

DRAFT STATE SPORTS POLICY - 2010

GOVT. OF ASSAM

1. Introduction.

Even though Assamese society does not have a strong sports culture it was prevalent since the days of Ahom King. Archery, Jevlin throw, Sword fighting (Fencing) horse riding, Wrestling etc. were very popular sports in those days. The amphitheatre Ronghar was built by King Rudra Singha to watch and enjoy such sports.

After Ahom, British came to the power of Assam. The English people introduced modern sports like football in Assam and gradually football became a very popular sport in Assamese society. Till seventies perhaps there was no male youth in the state who did not play this popular sports. Football was so popular that the poor who could not afford to buy a football used "Robab tenga" as ball and played. It is as if football became a culture of society. During that period Assam produced many great footballers like Gilbertson Sangma, Tosen Bora etc.

Another event volleyball was very popular sport till seventies and eighties. A Volleyball match with 10 nos. of players in each side was a common scenario in hostels playground of colleges, schools or in the open space of local clubs. Playing volleyball was a favorite pass time of afternoon of the Assamese male youths.

Next to volleyball there is another popular events; that is Badminton. Playing Badminton in the evening of winters is also a common sight in all the urban and semi urban areas of Assam.

During seventies table tennis also became popular to urban Assamese society and Assam produce many great table tennis players. We can name Monalisha Baruah, Modalas Hazarika, Gautam Hazarika etc.

Thus during sixties and seventies sports activities gained momentum in Assam. The main reason behind this sports movement was selfless efforts of a group of sports lovers and organizers like R.G.Baruah, Nurul Amin etc. The contribution of these organizers gave a new fillip to sports culture of Assam.

But in late eighties and nineties the tempo of sports activities in Assam slowed down and took a different shape. Events like Athletic, Football, Volleyball had started loosing their popularity amongst common people. At the same time professionalism came to the individual games like Badminton, Table Tennis, Swimming etc. Cricket emerged as most popular sports among the common people. The sports became more prospective. The reason for this change are :

1. The then prevailing socio political scenario of the society.
2. Rapid expansion of electronic media.
3. Economic liberisation policy.

The Electronic media alongwith the sponsor from multinational changed the sports scenario of the entire country which has subsequent impact on the Assam also People got attracted to certain games like Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, Badminton, contact games etc. Middle class took lead role in such games. Individual events got priority.

Since late eighties Assam produced many Badminton players like Olympian Sri Dipankar Bhattacharjee, Krishna Deka Raja, Oli Deka, Bibary Basumatary, Abantika

Deka etc. In the same way in swimming also Assam can boast of producing swimmers like Alvis Ali Hazarika, Fariha Zaman etc.

Assam organized 33rd National Games in the year 2007. During the time of National Games many National or International level sports complex, Indoor Stadium etc. with a worth of Rs. 20000.00 lakh were built. Definitely 33rd National Games is a boon for the sports of Assam. At present Assam has set of best sports structure with it. Now it is as challenge for us for best utilization of these structures bring a new trend to the sports culture of Assam.

2. Preamble:

In order to achieve excellence in sports, both at National and International levels, there is a need to streamline the functioning of the department, adopt a uniform policy so that sports is broad based, sports activities in the state are well spread over the year; the competitions are held regularly; people of different stratas in the society get a fair chance to show their mettle; harness talent at grass root level besides providing beneficial recreation and fostering of social harmony and discipline.

3. Vision

To make Assam a vibrant leading edge state in the sports arena, to create adequate infrastructure, promote rural games, adopt maximum disciplines of Olympic Games, broad base sports, synergies the activities of Sports and Education Departments, raise the standards of sports in the state; promote the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie, harness talent at the grass root level, nurture the potential sportspersons and achieve excellence in the sports at both National & International level and give incentives to sportspersons who win laurels for the State at National & International levels.

4. Objectives.

- 4.1 Broad basing of sports in three tier system i.e. State Level, District Level and Village Level.
- 4.2 To develop sports culture in the state by providing improved sports facilities at all levels.
- 4.3 To lay emphasis on improving the existing sports infrastructure and develop latest state-of-the art sports infrastructure in the state at each District headquarters with pro-active support of Private / Corporate sector.
- 4.4 To create sports infrastructure and sports facilities at village and block level through Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) and other state level schemes.
- 4.5 To strengthen the sports wings in school and colleges and urban clubs.
- 4.6 To encourage sports & youth clubs to conduct sports activities.
- 4.7 To take effective steps to patronize and promote local games / indigenous games.
- 4.8 To organize sports competitions at block, district, state, national and international levels.
- 4.9 To organize seminars / clinics for coaches / players to update their knowledge by inviting coaches of international level.
- 4.10 To provide cash incentives, awards and employment opportunities to outstanding sportspersons.
- 4.11 To establish a Scientific Evaluation and Monitoring Lab.

5. Strategies to achieve the objectives.

SPORTS FOR ALL

Assam Sports Policy aims to provide sports and physical education facility available to all the citizen of the State. It will cover all section of society. The approach to each section of the group will be different from each other.

Higher Income Group :

A small section of the society belongs to this group. They are not interested for all the events of sports except some glamorous like Tennis, Badminton, Cricket, Golf etc. They are also not interested to take sports seriously or as a carrier. No financial assistance is required. These group needs motivation and involvement in all shorts sports in a serious manner.

