

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY 2020-2024 SEYCHELLES

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NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY 2020-2024

The new National Sports Policy 2020-2024 confirms our belief that sports impact positively on our society. Sports do not only bring people together, improve health and well-being, foster national pride and unity, but can also promote social cohesion and instil positive behaviour in people. The purpose of this Policy is to guide sports development in Seychelles for the next five years and, as far as possible, provide a framework to cater for the needs of the sports community.

A consultative approach was adopted to get the views of various key stakeholders and partners, whose inputs have been taken into consideration when formulating the policy and confirmed in a validation workshop. In addition, the draft situational analysis and policy statements were circulated to Ministries, Departments and Agencies by email and their feedback was used in the formulation of the final policy statements.

In the same spirit, the new Sports Policy calls for strong partnerships across various sectors to increase participation at all levels for health, social and economic benefits and to provide a solid foundation for progression to those who demonstrate the commitment, discipline and ability to perform at higher levels. It is imperative that we uphold a shared vision for the further development of sports in Seychelles through a formal, holistic and systematic framework.

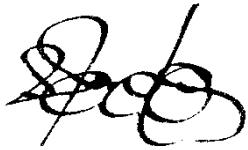
Time and again, our Seychellois youths have demonstrated in various championships, both locally and abroad, that they are talented in sports. However, we also firmly believe that it is not enough to have talents because talented athletes can only succeed if they put in many hours of preparation and training.

Thus, the inherent vision of the National Sports Policy 2020-2024 can only be achieved if athletes are fully committed and make the necessary sacrifices in order to excel in sports. To this end, the Policy also makes provision to recognise and reward the contribution of individuals who dedicate their life to sports.

It is our Government's commitment to ensure that all our deserving athletes get the full support and backing of our country to compete at the national, regional, international and even Olympic levels. At the same time,

we recognise that, in a genuine spirit of partnership, the collective expertise of key partners will need to be harnessed for the successful implementation of this Policy.

I avail of this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed towards the development the Policy. Let us continue to unite and support each other in the implementation of our National Sports Policy 2020-2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macsuzy Mondon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Macsuzy Mondon (Mrs.)

Designated Minister

Minister for Local Government, Home Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture and Risk and Disaster Management

January 2020

INTRODUCTION

During the review exercise to revise the National Sports Policy, the outcomes of the 2013 – 2017 Sports Policy were evaluated in consultation with various partners concerned with sports development. The Situational Analysis highlighted successful practices and programmes such as creating more awareness on the benefits of sports, opportunities for advancement of athletes internationally, strong presence in international competitions and hosting of international events. However, the analysis also identified areas of concern including those related to facilities, volunteerism in sports, availability of viable data and low participation of women in sports and funding. Additionally, a review of the sports policies of certain Small Island Developing States and Commonwealth countries was carried out to better inform the way forward in addressing challenges in sports that Seychelles has in common with these countries.

The Seychelles National Sports Policy 2020 – 2024 provides a formal, holistic and systematic framework for the further development of sports and recognises the important role that sports play in the life of each and every citizen. It outlines the objectives to be achieved, analyses critical and significant issues, which are central to the development of sports, states the policy goals for the next five years and identifies the various institutional and organisational mechanisms needed for its successful implementation. The Policy is therefore a road map to realise a shared vision of sports in the country and will guide sports development for the next five years.

DEFINITION OF SPORTS

The definition of ‘sports’ in the policy refers to: *“all forms of physical activity that contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being and social interaction. These include: play; recreation; organised, casual or competitive sports; and indigenous sports or games.” (United Nations)*

The national context of sports is based on the recognition and acceptance of its importance in the holistic development of the individual, the community and society. Participation in sports contributes towards a healthy lifestyle, prevents disease and illness and unites people. Physical activity is fundamental to positive human development and contributes towards a longer and more productive life.

POLICY VISION

The Vision is to have by 2024

- *A more active, cohesive and healthier Seychelles for the social well-being of its citizens.*
- *A sustainable sporting environment which enhances international relations, national and international success, economic benefits and a bolstered sense of national identity and pride.*
- *A vibrant culture of sports, leisure and recreational activities.*

SPORTS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sports provide an important means of influencing society in positive ways.

