Chapter 4
Sports Facilities

I. Current Status of Sports Facilities

1. Public, Private and School Facilities

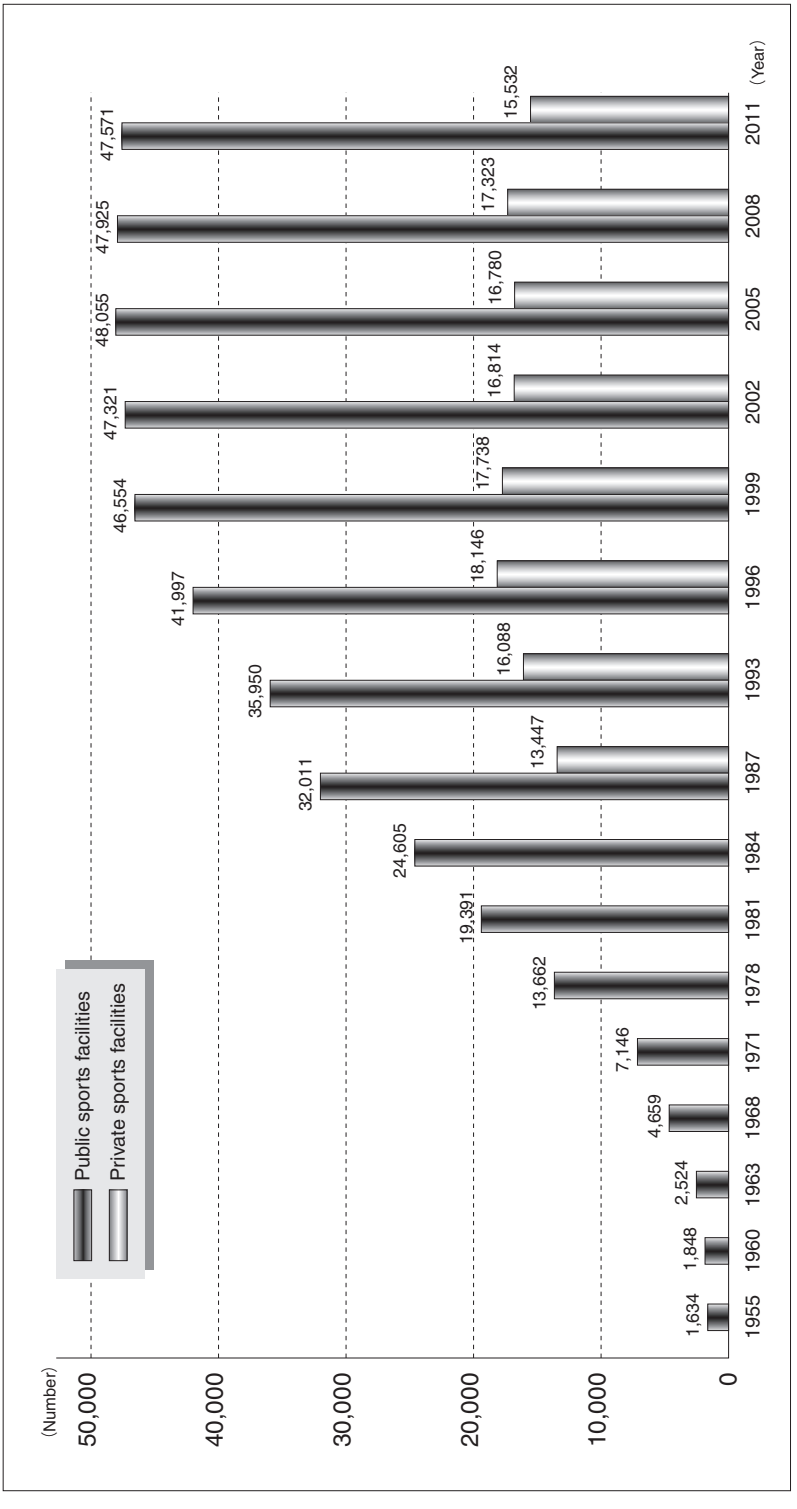
According to the "Social Education Survey" of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the number of public sports facilities in Japan increased from the time the survey started in the 1950s through the 1990s. However, the number stayed almost at the same level after 2002. In 2011, the number of public sports facilities was 47,571 (Figure 4-1). Based on the survey after 1987 (the first year that private sports facilities were included), the number of private sports facilities reached a peak in 1996, and continued to decline through 2011, where the number was recorded as 15,532.

