This Ruff guide to government (Whitehall) sport policy is designed to point students toward our collection of sport policy documents; some are written by government and some are collaborations with the various incarnations of the Sports Council on behalf of Whitehall. We offer little commentary since ‘Sport Policy’ is covered rather better than could we elsewhere; although we do provide some directional signs for student further study. We have listed what we consider appropriate in reverse chronological order; beginning with the most recent......

* 


The London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will captivate the country this summer [2012], and the exploits of our elite athletes will inspire young people, encouraging many to get into sport, determined to emulate their heroes. However, whilst we know that mega-events and their immediate aftermath often cause a surge in short-term sporting activity, maintaining that enthusiasm for the long-term is much harder. The key to making the most of the Games, and delivering a long-term step change in the number of people who play sport, is to create a sporting habit amongst our young people that will last a lifetime.

Since London won the right to stage the Games in 2005, participation rates amongst young people have fallen, with many of our major sports – including Football, Tennis and Swimming – seeing declines in the proportion of 16-25 year olds regularly taking part. Whilst participation rates remain relatively high in school (where curriculum Physical Education (PE) is compulsory),
when young people leave school the proportion who continue to play sport falls dramatically. The problem is starker for girls, with around only a third participating in sport at 18 compared to two-thirds of boys. We are particularly keen to deal with this issue.

This new Youth Sport Strategy aims to increase consistently the number of young people developing sport as a habit for life. Over the next five years, Sport England will invest at least £1 billion of Lottery and Exchequer funding to help to ensure that young people are regularly playing sport and to break down the barriers that, until now, have prevented young people from continuing their interest in sport into their adult life.

Sport England will work with schools, colleges and universities, as well as local County Sports Partnerships, the National Governing Bodies for sport, local authorities and the voluntary sector – the people who know sport and young people best – to improve the sporting offer that we make available to them.

See also:


Raising the bar:

Sport in the nineties: New horizons

Bringing into the 90's: A strategy for sport

London: Sports Council

London: DCMS

Game Plan made suggestions toward sport being a potential

London: Cabinet Office

London: Sports Council (GB)

with millennium preparations – for London at least) were centre stage. A landmark sport policy

Sport: Raising the game was a landmark in both British sport and wider heritage and culture.

on sport in the United Kingdom for more than a decade.

drove forward plans for the establishment of the National Lottery; specialist schools (including

John Major.

But all this is to be too dispassionate about sport. Above all, it produces pure enjoyment for

In this initiative I put perhaps highest priority on plans to help all our schools improve their sport.

live alongside others and make a contribution as part of a team. It improves health and it opens

the door to new friendships.

Sport is open to all ages - but it is most open to those who learn to love it when they are young.

Competitive sport teaches valuable lessons which last for life. Every game delivers both a

it. Sport is a central part of Britain's National Heritage. We invented the majority of the world's

throughout the world. It could be argued that nineteenth century Britain was the cradle of a

launched in the century before.

Some people say that sport is a peripheral and minor concern. I profoundly disagree. It enriches

Indeed, this was one of my principal aims when I decided to create the Lottery. It was a way to

The existence of the National Lottery has transformed for ever the prospects of British sport.

in the prospects of British sport - from the very first steps in primary school right through to the

process of partnership must be carried further. Together I want us to bring about a seachange

parents, volunteers, sports men and women themselves, their clubs and the governing bodies

breaking of the tape in an Olympic final.

These new plans (1995) are the most important set of proposals ever published for the


2001, an action plan for implementation of the government's developing sports policy agenda.

want to see everyone given a better sporting future. So that the practicalities of sport can match

the potential of sport. So that the power of sport can be available to all. And so that the passion

We need to see new thinking and new action about ways to improve sport in our country. We

professionalism of sports management. Only if we modernise the way sport is run will we be

others - to provide the facilities, the equipment, the opportunities. So there is a key role to play

for those who organise and manage sport - local authorities, sports clubs, governing bodies, the

Sports Councils and the Government.

likely to get the pleasure and the benefit of sport, and to keep the habit as we grow older, if we

For all of us who take up sport, a good start in the early years is important. The young person

clear pathways into taking part at club and national levels, with the right coaching and the right

opportunities to compete at a level in line with where their ability has developed. They need

Ruff Guide to Government Sport Policy

Written by Jon Cryer

Wednesday, 02 January 2013 00:00 - Last Updated Sunday, 04 February 2018 08:10
At the heart of that strategy was the raison d'être for the then European sports policy, the European sports charter. The Council of Europe was the first international organisation to take an interest in sport [for all: the CCPR, somewhat earlier articulated something similar as 'opportunities for all'] (Evans, 1974). The 1970's were a good time for sport in Britain, enthusiasm grew, participation increased, new facilities were built. And Britain's reputation grew in the arena of international sport. This [1981] document details the Sports Councils' efforts in the 1970's in the context of the Council of Europe's sports charter and the concept of Sports Council. (1981). 

Sport & the Community: The Next Ten Years (1980's)

Consultation

Sport and Recreation

Not a policy document but an interpretation of the sporting organisational landscape prior to 1972 and the formation of the Sports Council, from the perspective of the CCPR. We rather like this since it provides a back-drop for the 1957 – 60 Wolfenden Committee. It is an historical narrative by (Howell) Justin Evans, former Deputy secretary and acting general secretary (1944-1968) of the Central Council for Physical Recreation prior to and in 1974 (formerly the central council for physical recreation and training) and now the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA). Justin Evans was also the secretary of the Wolfenden Committee on Sport 1957-60 and author of the 1960 landmark document in British sport policy; The Wolfenden Report: Sport and the Community. Evans was awarded an MBE for services to youth in 1942 and an OBE for services to physical recreation in 1968.

* Other Resources:
Books Resources:

( * Our favourites for reading more than once )

Journals:
- International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics
- International Journal of the History of Sport

Students should not reference this Ruff guide; rather, you should access the documents to