- **Education Development**

Each individual should be given the opportunity to access quality physical education and sports. Time spent on quality physical education and school sports improves the ability of students to learn and retain information rather than reducing achievement levels in academic subjects.

- **Economic Development**

Sports provide viable investment opportunities, which can contribute to economic development of the country. Our society can generate substantial revenues by exploring the economic potential and value of sports as an industry.

- **Health and Well-being**

The well-being of the nation will be further enhanced by increased physical activities leading to a decline in chronic illnesses, reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and obesity. This will in turn decrease the costs associated with health care expenditures.

- **Community Development**

Sport plays a vital role in building community cohesion and creates a sense of collective goodwill. It can also serve as an invaluable channel through which the integration of the citizens into community life can be achieved.

- **National Pride and Patriotism**

Outstanding performances by national athletes and teams can foster a sense of national pride, a sense of belonging and patriotism thus enhancing national unity as testified during the 2011 Indian Ocean Island Games in Seychelles.

- **Sustainable Environment**

Sports activities are compatible with nature and the environment which provide opportunities for outdoor physical activities where individuals can participate and enjoy. They also assist to raise awareness on the need to preserve the environment.

- **Culture**

Sports enhance cultural life and bring together individuals and communities, encouraging and facilitating interaction and engagement between all groups, including vulnerable and marginalised communities. Sports also help to develop and instill intrinsic values in people by encouraging discipline, dedication and commitment.

SPORTS AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Sport is vital for the holistic development of the individual to sustain a sporting and healthy lifestyle.

- **Physical Development**

Individuals should be provided with the opportunity to develop to the best of their physical capacity. Participation in sports from an early age helps in physical development and in maintaining optimum health.

- **Social Development**

Sports contribute to the development of a culture of peace, harmony, tolerance and positive attitudes that promote social cohesion. Through sports, individuals develop a sense of affection, belonging, affiliation, recognition, respect and love.

- **Mental Development**

Sports provide opportunities for individuals to learn, cultivate their mental and motor skills, coordination, creative thinking and the acquisition of knowledge.

- **Moral Development**

Through sports, individuals develop and adopt ethical values and behaviour, fair play, honesty, respect, discipline and adherence to rules and regulations.

OBJECTIVES

The National Sports Policy 2020-2024 seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance the quality of physical education and school sports in all educational and sports institutions.
- Provide an enabling environment that encourages the development of healthy and active lifestyles, as well as a culture of lifelong participation at all levels of the sports spectrum.
- Facilitate the development of high performance in sports and provide those who demonstrate the ability with the opportunities and support to perform and excel at the highest levels.
- Ensure gender balance with particular emphasis on girls and women in sports.
- Create and facilitate career development opportunities in emerging fields and areas of specialisation in sports.
- Ensure further development, safety, accessibility and affordability of facilities and equipment to meet the needs of the sports community, including persons with impairments and the elderly.
- Maximise the social benefits and economic potential of sports as an emerging industry and increase its contribution towards the country's development.
- Strengthen governance at all levels of the sports development continuum.
- Develop and strengthen international cooperation and exchanges between Seychelles and other national and international institutions.
- Provide relevant and affordable education and training opportunities for a strong technical and human resource base.
- Preserve and promote integrity, high ethical values, sportsmanship and fair play.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Policy is guided by key legislative and policy frameworks, which include:

- Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles 2011 edition
- Seychelles National Sports Council Act [1997]
- Seychelles National Development Strategy 2019- 2023
- National Sports Policy 2013 - 2017
- Sports Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018
- National Youth Survey 2015
- Olympic Charter [Modified 15th September 2017]
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [2030 Agenda]
- UN Inter-Agency Task Force on sports for development and peace [2002]
- Charte de la Francophonie [2005]

POLICY STATEMENTS

The following Policy Statements will ultimately contribute towards Seychelles achieving its vision and objectives through concerted national efforts and focus on five areas.

1. PARTICIPATION

Encourage a sports culture that increases interest, knowledge and participation in sports.

1.1 Physical Education and School Sports

Develop a more structured and coordinated approach to further enhance the quality of physical education and school sports programmes.

1.2 Sports For All

Promote a corporate approach to ensure lifelong mass participation to improve the health and social well-being of the population through innovative programmes.

