

NORWAY

Capital: **Oslo** | Population: **5 million**

Lead body for sport development:

Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports



Government Support A-

Elite Sport Rank 11

Elite Sport Rank Per Capita 1

Youth Sport Participation Grade **A-**

Norway has among the world's most admired sport systems and cultures, with strong results in developing children and communities and many dominant elite adult athletes, both in winter sports like skiing and warm-weather events like beach volleyball, football (soccer) and athletics (track). Sport is recognized as an important institution in helping the country achieve its public health, citizenship development and other goals, an approach reflected in government policies.

Norway coordinates sport development through democratic processes and an umbrella entity, the [Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports \(NIF\)](#), which includes 55 sports federations, 19 regional confederations, 370 sports councils, the Olympic Committee, Paralympic Committee, and Special Olympics. The NIF equally represents the mass sport movement and the elite sport structure, with both stakeholder groups possessing 75 votes at the biennial General Assembly. Sport clubs are the backbone of Norwegian sport with more than 12,000 of them across the country, which are almost entirely run by volunteers.

The NIF is overseen by the Ministry of Culture's Department of Sport Policy, a government agency. The Ministry guides public funding for sport, administering 64% of gaming proceeds from Norway's national lottery and sports betting mechanism, Norsk Tipping, to the sports ecosystem, which receives roughly \$400 million USD annually for new projects. Most of that support goes back to communities to help train coaches, buy equipment, and build facilities sought by communities. The Ministry works with counties (states), the education agency, and the NIF to operationalize the national sport policy objective of "Joy of Sport for All."

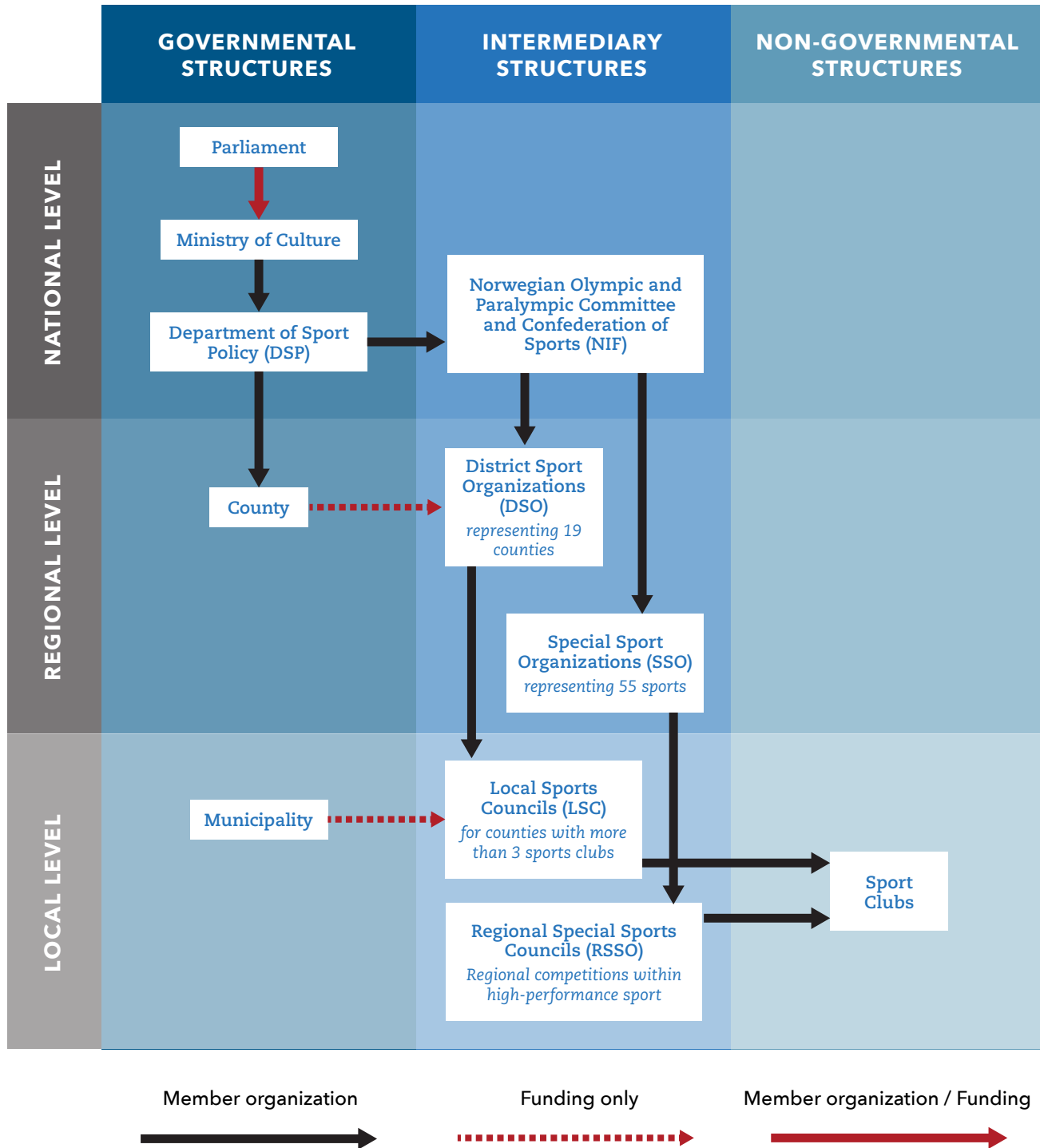
At every level of sport, the National Sport Federations are held responsible for building safe, fair, and inclusive environments for participants. Only sports facilities that meet universal design requirements that encourage usability for all people, with and without disabilities, are eligible for government funding. Additionally, the NIF has set

guidelines for anti-corruption, transparency of funds, gender balance, and inclusion of persons from various ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds as part of a prerequisite to receive funding, with a zero-tolerance discrimination policy to support this work.

WHAT WE LIKE

Clubs at all levels, coaches, managers and parents are expected to adhere to the [Children's Rights in Sports](#), a statement updated by the General Assembly in 2007 that helps anchor Norway's globally respected sport system in the principles of inclusion, play, and social development. Before age 13, children play in clubs that prioritize local, low-cost competition and training that is developmentally appropriate. Only after that do promising child athletes enter the high-performance pipeline, via National Sport Federations and Norway's elite performance organization, [Olympiatoppen](#). Inspired by Norway, Aspen created a [Children's Bill of Rights in Sports](#) statement tailored for the U.S. which has been endorsed by more than 200 organizations including the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and 300 athletes.

Sport Governance in Norway



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.