Moreover, many schools and educational organizations own sports facilities such as gymnasiums, playgrounds and swimming pools, that are used for their physical education classes or school sports clubs. According to the "Survey on the Current Status of Facilities for Physical Education and Sports Activities" (2008) conducted by MEXT, there were 136,276 "school sports facilities" (in elementary, junior high, high, vocational schools, etc.) and 8,375 sports facilities at universities, colleges and technical colleges. In addition, the number of sports facilities for the welfare of employees amounted to 6,827, and 5,807 facilities were recorded being located with activity centers such as community centers, youth education facilities and women's education centers.

In Table 4-1, the number of public sports facilities and school sports facilities are shown by facility types. The public sports facilities were dominated by multi-purpose playgrounds (7,346), followed by gymnasiums (6,949), and baseball and softball fields (6,279). For school sports facilities, there were 37,339 gymnasiums, 35,933 multi-purpose playgrounds (with grounds of 992m^2 or more), and 28,171 swimming pools (outdoor).

Availability of School Sports Facilities

School sports facilities, which accounted for about 60% of the total number of sports facilities in Japan, have been made available for the use of local residents, pursuant to Article 13 of the Basic Act on Sport. Article



Social Education Survey (MEXT, 1955 - 2011)

Figure 4-1 Number of Public and Private Sports Facilities in Japan

13 states that "a party providing a national school or public school shall endeavor to provide sport facilities at the relevant school for use in general sport, as long as it does not cause any problems for education at the relevant school." According to the "Survey on the Current Status of Facilities for Physical Education and Sports Activities" (2008) conducted by MEXT, 98.3% of municipalities have school sports facilities that are open to local residents. When the availability of each facility type was calculated by dividing the number of schools allowing public access to their sports facilities by the total number of schools having sports facilities, gymnasiums had the highest availability rate at 87.3%, followed by outdoor sports fields (school grounds) at 80.0%, and swimming pools at 26.7%, suggesting that many schools had their gymnasiums and school grounds open to the public.

However, when the availability of those open facilities was closely looked at throughout the year, it was found that elementary school gymnasiums (which had the highest availability rate of 95.1%) were not necessarily available at all times. For example, such facilities were made available to the public only during the school holiday, or only on certain days when access was requested. Looking at the availability rate by days of the week during the school term, weekdays had the highest availability rate at 75.5%, followed by Saturdays at 67.4% and Sundays at 63.9%.

One of the issues affecting the availability of open facilities may be limitations placed on the use of facilities by any new groups, because existing groups feel the need to ensure their access to the schools and facilities during their service hours. Recently, however, some municipalities

Table 4-1 Number of Public Sports Facilities and School Sports Facilities by Facility Types

	Public sports facilities	School sports facilities
Multi-purpose playgrounds	7,346	35,933
Gymnasiums	6,949	37,339
Swimming pools (outdoor)	2,093	28,171
Swimming pools (indoor)	1,615	788
Tennis courts (outdoor)	4,963	9,542
Tennis courts (indoor)	194	80
Baseball / softball fields	6,279	1,914

Social Education Survey (MEXT, 2011)
Survey on the Current Status of Facilities for Physical Education and Sports Activities (MEXT, 2008)

have commissioned the operation of school facilities to comprehensive community sports clubs (see page 110), which have helped to raise the operation rates of those facilities. In order to make school sports facilities more open to local residents, it is necessary to take measures that will facilitate more effective use of these facilities.

2. Financial Resources for Sports Facilities

In Japan, public sports facilities are generally maintained or owned by the local government where the facility is located. Under the present difficult financial conditions, maintaining any facility can be a challenge, whether it be an existing public sports facility or any facility that has been newly constructed. Although the cost of maintenance or refurbishments for existing sports facilities is becoming a burden for local government, these facilities are still highly important for the local residents. Therefore, further efforts should be made by local governments to secure financial resources.

Table 4-2 shows some of the main subsidy programs that are available for maintaining public sports facilities. These programs are financed by the national treasury, and the financial resources for maintaining public sports facilities mainly come from the general funds of local governments, municipal bonds, government subsidies and prefectural subsidies. Among those subsidy programs, the subsidy from MEXT for the maintenance of public sports facilities and the subsidy from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) for the Maintenance of City Parks have made a particularly strong contribution to maintaining public sports facilities.