1.3 Women and Sports

Ensure the integration and full involvement of women and girls in all areas and at all levels of sports, consistent with the Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport.

1.4 Leisure and Recreation

Encourage all citizens to practice healthy lifestyles through active participation in environmentally-friendly leisure and recreational activities, giving prominence to traditional games.

1.5 Federations and Associations

Encourage and support Federations and Associations to increase the participation level of their respective disciplines.

1.6 Adaptive Sports

Ensure the development of inclusive sports for persons with disabilities.

1.7 Decentralisation of Sports

Encourage mass participation by making sports accessible in all communities.

2. COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Strive to increase the level and quality of national competitions

2.1 National Competitions

Promote the continuous development of athletes and teams by providing more opportunities to participate, compete and excel in national competitions.

2.2 Sports Clubs

Encourage more opportunities for sports participation and competition through an integrated and

sustainable club structure.

2.3 Federations and Associations

Support Federations and Associations to enhance the quality and standard of national competitions.

3. HIGH LEVEL SPORTS PERFORMANCE

Increase High Level Performance and Strive for International Success

3.1 Talent Identification and Development

Identify and develop athletes at an early age through well-established programmes and guidelines.

3.2 Excellence Pathways

Develop innovative mechanisms for effective high performance pathways for all who aspire to compete at the highest level.

3.3 Long Term Athletes Development Programme

Establish a clear framework that will guide and cater for athletes and teams to better and higher long term achievements.

3.4 Sports Academy

Establish an effective Academy to provide increased support, development and educational opportunities to talented athletes, coaches, officials and administrators.

3.5 Science and Medical Support Services

Establish an evidence-based and holistic sports science and medical support system to safeguard athletes' well-being and increase capabilities and performance.

3.6 International Competitions

Develop, support and facilitate high level athletes, who meet required standards and regulations set by relevant bodies, to compete and excel at international competitions through well-articulated strategic plans and development programmes.

3.7 Life After Sports

Establish structures and mechanisms to recognise and support former high level athletes.

4. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Strengthen and support Sports Development

4.1 Sports Federations and Associations

Ensure Sports Federations and Associations maintain high levels of internal governance and comply with legislations and guidelines.

4.2 Secretariat for Federations and Associations

Provide support to Federations and Associations.

4.3 Prioritising Sports

Prioritise sports best suited to broaden the participation base, achieve high performance success and maximise returns on investment.

4.4 Volunteers

Empower and support volunteers to contribute towards sports development, and recognise their contribution through a sustainable incentive and rewards scheme.

4.5 Facilities

Provide for adequate, accessible, secured, well maintained and standardised sports facilities.

4.6 Incentives and Rewards

Develop a sustainable incentives and rewards scheme for all aspects of sports development.

4.7 Sports Information Centre

Establish a Sports Information Centre with relevant, updated and accessible information.

4.8 Recording and Archiving

Establish an effective recording and archiving data system.

4.9 Integrity and Ethics in Sports

Promote and ensure high values and ethics in sports

4.10 Use of Prohibited Substances and *Doping* Methods

Maintain zero tolerance on the use of prohibited substances and doping methods in sports.

4.11 National Teams and Athletes

Establish and maintain standards, guidelines and regulations for national athletes and teams.

4.12 Sports Clubs and Academies

Facilitate and regulate the operations of sports clubs and academies to ensure provisions of safety and other defined standards are maintained.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

Enhance Sports Capacity Building and Improve Support and Service Delivery.

5.1 Support for non-registered Sports Organisations

Provide support services to non-registered sports organisations.

5.2 Financial Resources

Encourage and advocate for more innovative ways of mobilising resources for the benefit of the sports sector and the well-being of the sports community.

5.3 Human Resources Development

Strengthen the human resource base through cost- effective, accredited training and retention programmes.

5.4 Partnerships

Strengthen partnerships locally and internationally.

5.5 Marketing

Develop and promote a Seychelles sports brand and a viable marketing strategy.

5.6 Sponsorship

Encourage sponsorship for the promotion and development of sports.

5.7 Sports and the Economy

Integrate sports with other sectors to further develop its economic potential.

5.8 Media and Information

Enhance sports promotion through all forms of media to boost national awareness, interest and pride.

5.9 Coaches and Other Officials Development

Establish a sustainable scheme to develop, support and empower coaches and officials.

