Study on the Interactive Relationship between Sports and Politics

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Abstract. The relationship between sports and politics is an important issue which must be studied and answered in sports science. There are different views on the relationship between sports and politics. The author agrees with the statement that sports and politics are interactive relations. By analyzing the relationship between sports and politics in three different forms: competitive sports, school sports and social sports, the author thinks that the relationship between sports and politics has the characteristics of times, regions and projects, and so on. Some suggestions for dealing with the relationship between sports and politics are put forward for reference.

Introduction

As an important aspect of sports sociology, the all levels of academic discussion on the relationship between sports and politics has never stopped. At present, while the outline of the National Fitness Plan continues to be carried out in depth, the State Council of China has also formulated and promulgated the National Fitness regulations, which shows that the Chinese Government has increased its concern for and support for the whole people’s fitness campaign; In order to promote the improvement of students' physical health, Sunshine Sports, led by the government, is also developing rapidly in various schools. Why should the government pay so much attention to competitive sports, social sports and school sports? What problems will arise in the process of interaction between politics and sports? How will sports counteract politics? All these questions come down to a research category—the relationship between sports and politics. What kind of connection exists between sports and politics, how to treat this connection, how to develop sports under the current political background, these are the important questions that must be studied and answered in sports science.

The Relationship between Sports and Politics

In terms of the relation between sports and politics, there are generally different viewpoints such as "sports serves politics", "sports and politics integration", "sport has nothing to do with politics", "sports is super-class", "sports and politics influence each other" and so on. Most scholars believe that the two are interactive relations. Zhou Xikuan pointed out: "from the point of view of the relationship between sports and politics, the influence of politics on sports is related to the stage of historical development, which has both direct and indirect effects. At the same time, sports and through its own special role to actively serve certain social and political services. "[1] Liu Zeyu considered: "from the history of the intersection and interaction between sports and politics, efforts to sports politicization and depoliticization exist at the same time. Behind the seemingly contradictory phenomenon is precisely the common understanding and interaction between sports and politics. "[2]

The writer believes that there is an interactive relationship between sports and politics, the development of sports should not be separated from politics, but should realize coexistence with
politics and establish a relationship of mutual respect. Sports and politics have a common management structure and value concept, and can interact positively with each other on the basis of mutual respect.

At present, the research on the relationship between sports and politics in China is mainly analyzed from the general sense. However, practice tells us that the relation between different forms of sports and politics has obvious differences in the degree of closeness and the mode of action. Therefore, the analysis of the relationship between different forms of sports and politics has certain reference value for us to grasp the essence of the problem. For the classification of sports, because of the different angles, it can be divided into different forms. According to the basic discussion of the current Sports Law of the People's Republic of China, sports can be divided into three forms: competitive sports, school sports and mass sports, and the relationship between them and politics to carry on the concrete research.

The Interactive Relationship between Competitive Sports and Politics

Competitive sports refers to the development of the body in an all-round way to the maximum extent of the excavation and development of individuals and groups in physical strength, psychology. An athletic process based on the potential of intelligence to climb technical peaks and create excellent athletic achievements[3].

The relationship between high-level competitive sports and politics is closer than that of school sports and mass sports, and its two-way interactive relationship with politics is mainly reflected in the exchange of international competitive sports competitions, which can improve the diplomatic relations between countries. Such as the typical "ping-pong diplomacy" between China and the United States, through the domestic competitive sports competition to strengthen the national, regional exchanges, maintain domestic unity, improve national cohesion. The government determines the status and development direction of competitive sports by formulating certain sports policies and taking certain measures.

The Interactive Relationship between School Sports and Politics

School sports is an important part of school education, including school physical education, extracurricular sports activities and sports competitions. The influence of politics on school sports mainly lies in that the government guides the direction of school sports through certain policies, and at the same time evaluates the related infrastructure of school sports and the effect of school sports development through policies and regulations.

The effect of school sports on politics is also obvious. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the 2018 National Conference on Education that our education should train socialist builders and successors who have developed in an all-round way, that is, moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and hard-working, that we should set up the concept of "health first" and open up full-fledged physical education classes [4]. It can be seen that school sports plays a fundamental role in the all-round development of citizens by helping students enjoy fun in physical exercise, strengthen their physique, perfect their personality, and exercise their will. First of all, the development of school sports has an irreplaceable role for the country to cultivate healthy citizens; Healthy physique is the foundation of cultivating citizens in line with the requirements of political development of various countries. Secondly, school PE is also an important link to train excellent citizens. Taking basketball, track and field, badminton and other common sports as the carrier, school sports has advantages over other disciplines in cultivating the sense of teamwork and the ability of information communication, which is in line with the needs of The Times. In addition, school physical education has its unique role in cultivating students' perseverance and hard work spirit.

The Interactive Relationship between Mass Sports and Politics

Mass sports, also known as social sports, sports for all, refers to the voluntary participation of residents in leisure time in order to strengthen physical fitness, improve health, increase interest, increase communication, and increase skills as the main purpose of autonomous sports activities
The development of mass sports must conform to certain social norms. Therefore, the government should provide standards and requirements for reference for the development of social sports, and guide and promote mass sports. For example, the outline of the National Fitness Plan and the National Fitness Regulations formulated by China and the Health Citizen 2010 adopted by the United States are issued by government departments. At the same time, the development of mass sports must have certain venues and facilities, spare time as the basis and guarantee, which makes the government's attention to mass sports determine its active level of development. Thirdly, in accordance with the requirements of China's construction of a country under the rule of law, the reasonable utilization of sports venues and the interests of the relevant subjects in mass sports activities must be legally defined, so as far as possible to avoid various contradictions and interests disputes in the development of mass sports and ensure the health and sustainable development of mass sports.