Subsidy for Public Sports Facility Maintenance

The Subsidy for Public Sports Facility Maintenance of MEXT was a financial assistance program which was intended to address the expenses occurring for the maintenance of community facilities including sports centers, swimming pools, outdoor sports centers and martial arts centers. This subsidy was available between the 1950s and 2005. When it reached a peak in 1985, the total amount of the government subsidy was 7.8 billion yen, however, this amount decreased to 1 billion yen in 2005 (Table 4-3). In 2006, the main subsidy program was renamed as “Grant for Safe and Reliable School Development”, and in 2011 it was again renamed as the “Grant for School Facility Improvement.” As the Subsidy for Public Sports Facility Maintenance has been included in the grants mentioned above since 2006, the exact amount of funding is unknown.

Table 4-2 Major Subsidy Programs for Sports Faclity Maintenance

Program	Period	Subsidy rate	Subject (Sports facility)
Subsidy for public sports facility maintenance	～2005	1/3	Public sports center, public swimming pool, public outdoor sports center, public martial arts center, etc.
Grant for safe and reliable school development	2006～2010	1/3	
Grant for school facility improvement	2011～	1/3	
Subsidy for city park maintenance	～2009	1/3 for the land 1/2 for the facility	Baseball field, track and field ground, football pitch, rugby ground, tennis court, basketball court, ski resort, swimming pool, boating course, skating rink, sumo arena, horse riding center, etc.
Grant for community development	2004～2009	Approximately 40% of the project cost	
Grant for comprehensive social infrastructure development	2010～	If the subsidy rate is indicated by any existing law, that rate shall be applied, otherwise the subsidy rate is 50%.	
Grant for areas with electric power stations	1974～	The maximum amount of the grant is decided based on the facility and operational conditions of electric power stations. The amount of the grant is determined by each municipality.	Gymnasium, swimming pool, sports ground, park , green area, ski resort, skating rink, camp ground, promenade, cycling road, etc.
Grant for environmental improvement of areas with specified defense facilities	1974～	The amount of the grant is determined by each municipality.	Sports or recreational facility (gymnasium, sports ground, park, etc.)
Grant for maintenance of the natural environment	2005～	Up to 45%	Nature trail within a national park
Grant for maintenance of facilities for regional exchages	2002～ (new program is till 2009)	In principle, around 30% of the expenses are subject to the subsidy	Sports and recreation facility

Research on the Public Sports Facilities Management Fund (Miyazaki & SSF, 2012)

Table 4-3 Trends in the Amounts of Subsidies for Public Sports Facility Maintenance from MEXT

Fiscal year	Amount (in thousands of yen)	Program
1985	7,791,344	Subsidy for public sports facility maintenance
1986	6,672,682	
1987	5,801,441	
1988	5,801,441	
1989	6,346,479	
1990	6,346,479	
1991	6,647,369	
1992	6,684,800	
1993	6,640,757	
1994	5,116,912	
1995	4,712,016	
1996	4,793,715	
1997	4,387,695	
1998	4,033,650	
1999	3,011,936	
2000	2,369,554	
2001	1,472,114	
2002	1,286,094	
2003	1,169,080	
2004	1,060,420	
2005	1,023,000	
2006	49,449,000	Grant for safe and reliable school development *The amount of the subsidy for public sports facility maintenance is included in this grant, but its details are unknown.
2007	70,970,000	
2008	74,867,000	
2009	75,068,000	
2010	78,354,000	
2011	43,587,000	Grant for school facility improvement *The amount of the subsidy for public sports facility maintenance is included in this grant, but its details are unknown.
2012	24,339,000	
2013	39,477,000	

Note : Only the initial budget is shown.
Funding related to the National stadium and the Nagano Olympic games is not included.

MEXT (2013)

Subsidy for City Park Maintenance

The Subsidy for City Park Maintenance of MLIT was a financial assistance program which was provided for maintenance projects of city parks, including district parks for neighboring residents, general city parks, large-scale parks, government-run parks and green parks. This program was implemented between the 1950s and 2009. Among these city parks, many playgrounds (used as the major public sports facility) were categorized as a type of general city park by MLIT. This subsidy program was available to a wide range of facilities, including large-scale facilities such as baseball fields, track and fields, football grounds, sumo arenas and archery ranges (Table 4-4).

