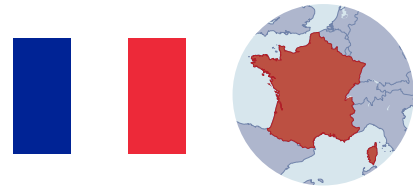


FRANCE

Capital: **Paris** | Population: **68 million**

Lead body for sport development: [Ministry of Sports](#)



Government Support	B
Elite Sport Rank	2
Elite Sport Rank per Capita	26
Youth Sport Participation Grade	C

Host of the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, France devotes the most money to sport in the European Union and is characterized by relatively high levels of top-down government control of the system. Youth sport participation rates lag other top countries, but a wide variety of sport options are offered, and strong efforts are made to train coaches at many levels of its ecosystem.

The highest governing body of sport in France is the [Ministry of Sports](#), which oversees the various regional levels of government responsible for sport as well as the [French National and Olympic Sports Committee \(CNOSF\)](#). The Ministry of Sport is responsible for national sport policy, including the [2006 Code du Sport](#), a comprehensive law regulating the interactions of all relevant sports actors (e.g. universities, national sport federations, CNOSF, schools), within the centralized and state-oriented ecosystem of sport. All expenses combined, the annual funding for sport amounts to nearly €40b (\$44.2B US), buoyed by public funding, a growing share of private spending, and specific funding for major sporting events.

The CNOSF is responsible for selecting and leading the French delegation at the Olympic Games and other competitions overseen by the IOC. The CNOSF is comprised of 106 Affiliated Federations and Associate Members, including the 36 National Olympic Sport Federations, 39 National Sport Federations, 14 Multisport Federations, 5 School and University Federations, and 12 Associate Members. The centerpiece of high-performance sport in France is the [National Institute of Sport, Expertise, and Performance](#), an elite Olympic and Paralympic training center under the Ministry of Sports that provides health care, training, nutrition, research, and educational opportunities for athletes. In 2019, the [National Agency of Sport \(NAS\)](#) was launched to work with the National Sport Federations and athletes to improve the country's position in the Olympic medal table. NAS will receive €284m (\$312 million USD), with some of that (€90m) going to high-performance but the lion's share going to sport-for-all and grassroots programs (€194m) and sport infrastructure (€129m).

