

CHINA

Capital: **Beijing** | Population: **1.4 billion**

Lead body for sport development: **General Administration of Sport**



Government Support D

Elite Sport Rank 3

Elite Sport Rank Per Capita 61

Youth Sport Participation Grade F

Sport is increasingly popular in China, where government has invested heavily in recent decades to become a world power in Olympic and other sports, and to improve public health through increased physical activity rates. Getting more youth playing sports is a major challenge, one that is being addressed in part by a series of significant commitments to build sport facilities.

In China, the General Administration of Sport (GAS) sits directly under the Central Government and is the government agency responsible for sport policy. The GAS is part of a centralized, top-down hierarchy that includes the Chinese Olympic Committee and the All-China Sports Federation. The GAS is guided by the [14th Five-Year Plan for Sport Development](#) (2021-2025), which seeks to build China into a global sports power. In 2023, the government will spend ¥23.3B (\$3.2B USD) on sport. The GAS oversees 20 sports management centers (including sports federations), the National Training Bureau and national teams, and the Provincial Sports Commission, which includes Provincial Sports Academies or part-time sports schools. The Olympic Sport Strategy is to engineer champions, and elite sport success is the overriding priority in the Chinese government. To avoid the misuse of money, increase funding efficiency, and maximize China's Olympic medal productivity, China has prioritized primarily skill-based sports and “small, fast, women, water, and agile” sports disciplines that are historically less competitive globally.

[China's sport system](#) receives supplemental funding from the national sports lottery and, increasingly, commercial endorsements. Historically, the sports lottery played a significant role in supporting major sports events in China, including the Olympics, the Paralympics, the Asian Games, and the National Games. The lottery also provides most of the funding for the National Fitness Campaign. With the support of the sports lottery, fitness projects have been extended to more than 600,000 villages, plus exercise tracks,

