

Chapter 4

Sports Facilities

I. Current Status of Sports Facilities

1. Public, Private and School Facilities

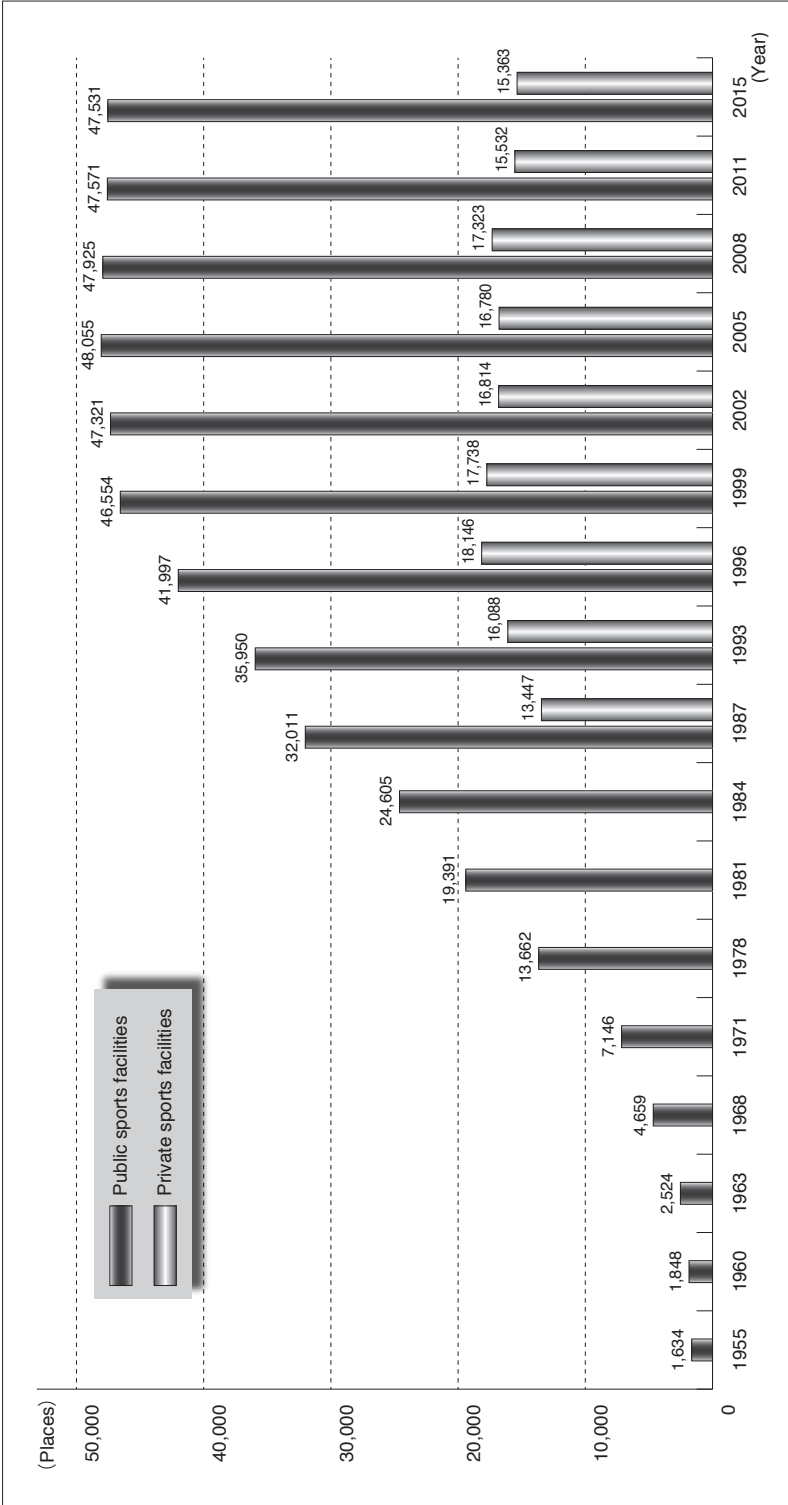
According to the “Social Education Survey” of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the number of public sports facilities in Japan increased from the time the survey started in the 1950s through the 1990s. However, the number stayed almost at the same level after 2002. In 2011, the number of public sports facilities was 47,531 (Figure 4-1). On the other hand, the number of private sports facilities reached a peak in 1996 with 18,146, then continued to decline through 2015 where the number was recorded as 15,363.