Middle Income Group :

This group is mostly educated and serious about sports activity. But they are also selective about the events. They also prefer events like Table Tennis, Badminton, Swimming, Contact Games, Cricket etc. & yet to accept sports as a carrier. This group needs supports and motivation for accepting group events Athletics, Football, Volleyball etc. They need job security through sports to accept sports as a carrier.

Low Income Group:

Major portion of society is constituted by low income group. Illiteracy and poverty are major constrain for this group to join in sports. But there is huge potential of producing sports person from this group specially group events like Football, Volleyball, Athletics etc. This group needs motivation and all kinds of supports including job prospect through sports.

SPORTS FOR RURAL & REMOTE AREA

Again 80% of the area of the state is rural and remote area. More than 75% of population stays in these area. Moreover, the pattern of this population is also heterogeneous with different socio cultural system. The economic condition is also not well of in comparison to urban area. On the other hand this population is the vast source from where quantity and then quality sports persons can be produced.

The following strategies can be taken for rural and remote areas:

- I. The school and school authorities will be utilized for motivating the young generation to sports. There will be Physical Instructor / coaches in each schools,
- II. Local clubs and organizations will also be encouraged for creating an environment for the sports.
- III. School & community field will be developed.
- IV. Multipurpose small community hall will be created where some Indoor Games can also be played.
- V. Sports equipments will be provided to schools as well as to the clubs.
- VI. Panchayati Raj System will be used for development of sports.
- VII. Rural based sports academies are to be set up with special curriculum of education

6. Coaching

- 6.1. A systematic coaching will be imparted in various disciplines / events, stage wise coaching from orientation upto the level of specialized coaching will be provided.
- 6.2. Outsourcing of coaching will be encouraged.
- 6.3 Coaches will be sent to recognized institutes / organizations for up dating their knowledge in coaching.

- 6.4. Sports academy in various discipline will be established both in Govt. and private sector and emphasis will be given to cover various zones of the state.
7. Infrastructure to be created in a phased manner through out the state.
State infrastructure should be created at state level, district level, semi urban, rural level.

The nature of infrastructure will not be urban centric but will spread through out the state with particular form on the sports discipline popular and suitable in that area.

Infrastructure at state capital will be of International level, at District level infrastructure will be of all purpose and all weather and at semi urban, rural area playfield with all purpose community hall.

8. There will be a priority for the sports disciplines identified as Major Sports which are deemed as **thrust areas**. The major sports would be **categorized as Major**

Sports Grade A and Major Sports Grade B

Grade A Major Sports should be

- i. A spectator sports which evokes interest across all sections of the population in the State.
- ii. The State Association such sports should be active and have district and sub-division level bodies conducting the affairs of the Sports at the grass root level including inter – district tournaments or district level inter club tournament at the state level.
- iii. The state represents these events in national and regional level tournaments in the past years.
- iv. It should be an Olympic Sport.
- v. Any team representing the state with the involvement of the Sports department should have won medals in the National level in the past years.

Grade B Major Sports Should be :

- i. A sport that is played widely across the State.
- ii. The State Association should be active and have district and subdivision level bodies conducting the affairs of the sports at the grass root level including inter-district tournaments.
- iii. The State should have participated in national and Regional level tournaments in the past two years.

9. International and National winner will be provided adequate financial and equipment support.
10. Motivate the young generation for taking active part in sports reservation under sports quota in all leading institutes will be maintained.
11. Govt. will review recruitment policy from time to time to provide employment opportunity to sports persons.
12. There will be an effort to preserve available open spaces for playgrounds and other sports infrastructure so that in the near future there will be a scope to expand and create new playfields in the light of space constraint. The Policy also envisages involving stakeholders in sponsoring the setting up of sports academies with focus on the thrust areas sports disciplines.

13. Govt. grant will be provided to all state sports bodies to hold competition among their affiliated members.
14. Govt. grant will be provided to all state sports bodies to participate in National Level Competitions for exposure and achievement at National and International level.
15. Govt. grant will be provided to hold international / national level competition by state bodies for upliftment of the sports and enhance organizational level and help state sportsperson abreast of the latest development in all respect i.e. equipments, infrastructure, rule changes etc.
16. Financially sound state corporation, board etc. will adopt atleast one game for development.
17. The Govt. would endeavour to involve private sector, industrial and business houses to make contribution for promotion of sports either by employing sportsperson or by sponsoring sports events. The Govt. would also rope in the private sector by giving suitable recognition to such industrial houses which come forward to help sports projects. A suitable package of attractive incentives shall be offered to encourage industrial and business houses for sports promotion.
18. Govt. will encourage Sports Authority of Assam (SAA) for taking active role in development of sports in Assam.
Govt. will provide assistance, GIA etc. to SAA for development of sports in the State.
19. Provision for sports pension to eminent sports person will be continued.
20. Research and development wing of the Department of Sports & Youth Welfare will be established.
21. Monitoring and evaluation wing of the Department of Sports & Youth Welfare will be established.
22. Sports will also be used as Human Resource Development Industry by utilizing existing sports infrastructure created in recent time.
23. Govt. will concentrate on Adventure Sports by utilizing gift of nature to the State.
24. Traditional & Indigenous games will also be encouraged and popularized.
25. An special education curriculum will be introduced for the sports man / woman, so that they can spare enough time for practice, coaching, participation in competition etc.
26. Sports among senior citizen of the state are to be encouraged. This group can also motivate the next generation to take sports seriously.
27. Establishment of sports goods industries will also encouraged. This will not only make sports goods available but also create employment opportunities.

Views and suggestions are welcome to the Address by 15th June, 2010.

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