

The German monitoring system for sports clubs using by the sports development report 2005/2006

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Abstract

The present study evaluates the development of non profit sports clubs in the sixteen states of Germany. Numerous findings were drawn from this nation-wide survey, such as the current importance of non profit sports clubs and their attempt to avoid economic barriers in order to provide sports to the German population. Moreover, a big part of the sport infrastructure is also provided by non profit sport clubs. Another important fact is that non profit sport clubs, in addition to classical offers, exceedingly contribute to health provisions for the German population. Thus, non profit sport clubs have a high common good character and therefore cooperate with numerous other actors of the common good such as schools, kindergartens, health insurance schemes, and youth welfare offices. Furthermore, it is shown that there are still financial problems (partially caused by the difficulty of binding honorary workers, members and top-class juvenile sportspeople), which in some cases even threaten the existence of some clubs. Reasons and causes as well as the sports clubs' reactions to these problems are discussed. In addition this study demonstrates to which extent sport clubs are affected by the demographic development and how an underestimation of its effect can be fatal for the non profit sport clubs. Finally, recommendations for actions of the state are made, once again stating the importance of non profit sport clubs for Germany and thus suggesting an even higher support of organised sports. This support can be effected through direct subsidies, tax benefits or possibilities of use of public sports facilities. In a final step, recommendations are also made for actions of the organised sport and how the German Olympic Sports Federation could optimise their consultancy and support services. This should be accomplished by using the knowledge which is now available to give appropriate advice to the sports clubs.