Moreover, many schools and educational organizations own sports facilities such as gymnasiums, playgrounds and swimming pools, which 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 (7,568), followed by gymnasiums (7,112), and baseball and softball fields (6,267). For school sports facilities, there were 37,339 gymnasiums, 35,933 multi-purpose playgrounds (with grounds of 992m² or more), and 28,171 swimming pools (outdoor).

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



Social Education Survey (MEXT, 1955-2015)

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

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 and grant 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 programs, the grants from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) have been making a particularly strong contribution to maintaining public sports facilities.

Grant for School Facility Improvement

Funds required to implement the projects outlined in the facility improvement plans created by local municipalities in accordance with article 12-2 of the Act on National Treasury's Sharing of Expenses for Facilities of Compulsory Education Schools, etc. (2006) are provided by the national government in the form of the Grant for School Facility Improvement, as established in the first paragraph of the same article. This grant program began in 2011 and is under the jurisdiction of MEXT.

Until 2005, the Subsidy for Public Sports Facilities Maintenance

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

	Public sports facilities	School sports facilities
Multi-purpose playgrounds	7,568	35,933
Gymnasiums	7,112	37,339
Baseball / softball fields	6,267	1,914
Tennis courts (outdoor)	4,810	9,542
Swimming pools (outdoor)	1,874	28,171
Gateball / Croquet fields	1,839	2
Training Centres	1,715	1,747

Table 4-2 Major Subsidy and Grant Programs for Sports Facility Maintenance

Ministry	Program	Period	Budget in 2015 (in hundred million yen)	Sports facilities	Subsidy rate
MEXT	Grant for School Facility Improvement	2011 ~	231	Public sports centers, public swimming pools, public outdoor sports centers, public martial arts centers, etc.	1/3
	Grant for Comprehensive Social Infrastructure Development	2010 ~	9,018	Facilities of city parks	1/2
Lands of city parks		1/3			
MLIT	Grant for Disaster Prevention and Safety	2013 ~	10,947	Facilities of disaster prevention parks	1/2
				Lands of disaster prevention parks	1/3
MET/MLIT	Grant for Areas with Electric Power Stations	1974 ~	985	Gymnasium, swimming pool, sports ground, park, green area, ski resort, skating rink, camp ground, promenade, cycling road, etc.	The amount of the grant is determined by each municipality.
				Green area and other public spaces at parks	6/10
Ministry of Defence	Subsidies for Stabilizing People's Livelihoods	1974 ~	234	Green area and other public spaces at outdoor sports ground	2/3
				Sports and recreational facilities combined with exhibition and classes related to sports	7.5/10
				Sports and Educational facilities promoting international exchange	7.5/10
Ministry of Environment	Grant for Environmental Improvement of Areas with Specified Defense Facilities	1974 ~	360	Sports or recreational facility	The amount of the grant is determined by each municipality.
				Nature trail at quasi National park	Up to 45%
	Nature trail at National park	2005 ~ 2015 ~	139		1/2

MEXT : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

MLIT : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

METI : Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

SSF Research on Subsidy and Grant System for Public Sports Facilities (2016)

provided the funds needed to maintain public athletics facilities, which make up a large percentage of public sports facilities. In line with the ideas set forth in the Sports Promotion Act (1961), this grant was offered to local municipalities with the intention of promoting sports by improving sports facilities; 1 billion yen was appropriated for this purpose in 2005 (Table 4-3). Then in 2006, the so-called “trinity reforms” (revision of the cost-sharing details of government grants, transfer of tax revenue sources, and revision of tax allocated to local governments) led to the Subsidy for Public Sports Facilities Maintenance and other grants being converted into the Grant for Safe and Reliable School Development. Then, the grant program was renamed in 2011 as Grant for School Facility Improvement, which how it is known today.

