutrition, psychology, medicine, pharmacology, bio-mechanics and anthropometry as well as other branches of Sports Sciences.

Suitable mechanisms would be introduced to achieve better co-ordination between laboratory and field, that is, between coaches and sports scientists, to ensure nutritional support of talented sportspersons and to sustain their mental health and competition spirit. Appropriate measures will be initiated for the promotion of sports and to impart special skills to promising sportspersons so that they are enabled to give their best in the prestigious competitions. Sports Authority of India (SAI) and other public and private organizations will be involved in such development programmes. They would take coordinated steps towards the modernization of the infrastructure required for the training of sportspersons and to provide them with scientific support for achieving excellence in sports.

14. Introduction of New Awards

To promote the sports culture and recognition of sportsperson in Himachal Pradesh, Government of Himachal Pradesh has planned to introduce some new awards.

14.1 State Parshuram Award

Parshuram Awards is the highest award of the State government for outstanding players of Himachal Pradesh. The award is given to ten sportspersons of the state; six in individual events, four in team event. The award will be given once in life to sportspersons who represent Himachal continuously for five years and won Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal in their respective discipline in the National Games and Senior National Championship. The criteria for the award are through a rationalised and transparent selection procedure.

14.2 New awards

14.2.1 State Abhimanyu Award for junior players:

On the pattern of Parshuram Awards, State awards for junior players will be given to five junior sportspersons; three in individual events and two in team events who represent Himachal continuously for four years; and won medals in Junior National. The award will be given once to sportspersons in his/her lifetime.

14.2.2 State Guru Vashisth Award for coach:

Award will be given to one outstanding coach working in the State for exemplary service rendered for excellence in sports by producing players in the recognised games in National and International championships will be eligible for the award. The award will be given once to the Coach in his/ her lifetime.

14.2.3 Award for Divyang children:

Divyang players from the state who will win medals in recognised National and International championships organised by recognised associations will be awarded with this honour. This award will be given once to the sportspersons in his/her lifetime.

15. Organising of Sports Competitions

15.1 Promoting sports competitions:

Various sports associations and sports clubs have been formulated at every level in the state for all recognized games. They should regularly conduct various sports tournaments for individual based events or for team-based games. Such sports tournaments shall be undertaken at village, block, state and national level. Sports being a vital part of the educational curriculum, it should be ensured that large-scale participation of students from various educational institutions in these sports competitions. Every year a sports calendar shall be formulated where in a systematic schedule of all the annual events will be planned with the help of various sports associations, School Education Department, Khelo India Programme tournaments etc. The Department of Sports, Himachal Pradesh State Sports Council will include only approved and recognized championships in the sports calendar.

15.2 FIT India/ Khelo India program at villages:

Every year, at village level, various competitions should be organized so that participation can take place in various sports activities. This shall be organized by various sports clubs for the respective sports disciplines. This shall open avenues for all age groups of both males and females to actively participate in various sports activities. The rural sports competitions shall be organised at block, district, and state level regularly as per scheme under the 'Khelo India program'. Through such programs, community participation also increases which inclines the youth towards having a better insight towards sports activities. Various activities for creating awareness towards fitness under FIT India Programme shall also be organized. Awareness towards fitness mainly in rural areas shall be achieved through revival & promotion of traditional sports. Provisions for proper documentation of traditional sports shall also be taken care of side by side.

15.3 Gender specific competitions:

The Sports department should organise separate tournaments for both men and women. As competitions for men has been there since time immemorial, but participation coming from women athletes is comparatively less. With this viewpoint, sporting spirit can be encouraged specially amongst women in the State. Therefore, women sports competitions should be organised in various disciplines at village, district, state and national level every year.

15.4 District championship & state championships:

Every year district and state championships should be organised for recognised sports disciplines by their respective sports associations like athletics, volleyball, hockey, kabaddi etc. Separate budget provisions will be kept for proper planning, organisation and management of all events. Various coaches and officials shall be allotted with different duties for the smooth functioning of all events.

15.5 Inter-departmental tournaments:

Sports competitions should also be organised for employees in different games like volleyball, kabaddi etc. This shall be promoted in collaboration with concerned departments so that sportsman spirit and feeling of unity can be inculcated within the employees of various departments of the State. Such extra perks for employees also enhance their working capabilities in the long run.

15.6 Inter District Tournament on Sports Day:

Tournaments are essential not only for providing competition amongst the sportspersons but also for involving public and for creating sportsman spirit. The various Sports Associations would be given

grants specifically for organizing tournaments at district, state, National level tournament, and the Sports Department would also organise tournaments at various levels. The birthday of Major Dhyan Chand, is celebrated as Sports Day to popularize Hockey and raise awareness amongst masses about multi-faceted benefits of sports. The District Sports Council shall organize in respective districts with high visibility sports events. Private individuals, Corporate, PSUs etc. would be encouraged to sponsor these tournaments. In case any individual or a private undertaking is willing to finance up to 50% of expenditure for any existing tournament/festival, which is organised by the department or sports association, the individual or private undertaking can give a suitable name to that tournament provided it is non-political and does not hurt any one's feelings or causes any controversy.

