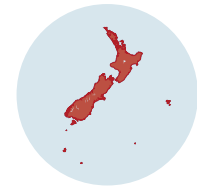


NEW ZEALAND

Capital: **Wellington** | Population: **5 million**
Lead body for sport development: **Sport NZ**



Government Support A

Elite Sport Rank 24

Elite Sport Rank Per Capita 4

Youth Sport Participation Grade B-

Sport in New Zealand largely reflects its colonial past, with sports like rugby, netball and soccer (plus the U.S.-introduced basketball, now the most-played game) dominant. Geographically isolated in the South Pacific Ocean, the country has among the most well-organized models for sport delivery to youth, with national and regional governing bodies supporting local clubs.

Housed in the Ministry of Culture & Heritage, [Sport NZ](#) is the agency responsible for national sport policy in New Zealand (or Aotearoa New Zealand, the Māori name). Sport NZ serves as umbrella for [Sport and Recreation New Zealand](#), its wholly owned subsidiary [High Performance Sport New Zealand \(HPSNZ\)](#), and the [New Zealand Sports Foundation Charitable Trust \(NZSFACT\)](#), in which Sport NZ has a controlling interest. Sport NZ promotes quality play, recreation, and sport that improve levels of physical activity and wellbeing for all New Zealanders. The country is governed by a [national sports policy \(2020-2032\)](#) with its simple vision to get every person active. The policy is executed in partnership with National Sport Organizations (NSOs), Regional Sport Trusts (RSTs), National Recreation Organizations (NROs), educational institutions, disability organizations, and local, regional and ethnic councils.

HPSNZ is responsible for elite sport. The organization is charged with three systemic areas of focus: (1) Performance Pathways, (2) Wellbeing and Engagement, including diversity metrics and mental health, and (3) Funding and Investment. HPSNZ measures success by: (a) medals and podium results, (b) non-podium performances such as placings and world rankings, (c) diversity and inclusion measures, (d) wellbeing measures for high performance environments, and (e) New Zealanders inspired by high-performance success. HPSNZ works with NSOs and RSTs to execute their elite sport agenda. HPSNZ received \$273 million or approximately \$164 million USD of funding from 2020-2024. The HPSNZ is funded through a combination of national and local government funds, proceeds from gambling, participants funds, and commercial/philanthropic endeavors. The HPSNZ works closely with the Olympic Committee, an independent charity organization that