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

Fiscal year	Amount (in thousands of yen)	Program
2000	2,369,554	Subsidy for public sports facility maintenance
2001	1,472,114	
2002	1,286,094	
2003	1,169,080	
2004	1,060,420	
2005	1,023,000	
2006	49,499,000	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	
2014	19,731,000	
2015	23,094,000	
2016	28,188,000	

Note : Initial budget is shown.

Funding related to the National Stadium and the Nagano Winter Olympic Games is not included.

MEXT(2016)

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 2016, a total subsidy amount of 7.19 billion yen was provided to 284 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 2016, a total subsidy amount of 3.81 billion yen was provided to 7 projects.



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.

2. Japan High Performance Sport Center

In May 2015, MEXT created an expert panel to discuss and conduct a research on a base for sustainable advancement of top athletes performance for international competitiveness. The panel's final report submitted in January 2016 identified the Olympic and Paralympic events as high performance sports based on the Basic Act on Sport (2011) and the Sport Basic Plan (2012). The report proposed combining the existing Japan Institute of Sports Sciences and the National Training Center, which is located in the Nishigaoka area of Kita Ward in Tokyo, into the Japan High Performance Center that would serve as a base for athlete enhancement and research activities. Since 2016, JSC has been teamed up with the Japanese Olympic Committee and Japanese Paralympic Committee to manage and operate the facilities.

3. 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 February 2017, 28 facilities have been designated as "Event-Specific Affiliated National Training Center Facilities" for 22 sports and a high-altitude training activity (Table 4-4).

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

Category	Sports category	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
	Figure skating	Meiji Hokkaido-Tokachi oval (an indoor speed skating rink in the Obihiro-no-mori)	Hokkaido
	Short track speed skating	Chukyo university, "Aurora hall"	Aichi
	Ice hockey	Teisan ice skate training center	Nagano
	Bobsleigh/luge	Tomakomai city Hakucho arena	Hokkaido
	Curling	Nagano bobsleigh luge park, "The Spiral"	Nagano
	Biathlon	Karuizawa kazakoshi park arena curling stadium (Karuizawa ice park)	Nagano
		Nishioka biathlon stadium	Hokkaido
Water sports	Sailing	Wakayama sailing center (Dinghy marina)	Wakayama
	Boating	Toda park boat course & Toda boathouse	Saitama
	Canoeing sprint	Kibagata canoe course *	Ishikawa
	Canoeing slalom	Toyama city sports canoe center	Toyama
		J-Green Sakai	Osaka
Outdoor sports	Football	Gifu prefectural green stadium	Gifu
	Hockey	Japan cycle sports center *	Shizuoka
	Cycling	Golenba horsemanship and sports center	Shizuoka
	Equestrian	Nagatoro shooting range	Saitama
	Shooting rifle	Kanagawa prefectural Isehara shooting range	Kanagawa
	Shooting clay target	Japan Self-Defense Forces physical training school	Saitama
	Modern pentathlon	Yamaha resort archery stadium, "Tsumagoi"	Shizuoka
	Archery	Kumagaya Sports Culture Park	Saitama
	Rugby sevens	Phoenix Seagaia Resort	Miyazaki
	Golf	Phoenix Seagaia Resort	Miyazaki
	Triathlon	Phoenix Seagaia Resort	Miyazaki
	Diving	Tokyo Tatsumi International swimming center	Tokyo
	Others	High-altitude training	Hida otake kougen highland sports training area Zao bodaira athlete village
Total : 22 sports, 28 facilities			

※ Joint use with Paralympic athletes.
As of February 2017.

Since 2016, NTC training centers focused on Paralympic events have also been designated. Fifteen facilities have been designated for 15 different events as of February 2017 (Table 4-5).