As the most widely participated, mass sports’ reaction to the politics of a country and region is mainly reflected in the following aspects: first, the mass sports to maintain social stability, have the function of the "safety valve", by participating in various sports activities, it can adjust the feelings of people, so as to avoid all kinds of violence and criminal accidents caused by bad psychological conditions. Secondly, mass sports has a positive effect on promoting good communication between people and building a harmonious society, which is a positive political effect for any country.

Through the above analysis of the relationship between different forms of sports and politics, we can see that the main similarities of the relationship between different forms of sports and politics are mainly shown in three aspects: politics must use policies, laws and regulations or government financial input to play a role in sports; The essential purpose of political action on sports is the same; politics has limited influence on sports and restricts sports is mainly a macro-level, it is difficult to carry out specific control from the micro-level.

The General Characteristics of the Interactive Relationship between Sports and Politics

Different forms of sports and politics not only have the same point in the form of interaction, but also show other general characteristics, mainly reflected in the following aspects.

The Characteristics of the Times

The contemporary characteristics of the relationship between sports and politics mean that there are obvious differences in the close degree of the relationship between sports and politics in different historical periods within a certain geographical scope, thus showing the dynamic degree of the close relationship between sports and politics. To be specific, there will be obvious differences in government input or support for sports in different historical periods. Looking back on history, we can see that during the Cold War period, competitive sports, as an extended battlefield of political and military struggle, was an important field of confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. In China, before and after the implementation of the Olympic Glory Plan, the government's support for competitive sports is obviously different. Looking forward to the future, with the improvement of people's living standards and the great enrichment of social material wealth, the utilitarian component in the relationship between sports and politics will gradually decrease.

The Characteristics of the Regions

The regional characteristics of the relationship between sports and politics mean that in the same historical period, there are obvious differences in the "sports and political relations" between different regions, which can be represented by the different differences in the relations between sports and politics among different countries. There are obvious differences in the degree of close relationship between sports and politics among different provinces or regions within the same country. The regional reasons are influenced to some extent by the political system or the concrete sports management system. For example, China, as a socialist country, has a relatively poor self-hematopoiesis function as a result of its lower degree of marketization than that of the United
States, and the relationship between domestic politics and sports in China is closer than that of the United States. At the same time, regional differences may also be due to cultural customs or other aspects of different regions. For example, China and Cuba, the same socialist countries, have distinct differences in the strength and direction of support for sports by the ruling party because of their different levels of national development.

The Characteristics of the Projects

The characteristic of projects in the relationship between sports and politics refers to the different characteristics of the relationship between sports and politics in a certain period of time in the same region. This characteristic is mainly due to the different sports events carried out in each country or region, and the difference in the government's cognition of the value of each sports event. In the context of the continuous improvement of the competitive level of competitive sports, the government's support for different sports events must be different, resulting in the non-balanced development of sports. The non-balanced development is not an imbalanced development, but a kind of superiority strategy choice resulting from the game according to practice and combined with various relationships. For example, the dominant events of competitive sports in China are mainly a few events such as diving, table tennis, gymnastics, weightlifting, and so on. Focus on the advantages of projects, often in the short-term can produce better benefits. The practice also shows that the selection and implementation of the non-balanced development strategy of sports in China also greatly promote the development of sports in China. An appropriate development gap is conducive to stimulating development, however, excessive emphasis on the efficiency of sports development, excessive exploitation of sports resources will inevitably ignore the fairness in the process of sports development, and will definitely believe that distorting the structure of sports development. Once there is a serious imbalance in the structure of sports development, the result will seriously hinder the process of sustainable development of sports in China [6].

Suggestions on Dealing with the Relationship between Sports and Politics

Although the general characteristics of the relationship between sports and politics are characterized by the times, regions and projects, in essence, the relationship between sports and politics is still "politics decides sports, sports reaction in politics." However, under the requirement of this essential feature, the general characteristics of the relationship between sports and politics are analyzed and summarized, which has certain guiding and reference significance for us to deepen our understanding of the relationship between sports and politics, and to correctly deal with the concrete problems in sports practice.

Firstly, the development of sports is restricted by politics. However, we should not equate sports with politics, nor should we always confuse sports with politics. We should make clear what is a political issue and what is a sports issue. The political issue is to be done in accordance with the political law, and the problem of sports is to be done in the light of the rules of sports.

Secondly, sports is a complex structure with multi-function, so we should attach importance to and pay attention to giving full play to the political functions of sports, but we cannot emphasize the political functions of sports one-sidedly and ignore or belittle the other functions of sports. Otherwise, it will be contrary to the laws of sports itself and abnormal development.

Thirdly, we should clearly understand the essence of sports, correctly understand the relationship between sports and politics, give proper play to the political utilitarian side of sports, fully understand the advantages and disadvantages of the integration of sports and politics, and minimize the negative role of sports in hindering the political use of sports.

Conclusion

As a special cultural phenomenon, sports is closely related to politics. For the close relationship between sports and politics, especially the advantages and disadvantages of sports political use, the most important evaluation criterion should be to see whether the connection between the two is
conducive to social progress and justice. From this point of view, it is inevitable that political interests are higher than sports interests. But at the same time, we also need to note that, from historical experience, we can soberly see that sports are sports, sports are not equal to politics. It not only obeys and serves the political side, but also has its own development side. We should not only oppose the malpractice of excessively strengthening the political function of sports, but also resolutely eliminate the tendency of de-politicizing sports and the trend of thought. Take a realistic view of sports as a special social phenomenon, give full play to the pluralistic functions of sports itself, serve the health of the broad masses of the people, and at the same time give full play to the positive promotion role of sports to Chinese politics, so as to make its due contribution to the construction of a harmonious society.

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