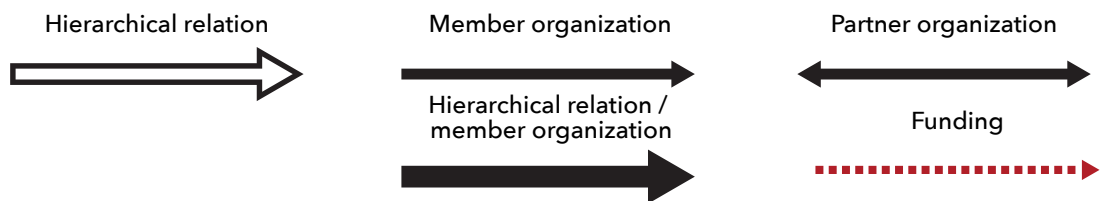
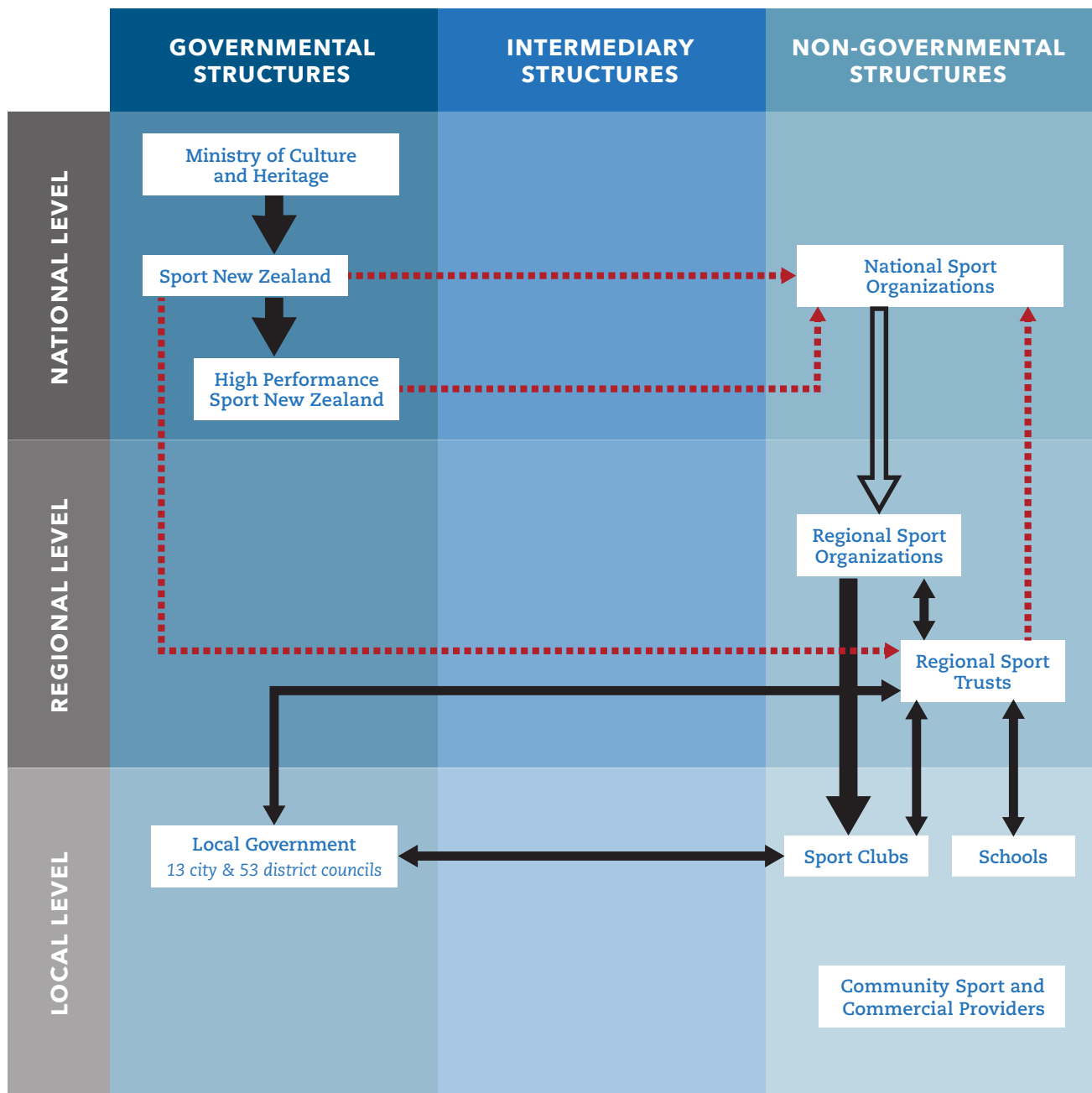
relies on commercial funding and partnerships to select and lead the national teams.

[The Sport and Recreation Complaints and Mediation Services](#) is the independent agency responsible for mitigating complaints or disputes. The service is free and open to anyone involved in high-performance sport as well as community sport and recreation. The service is operated by Immediation NZ Limited, a contracted entity paid for by Sport NZ. The Olympic committee also has a safeguarding policy and hired a Safeguarding Officer to handle issues of inappropriate behavior or harm within the Olympic system.

WHAT WE LIKE

Recognizing the importance of coaches and the challenge in working with them all directly, Sport New Zealand has built a robust [coach developer network](#). Housed across national, regional and local sport organizations, coach developers are sport professionals who provide on-site education, support and resources to the coaches in their community. The Sport NZ approach includes [residential training](#), where coach developers across different sports come together for a short but focused multi-day, off-site retreat to participate in expert-led workshops and connect with peers outside of their sport. Support for coach developers has been a strategic pillar of the [Community Sport Coaching Plan](#), which aligns to a national [coaching strategy & pathway, coach development framework](#) and [High Performance Coaching Plan](#). The Sport NZ approach has received attention from [experts](#) as a model for countries and sport organizations around the world.

Sport Governance in New Zealand



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.