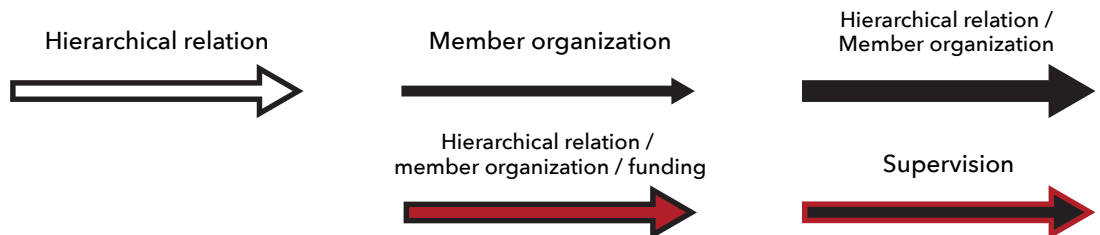
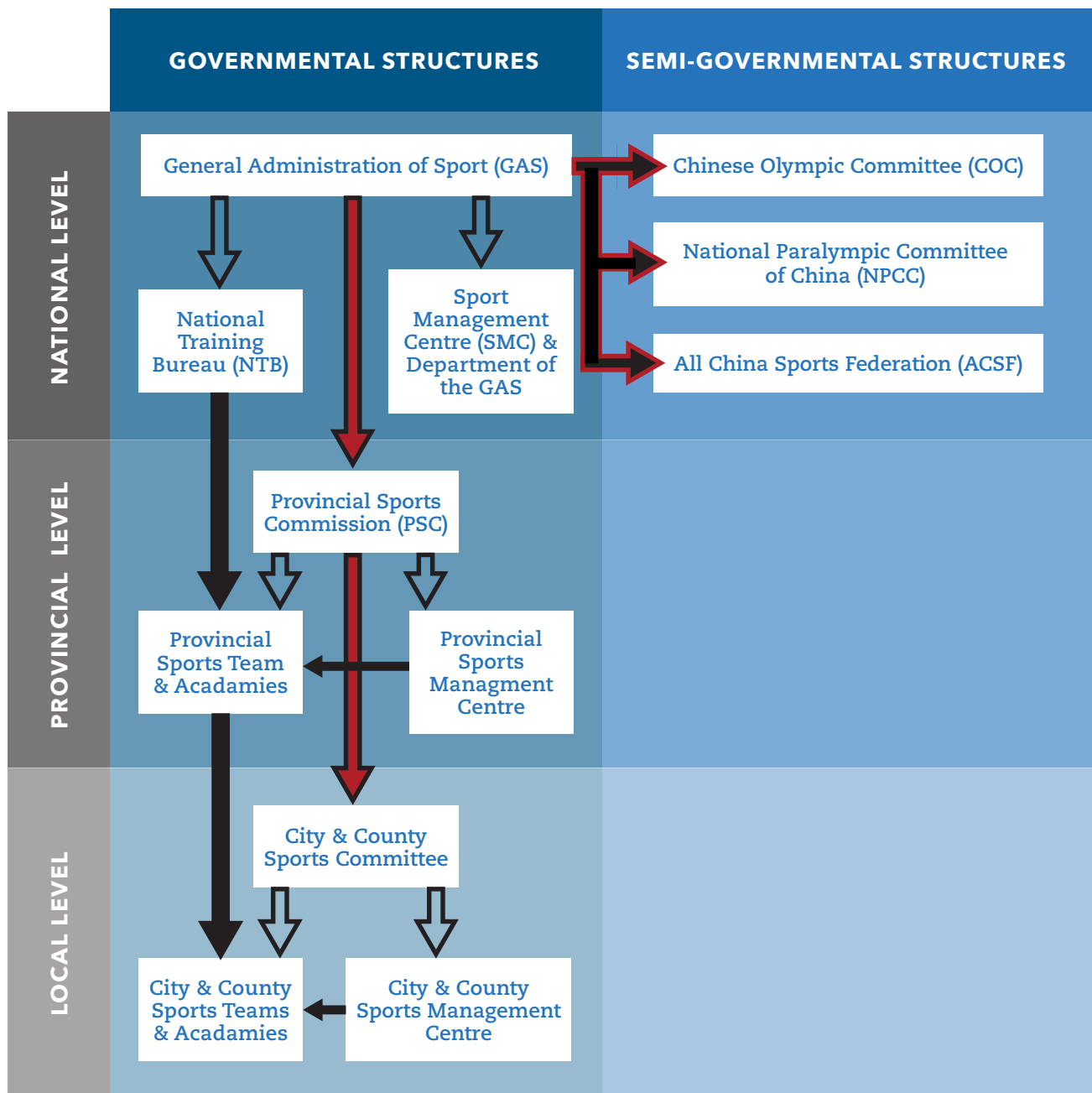
fitness centers, multifunctional community sports fields, and walk pathways throughout the country. By 2025, the national fitness public service system is charged with encouraging 38.5% of the population to regularly participate in physical exercise. Mass events, new facilities, use of existing school venues, and National Fitness Days are part of the national plan to encourage people to engage in healthy activities and sport. The sport-for-all movement in China is relatively new and largely ungoverned for youth unless they participate in a sports school or physical education class. However, the country is organizing itself for greater impact. In addition to the federal government, [cities](#) also create five-year plans to support sport development.

Currently, there is no safeguarding system in place for athletes to report abuse.

WHAT WE LIKE

As China has become more of an industrialized country, physical activity rates have fallen, and obesity rates have risen. To counter those trends, government invests in building community venues that provide free or low-cost access to sports. In the three-year period ending in 2020, the number of national sports facilities increased 89.7% and the total area of sporting venues increased 33.4%. As part of its current five-year plan, another 1,000 venues are being built.

Sport Governance in China



Most grades in Youth Sport Participation and Government Support categories are drawn from a 2022 report prepared by the [Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance](#), a not-for-profit comprised of researchers, health professionals and stakeholders who work together to advance physical activity in children and adolescents around the world. Report cards for the 57 countries evaluated are based on a harmonized framework and standardized grading rubric, as reflected in the [Global Matrix 4.0](#). A grade of C, for instance, means a country is "succeeding with about half (47-53%) of children." The Government Support grade is given by experts in that country based on "evidence of leadership and commitment" by government "in providing physical activity opportunities or participation of children and adolescents through policy, legislation or regulation." No grades were offered in the Global Matrix report for Government Support for Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom and the U.S., so the Aspen Institute consulted experts in each of those country to offer one, using the same criteria. In the U.S., the "D" grade was the weighted grade offered by 90 experts engaged with Project Play, including youth sport industry leaders at the NextUp Conference hosted by LeagueApps.

The Elite Sport Rank and Elite Sport Rank Per Capita categories are drawn from [Greatest Sporting Nation](#), a website that analyzes elite international competition results in Olympic and other sports, not including those that involve animals or cars. The first category is a measure of the total number of athletes and teams in 2022 who performed well in competition, while the latter calculates results relative to a nation's total population.