

The Status of Developing School-based Youth Sport Coaches in Singapore



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Landscape of sporting Singapore

- The Sports & Fitness industry in Singapore enjoys good Government support.
- The Government has invested S\$300 million into the Sporting Singapore Fund to finance sports development from 2005 to 2010. Besides providing substantial funding support, the Government has identified strategic areas to promote and nurture the full spectrum of business opportunities in the sporting world and its related industries.

Landscape of sporting Singapore

- The Government is building a new S\$800 million world-class Sports Hub, located on a 35-hectare site in Kallang, to create a critical mass of international, regional and local sports federations and associations; sports medicine and sports science service providers; sports-related training and education service providers; and sports companies' sales & marketing headquarters; retail outlets; R&D and design centres in one centralized location.

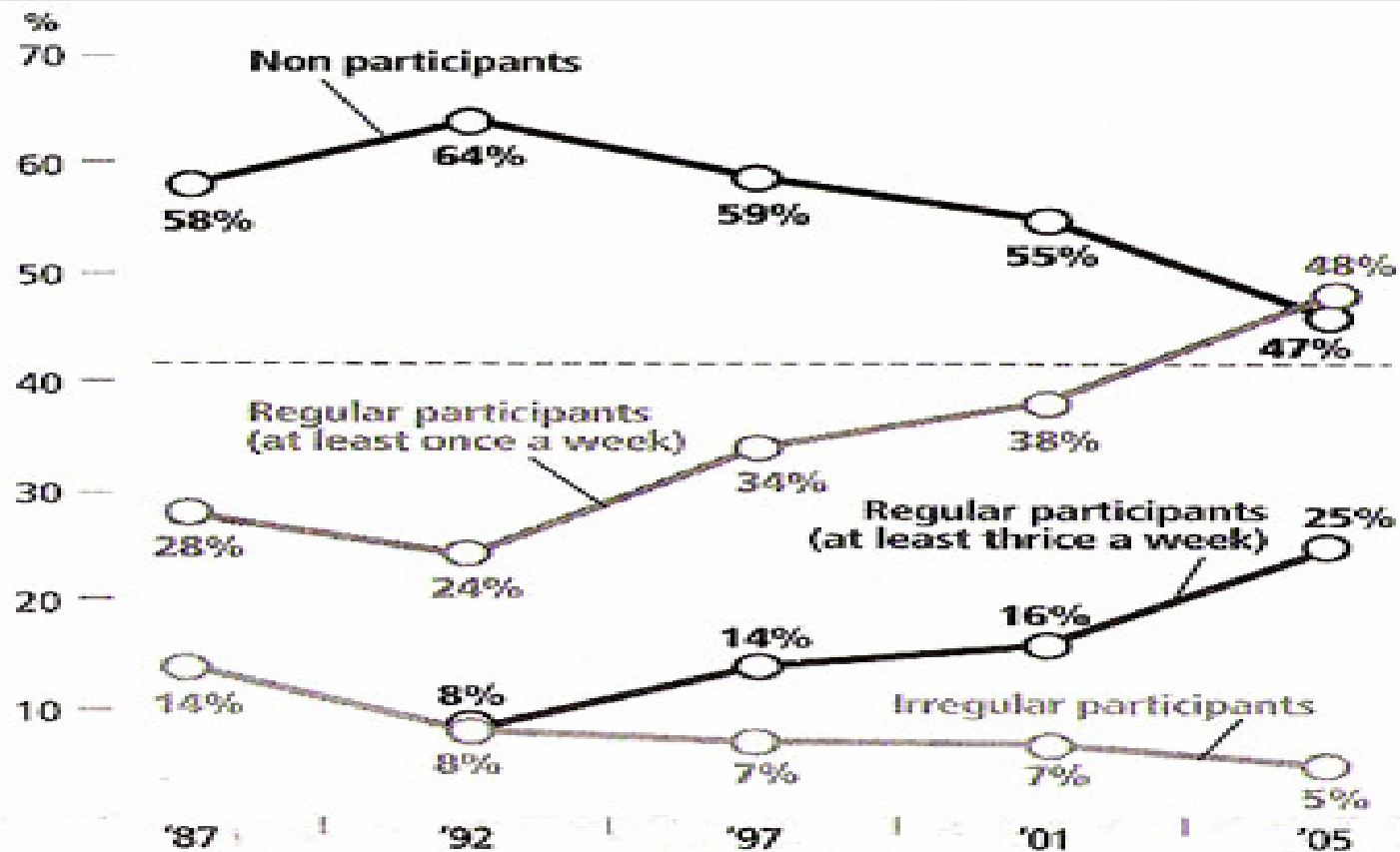
Proposed Sports hub visual image



Table 1. Sports participation in Singapore (1987-2005)

