

SWEDEN

Capital: **Stockholm** | Population: **10 million**

Lead body for sport development: **Swedish Sports Confederation**



Government Support	B
Elite Sport Rank	12
Elite Sport Rank Per Capita	6

Youth Sport Participation Grade B+

As with other Scandinavian countries, the ideal of active lives is promoted by sport bodies and the government in Sweden. Sport is delivered through a range of outdoor activities (e.g. skiing, orienteering) and team games (e.g. ice hockey, skiing, handball, bandy) based in clubs.

Housed within the Ministry of Health & Social Affairs, the Ministry of Sport is the agency responsible for sport policy. The Ministry works closely with the [Swedish Sports Confederation \(RF\)](#), an umbrella organization that includes more than 70 National Sport Federations and 1,000 District Sport Federations representing 20,000 clubs. The RF is responsible for supporting, leading, and coordinating the Swedish sports movement on national and international issues. The RF is guided by a federal sports policy, [Strategy 2025](#), which aims to make “Swedish sports the best in the world” at all levels.

The elite sport movement in Sweden is organized by the Swedish Olympic Committee. [The Swedish Olympic Committee \(SOC\)](#) is the supreme authority for Olympic matters and is responsible for the recruitment, training, and oversight of national teams. Elite athletes train at a world-class national training facility outside of Stockholm called [Bosön](#). In recent years, the spending on elite sport has increased dramatically with a greater emphasis on attaining medals. For the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy, the SOC has set a target of 20 overall medals with five medals being gold.

Government financial support for sports in Sweden amounts to more than SEK 2 billion or approximately \$187 million USD and is divided into three parts: (a) organizational support for the Swedish Sports Confederation and the national sports federations; (b) subsidies to local sports clubs based on the extent of their activities for children and adolescents; and (c) various grants to sport federations and local clubs for time-limited

and earmarked development projects. National government funding to sport is largely drawn from tax revenues but has also for brief periods been tied to state-controlled gambling and the national lottery. Additional government support comes from municipalities (an estimated SEK 10 billion or \$935 million USD annually), mainly in the form of publicly funded facilities and grants to local clubs.

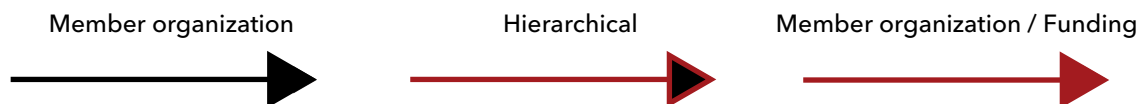
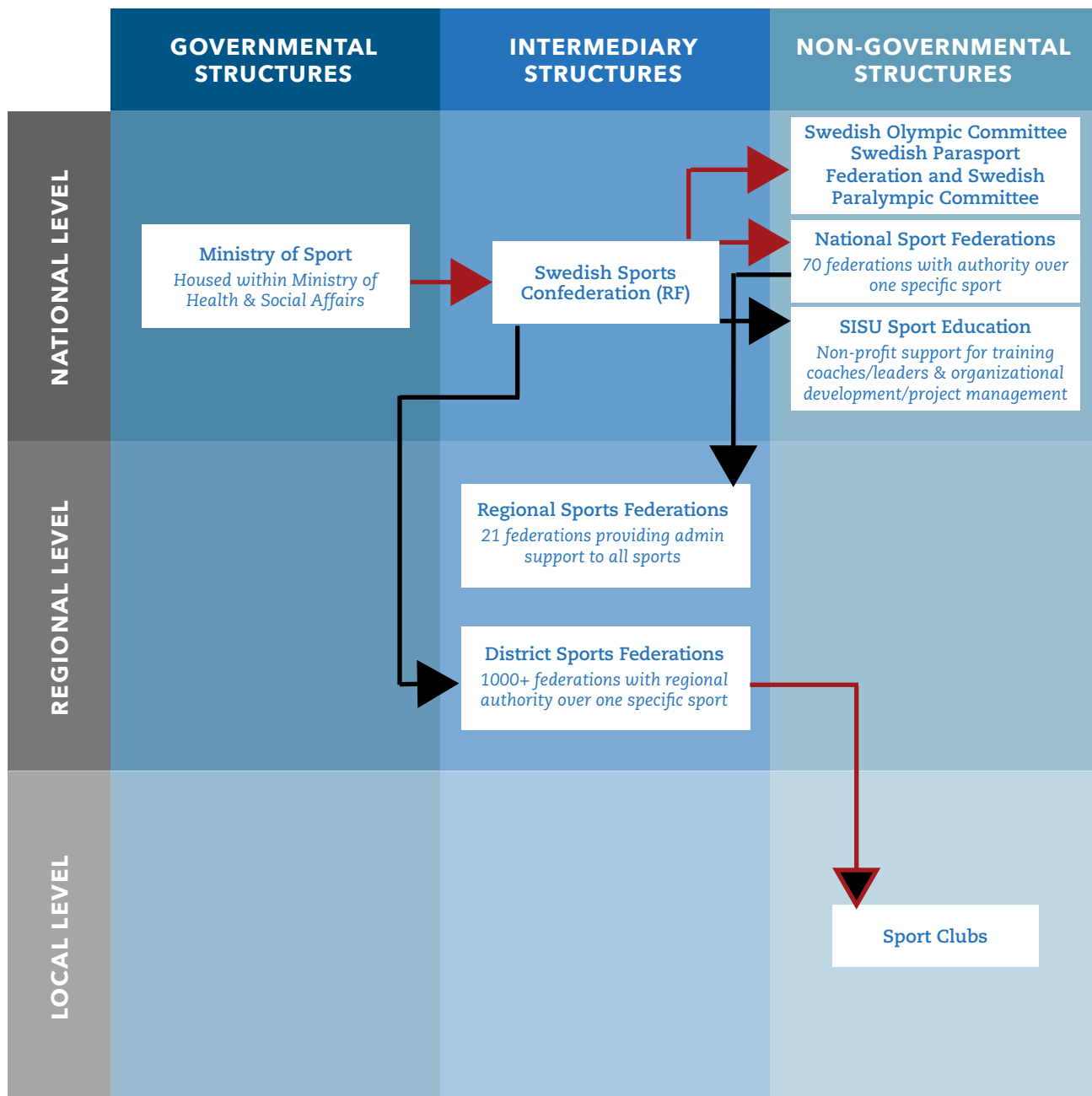
Reports of abuse and advice on safeguarding issues are directed to the [Sports Ombudsman](#), which consists of two employees and resides within the Swedish Sports Confederation. An anonymous whistleblower site has also been created to report issues via the web with follow-up action under an anonymous identity.

WHAT WE LIKE

Sweden’s national strategy is guided by values:

(1) joy and community, (2) democracy and participation in governance, (3) everyone’s right to participate, and (4) fair play. The clubs are predominately run by volunteers and are designed to serve children, young people, adults, and the elderly with sport and physical activity opportunities. Swedish sport has adopted the motto “as many as possible, for as long as possible.” The belief is more Olympic success will occur if sport is an inherent part of Swedish values and life goals.

Sport Governance in Sweden



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.