The Governance of University Sports in Thailand

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Abstract

Sports not only enhance academic life of university students but also socialize and network students across universities worldwide. Since 1972, the University Sports Board of Thailand (USBT) has continuously promoted fitness of student nationwide and extended co-operation among organizations internationally. From the first University Games in 1970 with 8 participant universities and 1,000 athletes competing in 12 sports, USBT has achieved the 35th University Games with 126 participant universities. The numbers of athletes increase to 8,000 competing for 25 sports and 276 medals. For international arena, USBT successfully hosted the Bangkok Universiade Games in 2007 and is also active in both Asian University Sport Federation and the ASEAN University Sports Council. Compared with the American NCAA organization, a new zoning system and standard selection in competition is recommended together with transparency and accountability of good governance to improve University Sports in Thailand.

Introduction

Chulalongkorn University was established in 1916 as the first university in higher education institution in Kingdom of Thailand. Sport activities have played important role as leisure time and extra-curriculum activity for students. Until 1957, physical education classes were introduced as elective sport courses. However, sport in the university was used as instrument for inter-relation-ship games between Thammasat and Chulalongkorn University. It is Tradition Football games was introduced in 1943 and until now, there will be the 65th Football Tradition games. The sport competition among the Thai 8 Universities was introduced as the First University games hosted by Chiangmai University in 1970. There were about 1000 athletes and 12 sports in this competition. In 2008, the 36th University games hosted by Walailuk University in Nakornritham-marat province Southern Thailand. There were 115 universities with a total of 8000 athletes, completed in 25 sports competitions participation in this games.

The Governance of University Sports Board of Thailand (USBT)

The USBT was established by corporation among universities since 1972. The purposes are 1) to develop university students and staff

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faculty staffs to improve their physical performances and fitness including sportmanship. 2) To develop sport standards and culture to the excellence and as good role models for national sports. 3) To promote good understanding and relationship among students and faculty staffs of university and other higher education institutions.

The USBT is under the Thai Commission on Higher Education Office, Ministry of Education. The vision of USBT are: 1) to create good fitness and health for students thoroughly. 2) to develop knowledge body of sport leading to the best practice. And 3) to exchange knowledge body with others and to extend sport cooperation in international level.

**Structure of the USBT**

The USBT has body of the governance consisting of Executive Board, Managing Board and the 10 sub committee.
The Structure
the University Sports Board of Thailand (USBT)

Minister of Education (President)

Secretary General of Commission on Higher Education (First Vice President)

President of Managing Board of USBT (Second Vice President)

Executive Board

- Rectors of GOV. Universities
- Rectors of Public Universities
- Governor of Sports Authority of Thailand
- Director of the office of Sports and Recreation Development
- President of Olympic Council of Thailand
- Experts

Managing Board

- Sub Committee
- Vice-President
- Delegates from Gov Universities
- Delegates from Public Universities
- Governor of Sports Authority of Thailand
- Director of the office of Sports and Recreation Development
- President of Olympic Council of Thailand
- Experts

Secretariat

Sports Techniques
Sports Academic
Planning and Development
Foreign Affairs
Rights and benefit
Medicine
Finance
Extra Activities
Reception and Public relations
Sports Science
USBT Sport Activities

1. The 35th National University Sports Competitions

There are more than 8,000 athletes and 2,000 officials, completes in 25 sports with a total of 276 medals. The national university sport competition can be counted as one of the biggest sport competition in Thailand. Along with the games, USBT organized academic sport science seminar during the competition.

The University Sports Board of Thailand

Thailand Universiade Games

Zoning Representatives

- Northern Zone 1
  - 11 Universities

- Northern Zone 2
  - 9 Universities

- Northern East Zone 1
  - 12 Universities

- Northern East Zone 2
  - 14 Universities

- Central - Western Zone
  - 10 Universities

- Bangkok Metropolis Area
  - 39 Universities

- Southern Zone
  - 15 Universities
Total 126 Universities Participation

2. Mass Sport Promotion

3. The USBT coordinated with the commission on higher education has launched various projects to support mass sports such as the opening university sport venues to community development projects, recreational sport such as sport dance, sport aerobics, recreational camping, cheer leaders competition and sport for health. USBT have cooperated with Thai Health Promotion Fund to promote mass sport in various USBT members.

4. International Sport Competition

The USBT was hosted various international sport competitions such as ASEAN University Games, Asian University Championship, Annual Malaysia-Thailand Varsity Games 2008, World University Championship and World Universiaide games.

5. International Sport Organization

The USBT has affiliation with following:

1. International University Sports Federation

2. Asian University Sport Federation

3. The ASEAN University Sports Council

Conclusion

The University Sports Board of Thailand plays important role for developing university student and faculty staffs to improve their physical performance and fitness and set up sport standard and excellence. The USBT has governance body consists of Executive Board, Managing Board and 10 Sub-committee. The USBT is responsible the National University Sport Competition, mass sport promotion and hosting the international sport competition. However, there are some problems and conflicts need to be raised (1) At present, sport zoning into 7 zone and Bangkok Metropolis area, the university members in Bangkok were 39 members and having to be only 2 representatives while other zoning having 8-15 members. (2) Bangkok is the Capital City, the member and size of universities are numerous and very competitive selection. (3) There should be changed to the new system of zoning into Championship Conferences as similar to NCAA organization. (4) There should be a standard selection on sport competitions such as track and field, and swimming.

Reference