PARTNERSHIP

For the Policy to be fully effective, there is a need to develop and institutionalise mechanisms which will ensure its successful implementation. These mechanisms will facilitate and support the participation, commitment and involvement of society in general to evaluate, measure and monitor the impact of the Policy on individual, educational, social and economic development. For meaningful partnerships and effective coordination, these mechanisms must be developed and operated through cooperation and collaboration rather than in isolation from each other.

The collaborative engagement of the following will be critical to the successful implementation of this Policy:

- Ministry responsible for Sports
- National Sports Council (NSC)
- Seychelles National Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA)
- Registrar of Associations and other regulatory bodies
- National Sports Associations and Federations
- International Sports Associations and Federations
- Sports Community
- Ministry responsible for Education
- Ministry responsible for Employment
- Ministry responsible for Immigration
- Ministry responsible for Health
- Ministry responsible for Tourism
- Ministry responsible for Local Government
- Ministry responsible for Family Affairs
- Ministry responsible for Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport
- Seychelles National Youth Council (SNYC)
- Inner Islands Sports Committee
- Private Sector
- Media Houses
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
- Anti-Doping Agencies (RADO and WADA).

IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE AND MECHANISMS

Sports provide opportunities for nation building, social cohesion and economic advancement. The further development and growth of sports in Seychelles require innovative and creative thinking, and depend on strong leadership, foresight, effective partnership and a willingness to go beyond the status quo. Implementation mechanisms shall therefore provide for consultation, dialogue, planning and coordination among all concerned parties to build on the momentum created by this Policy.

The following Sports Development Institutions are essential for the implementation of this Policy:

MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORTS

The Ministry, through the Department responsible for Sports, is the custodian holding the overarching responsibility for the National Sports Policy directing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as the review process.

The Department is expected to:

1. Coordinate the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the Policy.
2. Conduct research to ensure that sports engagement work is responsive to the needs, views and aspirations of the sports community.
3. Design key performance indicators and mechanisms to ensure adherence to the Policy.
4. Provide the necessary frameworks, guidelines and regulations for key partners and the sports community to fulfill their obligations as stated in the Policy.
5. Advocate for the necessary human and financial resources required for the attainment of the objectives outlined in the Policy.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL (NSC)

The Seychelles National Sports Council (under the direction of its Board) is responsible for implementing and facilitating sports development programmes.

The Council is expected to:

1. Implement the Policy alongside sports Federations / Associations and all associated parties.
2. Strengthen and support district and regional structures to ensure that sports programmes and services are delivered at community level.
3. Take the lead in mobilising the necessary resources and ensuring that sports are well managed.
4. Consolidate partnership with its local and international partners.
5. Report to the Ministry responsible for Sports to ensure that the latter is kept informed of the ongoing activities, programmes, views and aspirations of the sports community.

FEDERATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Federations / Associations are expected to develop their sports disciplines in accordance with their respective constitutions and in compliance with relevant legislations and guidelines.

POLICY REVIEW

The Policy will be revised every five (5) years, with a mid-term review every two and a half years to enable the Ministry responsible for Sports to take stock of key achievements and challenges, and realign its focus in the light of newly identified priorities for sports development.

CONCLUSION

The Seychelles National Sports Policy 2020- 2024 aims to further modernise the sports landscape of the country and guide its evolution for the next five years. It articulates a vision and goals derived from consultations with representatives from the sports community, the general population, government and the private sector. The Policy's inclusive approach targets all groups and communities in the Seychelles with the objective of facilitating and supporting their participation in sports. It is expected that this will contribute to the development of an active and healthy population that takes pride in the accomplishments of its sportsmen and sportswomen at national and international levels.

Special focus will be put on factors identified in the evaluation of the previous policy as crucial to success. These include: broad-based involvement and participation; increased collaboration and coordination; smart investment of resources; strengthened monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; cultivation of goodwill and partnerships; and a commitment to operate with the highest levels of transparency, good governance and accountability.

The successful implementation of this Policy will depend on its vision and objectives being adopted and worked upon by all concerned parties. All stakeholders and the Seychellois people in general are called upon to make their contribution to the successful implementation of this Policy.

**Produced by the Youth and Sports Department
September 2020**