Currently, the Subsidy for City Park Maintenance has been integrated with the "Grant for Comprehensive Social Infrastructure Development", which is a system established in 2010 to provide individual subsidies to the local governments under the jurisdiction of MLIT as lump sum payments.

Subsidy for Community Sports Facility Maintenance

In addition to the government-funded subsidy programs, there is a subsidy program which is financed by revenue from the sales of the Sports Promotion Lottery (toto). This program, operated by the Japan Sport Council (JSC), is known as the "Sports Promotion Lottery Subsidy." Among the various subsidy programs offered under the Sports Promotion Lottery Subsidy, the "Community Sports Facility Maintenance Subsidy" and the "Large-Scale Sports Facility Maintenance Subsidy" are the two main programs available for sports facilities.

The Community Sports Facility Maintenance Subsidy supports three types of projects: maintenance of sports clubhouses, planting lawn on pitches, and maintenance of sports facilities. Subsidies are available to eligible candidates from local governments, sports associations and comprehensive community sports clubs with a corporate capacity. In 2013, a total subsidy amount of 4.13 billion yen was provided to 190 projects.

The Large-Scale Sports Facility Maintenance Subsidy is a program intended to support the maintenance of the stadiums of J. League clubs and the venues for the Winter National Sports Festivals. In 2013, a total subsidy amount of 1.57 billion yen was provided to 7 projects.

Table 4-4 Main Facilities of City Parks subjected to the Subsidy

Type	Garden/ Ground	Leisure facility	Recreation facility	Sport facility	
Category	Garden	Resting place	Swing	Baseball field	Ski resort
	Ground	Bench	Slide	Track and field	Sumo arena
		Outdoor table	Seesaw	Football ground	Archery range
		Camping area	Jungle gym	Rugby ground	Horse riding course
		Others	Ladder	Tennis court	Horizontal bar
			Sandpit	Basketball court	Rings
			Shallow pool	Volleyball court	
				Gateball court	Others (similar to those listed above)
				Swimming pool	
				Hot spring health and sports faclity	Accompanying structures
				Sports facility for rehabilitation	(stands, shower rooms, etc.)
				Boating course	
				Skating rink	

MEXT (2013)

II. Sports Facilities for High Performance Sports

1. The National Training Center

For the purpose of enhancing Japan's international competitiveness, the National Training Center (NTC) was opened in 2008 (following the opening of the track and field training zone in 2007). It is currently the primary training center responsible for: (a) conducting intensive and continuous activities to enhance performance of athletes in a national team; (b) fostering junior athletes based on athlete development programs; and (c) improving the quality of instructors (national coaches) for high performance athletes.

The NTC is managed pursuant to the development policies of core facilities on a national level specified under the "Basic Plan for the Promotion of Sports", that was formulated by MEXT in September 2000. Based on these policies, its management was delegated to JSC. The annual operating expenses of the NTC have varied from 1.07 billion yen (in FY2010) to 1.33 billion yen (in FY2011) and then 960 million yen (in FY2012). With regard to the operations of the NTC, the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) is striving to make more effective use of the center by expanding projects that include athlete training camps and the JOC Sports Academy (JOC Elite Academy Program, JOC National Coach Academy Program and JOC Career Academy Program) in cooperation with the national governing bodies of sports (NGBs). For the first time in Japan, the NTC has a sponsor with the naming rights, and the center is often referred to as the "Ajinomoto National Training Center."

The NTC has training facilities dedicated to 17 different types of sports. Its indoor training center consists of various training fields exclusively dedicated to ten different types of sports, as well as a track and field complex (containing a 400m all-weather track with six lanes, an infield track, a sloping track, a sand track, etc.) and an indoor tennis court (with two hard courts and two en-tout-cas courts). Furthermore, more facilities for five other sports are available at the Japan Institute of Sports Sciences (JISS) adjacent to the NTC.

Each training facility is exclusively designed for a particular sport and is equipped with the tools and equipment that conform to international rules with the aim of providing an environment where elite athletes can concentrate on their training in a relaxed state. The "Athlete's Village" can accommodate 448 people, and is used for various types of camps and long-term stays. The "Sakura Dining" facility also provides well-balanced and high quality meals which are essential for maintaining the physical

condition of athletes. By collaborating with the Sports Medicine/Science Research Program and the Sports Clinic Program operated by the JISS, the NTC is able to provide effective training that incorporates sports medicine and science.