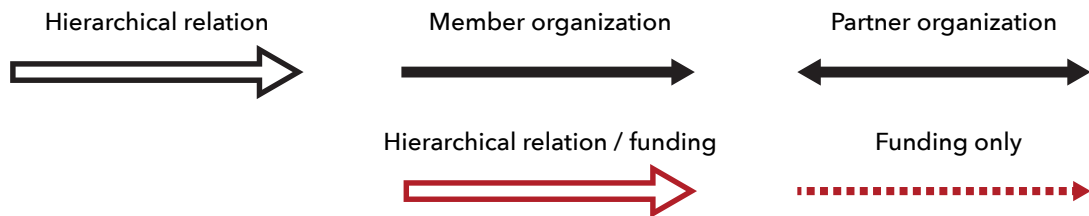
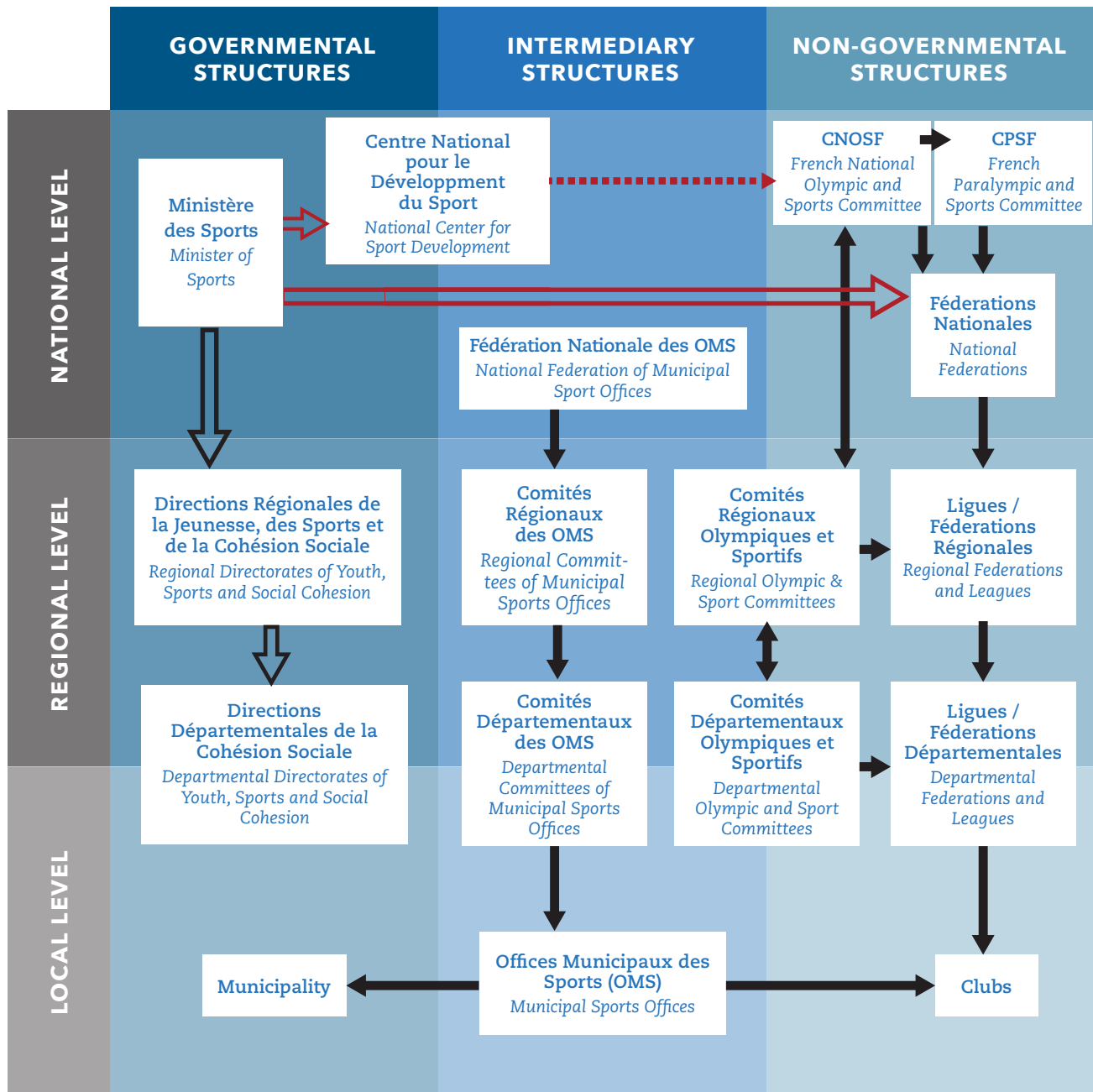
The Ministries of Sport, Health, and Education work with municipal and regional governments to oversee youth sports. In preparation for Paris 2024, the Ministries of Sport and Health created the [National Sport-Health Strategy \(2019-2024\)](#) to promote physical and sports activities. The plan is designed to get more youth moving, especially those with greater barriers to sport, including women and girls and persons with disabilities. In 2022, the Ministry of National Education made a joint commitment with the Ministry of Sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games to enable every primary school student at least 30 minutes of daily physical activity in addition to the compulsory physical education requirements.

Despite a [national scandal in 2021](#) regarding more than 400 adults in sport involved in the abuse or cover-up of abuse of young athletes, it does not appear that France has a specific system for safeguarding in sport and relies on the French legal child protection system.

WHAT WE LIKE

The French government recognizes **sport "as medicine"** to promote physical activity in the broad population. Physicians write **sport prescriptions** that can be used to help cover the costs of training under **qualified coaches** affiliated with national federations (the American College of Sports Medicine **encourages** such health care/exercise models). The Ministry of Sport also has created **Pass'Sport**, a financial voucher of 50 euros for every child and young adult to cover or subsidize registration fees for local sport clubs.

Sport Governance in France



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.