15.7 Resources Mobilization for Sports:

Insufficiency of financial resources has been a major constraint in promoting sports. While the State Government would need to make higher budgetary provisions. Special efforts are equally called approaching corporate Houses for encouraging them to adopt and support disciplines (as well as sportspersons) in the longer term, for this purpose.

16. Infrastructure to Attract Tourists

Sports events/ facilities, that can attract tourists and provide some activity for them, shall be encouraged. Fitness centres would be provided at various places of tourist interest. These would be run by the sports department in such a way that there is no burden on the Government except for initial investment. Private sector would be encouraged to create and manage these facilities on commercial (outsource basis).

17. Ethics

The Department shall, all along, promote fairness and ethics in sports. All steps shall be taken to check malpractices such as under reporting of age, doping, nepotism, favouritism, dilution of standards etc. Those found indulging in malpractices shall be debarred to get any facility from the State Government including awards, scholarship, honours or any other incentive.

18. State Sports Council

The Himachal Pradesh State Sports Council shall be constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister as President of Sports Council, with the State Sports Minister as Vice-President. Additional Chief Secretary YSS, Finance Secretary, eminent sportspersons, sports administrators and non-official members shall be members of this council. Director Youth Services & Sports shall be the Member Secretary of this council.

The main functions of the H.P. State Sports Council it shall be to approve the budget for the different sports activities, policies and schemes for the promotion of sports in the State.

To increase the funds inflow of the State Sports Council it shall be registered under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act. Efforts shall also be made to avail FCRA clearance from the Union Home Ministry so that funding for the Sports Council from foreign parties could also be availed.

19. Creation of Sports databank with Information Technology

The Himachal Pradesh State Sports Council will harness its human resources and infrastructure imaginatively to deliver increased participation, greater inclusion and higher level of excellence in sports. Both HP State Sports Council and Department of Sports shall make extensive use of information technology tools for dissemination of relevant information on matters relating to sports to the various stakeholders, media and public at large. Himachal State Sports Council and Directorate of Sports shall setup and maintain an interactive website that shall contain necessary updated information on matters relating to schemes, sports infrastructure, coaches, athletes, club, district sports associations and state associations. The website shall inter alia host information relating to the rules of the various sports disciplines and sports infrastructure. Efforts shall be made to establish an information system to communicate frequent changes in rules in concerned games, regulations of sport. This shall also enable State coaches to be abreast with latest techniques and tactics being followed.

20. Conclusion

Sports play a key role for inculcating national pride not only in sports enthusiasts but also amongst society. The Sports Policy has been upgraded with latest requisites and resource facilitations for the ever-growing aspirations of people of Himachal. The new policy aims at consolidating the progress made so far, espousing new initiatives and making adjustments that shall enable the State Government to promote sports with a renewed resolve and fresh vigour and to provide excellent opportunities to emerging and promising sportspersons.

The new Sports Policy is an outcome of discussions with the stakeholders for intensification of sports culture within athletes as well as in Himachali community. This policy has undertaken latest sports principles with integrated sports related policies and programmes like undertaking of grass root approach, long term sportsperson development, ensuring participation of clubs and obtaining sustainable sports achievements.

This policy upholds the idea of highest ethical standards and moralistic sportsmanship for impartial outcomes. Increased participations of all sports persons can be achieved through incorporating it as an integral part of education also. Various fitness programmes shall be introduced in all schools in the State. Steps have been initiated to augment the availability of infrastructure, including playfields, sports equipment. The Physical Education Teachers (PETs) and Demonstrate in Physical Education (DPEs) also shall be provided with skill learning techniques so that they also impart skill teaching to the enthusiastic athletes.

Incorporation of various sports associations also plays a crucial role in promotion of sports and shall continue to support them in every manner. Sports talent will be identified, and training will be provided according to their strengths and capabilities. This will be done with the help of introduction of suitable mechanisms to achieve co-ordination between Coaches and athletes. Not only this, many new awards and incentives have been introduced to entice many sports personnel so that they actively participate for achieving laurels for the State. With the collaboration and combined actions of the State Government and other partners at all levels, the State surely will achieve the new sports policy's vision with the active participations of entire community.

❖ Note:

This draft of H.P. Sports Policy has been prepared on the basis of the inputs received during the meeting held with the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Services and Sports, H.P. on dated 22-11-2019.