A Method to Establish the Current Situation of Olympic and Paralympic Sport in Brazil

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Governance/Policy - Other (Elite Sport)  
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Background
The aim of this study was to develop a method of establishing the current situation of Olympic and Paralympic sport in Brazil, with a focus on elite sport. The justification for such a study is that sport policy makers in Brazil have no precise information to formulate policy and take decisions about Olympic and Paralympic elite sport. The study took as a reference point the SPLISS (Sports Policy factors Leading to International Sporting Success) theoretical framework. The study is a joint project of the Brazilian Ministry of Sport and the Olympic Study Centre of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, and is carried out with the aim to become a legacy of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games for the future generations of Brazilian athletes.

Methodology
For the nine pillars proposed by SPLISS: financial support; governance, organization and structure of sport policies; foundation and participation in sport; talent identification and development system; athletic and post-career support; training facilities; coaching and coach development; international and national competition; and scientific research and innovation, specific instruments for data collection and analysis were developed to attend to Brazilian needs and characteristics. The study also included a pillar not originally proposed by SPLISS named: legislation.

Results
1) Financial Support: a guide to the collection of basic information in different Federal Brazilian databases about the sources, destinations and application of financial resources was developed. Seven public and three private sources of funding for elite sports were identified. These resources can be allocated to athletes, educational institutions, sports organizations or other public entities. And they can be applied in 18 different ways: sport equipment and materials, sport facilities, human resources (coaches, referees, athletes), talent identification, communication and information technology, scientific research and innovation, among others.

2) Governance, Organization and Structure of Sport Policies: a questionnaire was developed for members of the government and sport federations. There were identified and categorized 5151 entities linked to the Olympic and Paralympic sports, between national confederations, federations, clubs, schools, universities and public entities.

3) Legislation: the study included a documentary analysis of the Brazilian sport legislation, since organization and structure of sport policies in Brazil are in great deal established in Federal, State and City laws. From 1988 to 2016, Brazil produced 3930 normative acts related to sport: 10% (n = 389) at the federal, 24% (n = 946) state and 66% (n = 2595) at the city level.

4) Foundation and Participation in Sport: a questionnaire was constructed to survey the level of participation of the Brazilian population in sport. In 2013, 8902 people aged between 14 and 75 years were interviewed in all geographic regions of the country. The results showed that 25.6% of the respondents practice sports.

5) Talent Identification and Development System: a questionnaire was formulated for sport federations. It was noted that from the 5151 entities linked to the Olympic and Paralympic sport, only 262 (5%) reported having projects on talent identification and development system.

6) Athletic and Post-Career Support: a questionnaire for athletes was constructed to survey athletic and post-career support by sport federations. For post-career support, no program was found.
7) Coaching Provision and Development: questionnaires were formulated for coaches and sport federations. Among the sport federations, nine described to have coaching training programs.

8) Sport Facilities: a questionnaire was constructed for sport federations, with questions related to quantity and quality of training and other sport facilities, as well the characteristics of all sport equipment used by them. In this part of the study, computerized processing of georeferenced data were also used, which enabled the association of the location information of sports facilities to other information available in the project databases. In five regions of Brazil, it was cataloged 5522 sports facilities used for training and competition.

9) International and National Competitions: instruments for documentary analysis in electronic and non-electronic archives of Brazilian Sport Federations were developed. There were cataloged the participation and results of Brazilian athletes and teams in Olympic and Paralympic Games (Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016), as well as in 284 world, 77 continental and 91 national competitions.

10) Scientific research and Innovation: a guide to the collection of basic information in Brazilian databases on science and technology was elaborated, and questionnaires to coaches, athletes, sport federations, and sport scientists were constructed. The data were classified to allow identification of scientific production, distribution and consumption. To this were listed: the production of articles, dissertations and theses, in addition to laboratories and research groups; distribution through magazines, courses and conferences; and the consumption by the physical education schools, athletes, coaches and managers.

For the 10 surveyed pillars, the data collected were recorded in a database, standardized and systematized, which allows the study of each pillar and sport, as well as a joint and integrated approach to pillars and sports.

Conclusions
A method of establishing the current situation of Olympic and Paralympic sport in Brazil was constructed. Whilst SPLISS proved to be an important theoretical reference, several changes were necessary to deal with the peculiarities of the Brazilian Olympic and Paralympic sport system. The main difficulty was related to the development of very specific instruments of data collection to deal with such a situation.