Among the 38 medals won by athletes at the 2012 London Olympics, 34 medals were received by the 17 sports where the NTC provides exclusive training facilities. Moreover, 69 out of the 80 top-eight finishes were from those 17 sports. As indicated by these results, the highly advanced training that is provided to athletes at the NTC, development in sports medicine and science at the JISS, and multi-support programs provided to sports that have potential to win medals, have all contributed to the results achieved at the 2012 London Olympics. Although NGBs used to arrange their own training facilities individually in the past, as a result of the establishment of the NTC, there has been more active communication between and across organizations at all levels, including between athletes, coaches and support staff, all of which further deepen the sense of unity as "Team Japan."

Some sports such as water sports (sailing, boating and canoeing), outdoor sports (football, hockey, cycling, horse riding, rifle shooting, pentathlon and archery) and high-altitude training cannot be accommodated by the NTC, therefore, existing training facilities throughout the country have been designated as "Event-Specific Affiliated National Training Center Facilities" since 2007. Strong collaborations, as well as an information network system, have been built between the NTC and those facilities.

Usage of the NTC

To ensure the effective and efficient operation of the NTC's exclusive training facilities, an annual usage plan is prepared by national coaches, assistant national coaches and coaching directors. In the four years from 2008 to 2011, almost all of the NTC's exclusive training facilities showed a high occupancy rate and were occupied over 300 days every year. By using the facilities at the NTC, sports organizations are now able to conduct national level practices and training camps in a more stable and productive manner.

The "Athlete's Village" has also been designed to accommodate the various needs of athletes by offering different types of rooms, such as single, twin and apartment-type rooms, where the JOC Elite Academy athletes can stay on a longer term. The "Athlete's Village" offers comfortable living environments as well as various amenities such as a large public bath, a theater room and a Japanese-style room. Compared to the number of users in FY2008, which was 52,132 people in total, the number in FY2011 increased

to 78,773. The occupancy rate (which was obtained by dividing the number of rooms in use by the total number of rooms) was 68.8% in FY2008, 75.7% in FY2009, 75.2% in FY2010 and 59.7% in FY2011.

2. Event-Specific Affiliated National Training Center Facilities

Since 2007, MEXT designated a number of existing facilities as "Event-Specific Affiliated National Training Center Facilities". The background for such designation is the need to establish a network between sports in which training facilities for elite athletes are available at the NTC, and those sports in which training facilities are not available at the NTC. This includes winter sports, water sports and outdoor sports, as well as high-altitude training. As of October 1, 2013, 22 facilities have been designated as "Event-Specific Affiliated National Training Center Facilities" for 19 sports and a high-altitude training activity (Table 4-5).

The Nagano Municipal Bobsleigh & Luge Park (The Spiral)

The Spiral was constructed as an Olympic venue for the 1998 Winter Olympics held in Nagano City. It is the only facility available in Asia where official competitions for bobsleigh, luge and skeleton can be held. The construction cost of the Spiral was approximately 10.1 billion yen (with around 9.5 billion yen for the facility itself and 600 million yen for the land) and it is managed directly by the Physical Education Division of the Nagano City Board of Education. In 2007, the Spiral was designated as the Event-Specific Affiliated NTC Facility for bobsleigh, luge and skeleton by MEXT, and since then it has contributed to enhancing Japan's international competitiveness as the training base for elite athletes in those sports.

The bobsleigh/luge track is 1,700 meters long and has a total of 15 curves. With a high regard given to its environmental impact, the course was designed to suit the shape of the land, resulting in a unique design with two uphill sections in the middle of the course. A short course has also been created to accommodate visitors who would like to experience luge/skeleton rides. The long track can be used only for about two months every year, in December and January when the track is artificially frozen. In addition to a starting hut, a control building, measurement facilities and storage facilities that are all necessary for the sports, and a 120m push-start track (a wheeled training course) has also been built within the facility. Moreover, after being designated as the Event-Specific Affiliated NTC Facility, the Spiral added a training gym as a separate facility for carded elite athletes, and two full-time NTC staff are employed to provide athletes with support around sports medicine and science.