Living healthy

Sports participation, 1987-2005

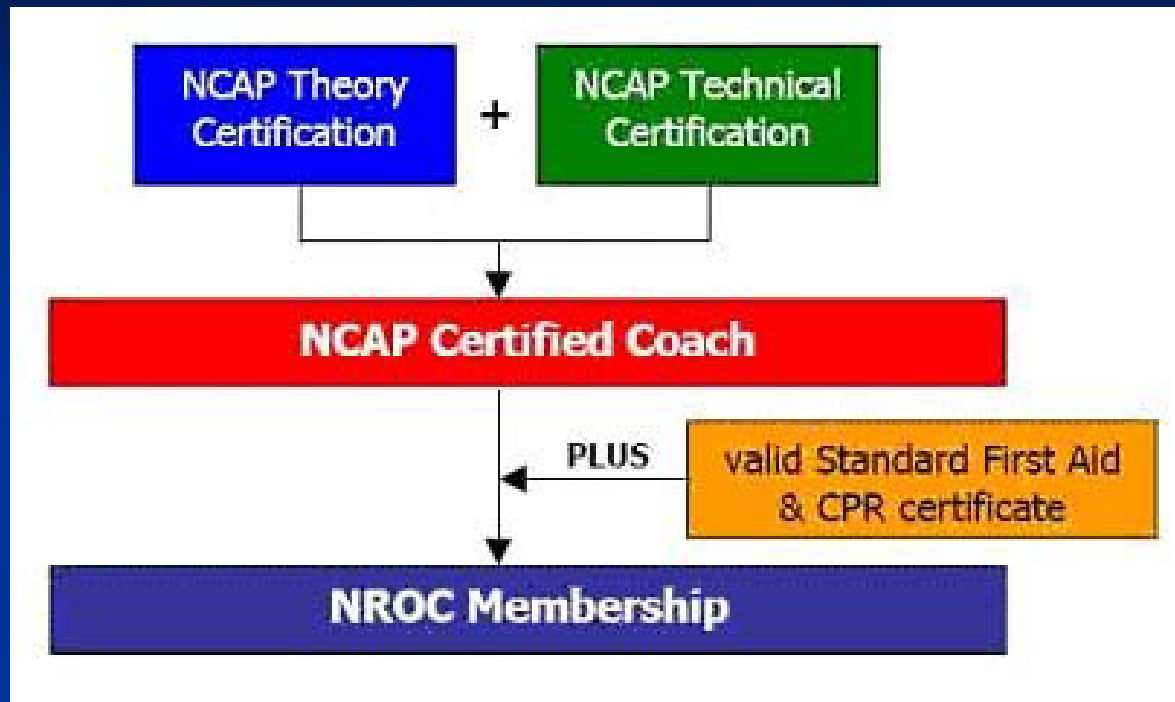


Source: Singapore Sports Council

Role of coaching for sports

- Quality coaching must permeate throughout all levels of sports participation.
- One's introduction to sports through quality coaching will ensure the positive experience of learning and enjoyment of sports.
- At the high performance level, quality coaching will help athletes challenge the human limits and realize their full potential.

Current coaching education system



- The National Coaching Accreditation Programme (NCAP) is the national standard for coaching qualifications. The programme takes care of your educational needs as a coach by providing courses to upgrade your coaching skills. Only qualified coaches can register with NROC. To qualify as a sports coach, the candidate must:
- -Possess a CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) certificate as a pre-requisite;
- -Obtain the National Coaching Accreditation Program (NCAP) Level One Theory Certificate from SSC; and
- -Obtain NCAP Level One Technical Certificate from the relevant National Sports Association.

Current coaching pool

- In 2003, SSC started the National Registry of Coaches (NROC) scheme. According to the SSC Coaching Division, there are currently about 1,100 coaches registered with NROC across 23 different sports (excluding fitness and health). It is anticipated that the number of coaches registered with NROC will grow by about 300 per year.

School-based coaching status & development

- In 2004, SSC and the Co-Curriculum Activity Branch of Ministry of Education (MOE) conducted a “Coaching Survey 2004” involving 194 schools and 740 coaches in the project.

School-based coaching status & development

- The survey found that
- **96.9% schools employed external coaches in year 2003;**
- **Coaches were commonly engaged on contract basis for less than 2 years (88.6%)**

Coaches were selected by schools based on:

- their sporting achievements (24%),
- their coaching experience (23%), and
- their training/professional qualifications (21%)
- Staff recommendations (9.3%).

School-based coaching status & development

- The survey found that (cont'd..)
- **The most effective quality of school coaches**
are:
 - -coaching experiences (85.4%)
 - -training qualifications (56.8%)
 - -interpersonal and communications (51.4%)
 - -management and org skills (48.6%)
 - -personality and charisma (30.8%)

School-based coaching status & development

- In a separate survey jointly conducted by Work Development Authority (WDA) and SSC in 2005, involving 237 schools, the following key findings were reported:
 - 54% of the schools indicated that the pool of PE teachers they had was not adequate for them to conduct the sports and fitness programmes they wanted to run;
 - 43% of the schools indicated that they had difficulty finding sports and fitness coaches/instructors for the programmes that they wanted to run in their schools;

School-based coaching status & development

- 85% of the schools preferred to hire professional coaches/instructors on short-term contracts (1 to 2 years) for 1-2 sessions per week and 1-2 hours per session,
- Most of the schools (65%) were willing to pay \$30-\$40 per hour for experienced professional coaches/instructors, and 79% of schools were willing to engage newly-trained coaches/instructors but would pay 20-30% lower than the standard rates payable to experienced coaches/instructors.

School-based coaching status & development

- To address the coaching demand from schools, the SSC and Workforce Development Authority (WDA) launched the pilot Sports Coach Programme in early Mar 2006. The programme aims to address the demand for qualified coaches in the following 6 sports: netball, badminton, basketball, athletics, football and hockey.

School-based coaching status & development

- Under the programme, members of the public can apply for course fees assistance to attain their professional qualification or upgrade their skills as coaches in the National Coach Accreditation Programme (NCAP) course. NCAP certification is cited by SSC as the first critical step to raising the bar in professional coaching standards and nurturing a pool of highly qualified coaches. With this programme, WDA hopes to prepare more Singaporeans to take up jobs in the sports sector and have access to industry recognized qualifications.

Future development in coaching

- Revamp of NCAP program;
- Leverage on the strength of education institutions/system;
- Create more viable athlete career pathways in coaching
- Develop sports institute under sports hub project and building centres of excellence in sports science and sports medicine; and preparing the workforce to take on new jobs in the industry
- Recruit foreign expertise;
- Help NSAs develop their key coaching and coaches education capability

Thank you!