Table 4-5 Event-Specific Affiliated National Training Center Facilities

Category	Sports	Designated facilities	Location
Winter sports	Ski Jumping	Sapporo jump stadium (Okurayama, Miyanomori)	Hokkaido
	Nordic skiing	Hakuba ski jumping stadium and Hakuba cross country course	Nagano
	Speed skating	Nagano olympic memorial arena, "M-Wave"	Nagano
		Meiji Hokkaido-Tokachi oval (an indoor speed skating rink in the Obihiro-no-mori)	Hokkaido
	Figure skating	Chukyo university, "Aurora hall"	Aichi
	Short track speed skating	Teisan ice skate training center	Nagano
	Ice hockey	Tomakomai city Hakucho arena	Hokkaido
	Bobsleigh/luge	Nagano bobsleigh luge park, "The Spiral"	Nagano
	Curling	Karuizawa kazakoshi park arena curling stadium (Karuizawa ice park)	Nagano
	Biathlon	Nishioka biathlon stadium	Hokkaido
Water sports	Sailing	Wakayama sailing center (Dinghy marina)	Wakayama
	Boating	Toda park boat course & Toda boathouse	Saitama
	Canoeing	Kibagata canoe course	Ishikawa
Outdoor sports	Football	J-Green Sakai	Osaka
	Hockey	Gifu prefectural green stadium	Gifu
	Cyling	Japan cycle sports center	Shizuoka
	Equestrian	Gotenba horsemanship and sports center	Shizuoka
	Shooting raifle	Nagatoro shooting range	Saitama
	Modern pentathlon	Japan Self-Defense Forces physical training school	Saitama
	Archery	Yamaha resort archery stadium, "Tsumagoi"	Shizuoka
High-altitude training		Hida ontake kougen highland sports training area	Gifu
		Zao bodaira athlete village	Yamagata
Total：20 sports, 22 facilities			

MEXT (2013)

In 2012, a total of 2,221 athletes ran the course for 4,516 times. Additionally, there were 4,595 visitors to the Spiral (not including athletes), meaning that about 380 people visited the facility on a monthly average.

Freezing the surface of the 1,700 meter long course requires a great deal of maintenance and labor costs. In order to cool down the entire course, a non-freezing liquid which is cooled to minus 20 degrees Celsius is continuously poured into the pipes that run through beneath the course. Around 50 staffs are required to make surface ice around-the-clock for two weeks. Damage caused by the aging of the facility cannot be avoided, resulting in annual operational and repair costs to reach around 200 million yen.

Although the presence of the Spiral is quite significant, it is possible that sports like bobsleigh, luge and skeleton may not survive in the sports market, and the characteristics of its high cost place a serious burden on the municipal government.

The Karuizawa Kazakoshi Park Curling Arena (The Karuizawa Ice Park)

The Karuizawa Ice Park is the largest year-round curling arena in Japan, and opened on April 1, 2013. In accordance with the project specified in the "Act on the Construction of Karuizawa as Town of International Goodwill, Culture and Tourism" enacted in 2001, the "redevelopment of a cultural resource for winter sports" has been carried out, and the Karuizawa Ice Park is conceived as a park that will also boost tourism. The total construction cost was approximately 2.1 billion yen and was covered by the Karuizawa Town and Government Subsidy for Park Maintenance project. The designated manager is the Kazakoshi Park Co-operation (a joint venture of the public corporation "Karuizawa Town Sinko Kosha" and the NPO "SC Karuizawa Club"). Since this appointment, the company has managed the park through funding of approximately 100 million yen every year. The primary training base for curling has now moved to the Karuizawa Ice Park from the SCAP Karuizawa, which had been the major base for curling since the opening of the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. Meanwhile, the SCAP Karuizawa will be refurbished, and reopen in 2014 as an indoor swimming pool.

The Karuizawa Ice Park is installed with six curling sheets and 367 audience seats (including those for coaches) and is fitted with permanent panel heaters, staff rooms, an ice making room, a doping control room, dressing rooms and shower rooms. It has a total seating capacity (including temporary seating) of approximately 1,000 people. The facility also has ceiling-mounted TV cameras that can track every move of players and the

curling stone. Other features include a multi-purpose space from where the curling sheets can be viewed, a cafe and conference rooms. Adjacent to the facility, there are also other outside sports facilities that include a roller skating rink and an artificial turf-covered Futsal court that are open during the summer season, and a 400m^2 ice-skating rink that is open during the winter season.

In total, the number of people who used the facility for the four months from April through July 2013, was 8,617 people for the curling hall, 391 people for the roller skating rink and 637 people for the Futsal court. As well as curling-related sports organizations, the facility was used by a wide range of groups such as college students participating in college teams or research seminar camps, individuals or companies participating in conventions held in town, and companies or organizations visiting Karuizawa for company retreats or training. This "curling town" has contributed to the revitalization of the local community as well as promotion of curling.

Through the MEXT's project to ensure proper utilization of the Event-Specific Affiliated NTC Facility, a national subsidy of approximately 15 million yen has been allocated to the Karuizawa Town Sinko Kosha to improve the training environment of the curling facility, and to enrich the athletic support provided through sports medicine and science. This subsidy has been used to cover the cost of rinks and training center rooms for both the men's and women's national teams. Curling became an official Olympic event at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics (although previously held at the 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix for the men's division). There is a high expectation within the community that the Karuizawa Ice Park will not only increase the number of curling players and enhance Japan's international competitiveness in curling, but also attract more tourists to Karuizawa.

Karuizawa Ice Park Appearance

The Zao Bodaira Athlete Village

The Zao Bodaira Athlete Village is a high-altitude training facility which was built in Kaminoyama City, Yamagata Prefecture in 1997. In Kaminoyama City (where track and field has always been popular) the construction of the Village included land reclamation work that took place at a cost of approximately 1 billion yen. Since 2008, the Village has been designated as an Event-Specific Affiliated NTC Facility.

There are three main facilities within the Village: the Bodaira Green Ground which is an all-weather sports ground; the Cross Country Course which is the first permanent course in Eastern Japan; and the ZAO Tairagura which is equipped with indoor training rooms and a gymnasium.

There is another Event-Specific Affiliated NTC Facility for high-altitude training in Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture - the Hida Ontake Highland Training Center. However, because its altitude exceeds 2,000 meters, it is considered the most suitable for senior athletes who have previous experience in high-altitude training. Zao Bodaira Athlete Village, on the other hand, with an altitude of around 1,000 meters, is suitable for junior athletes and beginners, and can be utilized for other sports or events that are not limited to track and field, such as ball games and winter sports.

The facility is administered by the Tourism Division of Kaminoyama City and is managed by the Yamako Resort, a local company appointed as the designated manager. The designated management fee is between 25 to 30 million yen per year, and the revenue and expenditure are almost balanced. The Yamako Resort also operates a ski resort near the facility, and its lodges have been accommodating athletes, allowing to serve both the training facility and the accommodation at the same time. Moreover, the lodge has a low oxygen chamber and a high pressure oxygen cabin installed, offering an environment where athletes can focus on their training and recovery in a more structured manner.

Since its designation as an Event-Specific Affiliated NTC Facility in 2008, the number of users has been on the rise, reaching a total of at least 70,000 people in FY2012 (users of the three facilities and guests of the lodge combined). Future plans are to promote the Village as the main venue for high-altitude training in Japan to improve international competitiveness by developing a better quality training environment, increasing access for junior athletes and local sports organizations, and establishing a sports medicine and science-based framework of support.

III. Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities

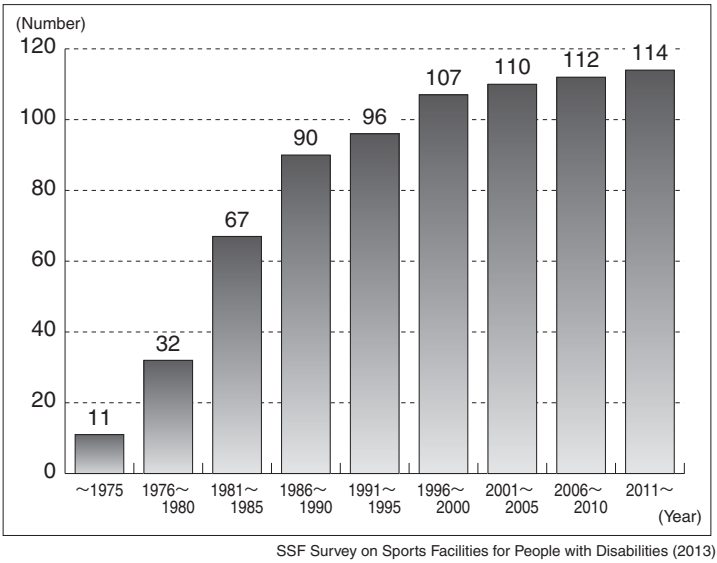
1. Sports Centers for People with Disabilities

Sports centers for people with disabilities allow people with disabilities to have exclusive or priority access. These centers are equipped with a range of facilities, such as gymnasiums, swimming pools, playgrounds and training rooms, which have been designed to be more easily used by people with disabilities. As of 2013, there were 114 of these facilities located throughout Japan. Of these sports centers, 96.5% are equipped with a gymnasium, 41.2% with a training room, 39.5% with a swimming pool, 22.8% with a playground, 17.5% with an archery range, 15.8% with a table tennis room and 9.6% with a tennis court.

Along with universal design features, such as the elimination of steps, the installation of Braille blocks and barrier-free restrooms, to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities, these facilities also offer a variety of information resources to assist people with disabilities. Such resources include the use of visual displays for people with intellectual disabilities and an electronic bulletin board to assist people with hearing impairments. Moreover, tools and equipment that allow people with disabilities to participate in sports, as well as full-time disability sports instructors are available in most of the centers, which often serve as a community hub for disability sports activities.

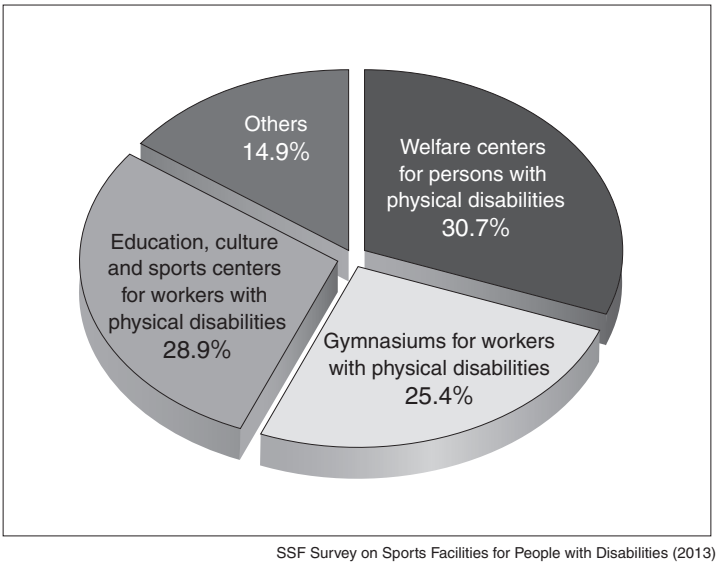
Regarding the management system of these facilities, 83.3% of the centers are managed by designated managers, 15.8% are managed directly by the local government and 0.9% are managed by the central government. Of those 95 facilities with designated managers, 67.4% are managed by Social Welfare Council, Social Welfare Corporation or Rehabilitation Corporation; 9.5% are managed by Sports Association or Sports Promotion Foundation; 7.4% by sports association for the disabled; and 5.3% by private companies.

About half of the sports centers for people with disabilities were built in the 1980s, and only a few centers have been constructed after 1980s (Figure 4-2). Based on the background purposes for their establishment, sports centers for people with disabilities can be divided into the following four types (Figure 4-3):



SSF Survey on Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities (2013)

Figure 4-2 Trends in the Number of Sports Centers for People with Disabilities



SSF Survey on Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities (2013)

Figure 4-3 Categories of Sports Centers for People with Disabilities Based on the Purpose of their Establishment

1. Welfare Centers for the Persons with Physical Disabilities (Type A)
   Facilities specified in the Act for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons, aimed at supporting social participation of persons with physical disabilities.
2. Gymnasiums for Workers with Physical Disabilities
   Facilities formerly known as "Gymnasiums for Workers with Physical Disabilities" were established in 1961 by the Employment Promotion Corporation, with the aim of improving welfare and more stable employment of workers with physical disabilities.
3. Education, Culture and Sports Centers for Workers with Physical Disabilities (The Sun Centers)
   Facilities formerly known as "Education, Culture and Sports Centers for Workers with Physical Disabilities (The Sun Centers)" were also established by the Employment Promotion Corporation, with the aim of making use of available facilities to improve the physical functions, physical fitness, communication, education and cultural welfare of workers with physical disabilities.
4. Others
   Facilities that have been established by prefectures or ordinance-designated cities for purposes other than those listed above (1 to 3).