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

Sports category	Designated facilities	Location
Athletics	Tanabe Sports Park	Wakayama
Wheelchair tennis	The Yoshida Memorial Tennis Training Center	Chiba
Triathlon	Phoenix Seagaia Resort	Miyazaki
Football 5-a-side	ZOZOPARK HONDA FOOTBALL AREA	Chiba
Biathlon	Abashiri Shooting Range	Hokkaido
Para ice hockey	Yamabiko Skating Complex	Nagano
Wheelchair basketball	Chiba Port Arena	Chiba
Boccia	Osaka City MAISHIMA Sports Center for Persons with Disabilities	Osaka
Powerlifting	Kyoto Prefectural Welfare Center for People with Mental and Physical Disabilities	Kyoto
Sitting volleyball	Himeji city hall annex	Hyogo
Goalball	Tokorozawa Municipal Gymnasium	Saitama
Swimming	Paul Rusch Athletics Center	Tokyo
Wheelchair fencing	Former Kyoto City Sanno Elementary School	Kyoto
Total : 15 sports, 15 facilities		

Total facilities includes 3 joint use with Olympic sports.
As of February 2017.

Japan Sports Agency (2017)

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. The SSF “Research on sports facilities for people with disabilities” (2016) reported that there were 139 such facilities in Japan in 2015. Of these, 96.5% of facilities are equipped with gymnasiums, 41.2% with training rooms, 39.5% with swimming pools, 22.8% with playgrounds, 17.5% with archery ranges, 15.8% with table-tennis rooms, and 9.6% with tennis courts.

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.

According to the same survey above, 85.5% of these facilities are run by designated managers, while 14.5% are managed directly by their local governments. Of the facilities with designated managers, 30.2% are managed by quasi-governmental social welfare corporations, 18.9% by social welfare councils, 10.4% by social welfare corporations and disability sports associations, and 8.5% by welfare associations for people with physical disabilities.

About half of the sports centers for people with disabilities were built in the 1980s, and only a few centers have been constructed since then. Based on the background purposes for their establishment, sports centers for people with disabilities can be divided into the following seven types (Figure 4-2). By March 2006, all type 2 and type 3 facilities was transferred to municipalities and they are currently being managed by a variety of organizations.

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

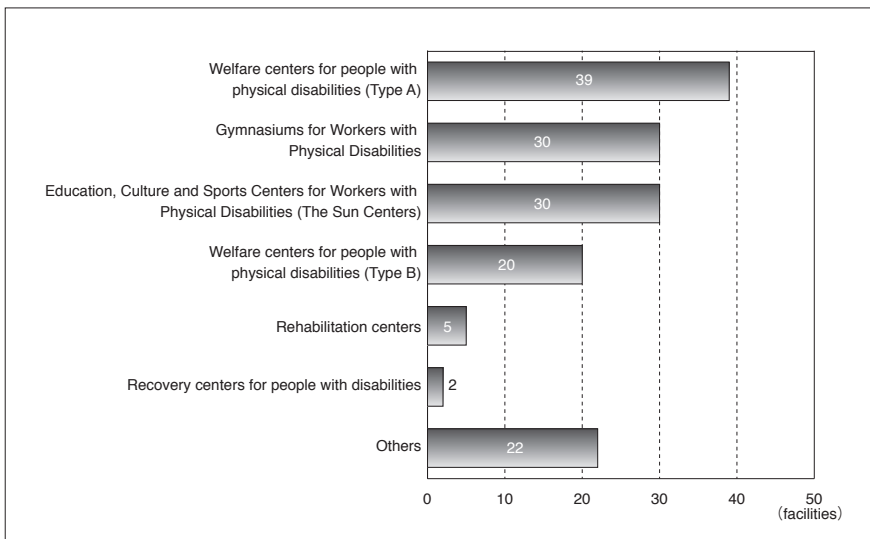
Facilities formerly known as “Gymnasiums for Workers with Physical Disabilities” were established in 1961 by the Employment Promotion Corporation, with the aim of improving welfare and more stable employment of workers with physical disabilities.

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. Welfare centers for people with physical disabilities (Type B)

Welfare centers as defined by the Act on Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons that are at least 424 square meters in size and offer creative activities, opportunities to be productive, encouragement to interact with the world, volunteer training, and other services that will help people with physical disabilities participate in society.



Note: Since some facilities correspond to several types, the total does not add up to 139.

SSF Research on Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities (2016)

Figure 4-2 Number of Sports Facilities with Exclusive or Priority Access for People with Disability by Categories

5. Rehabilitation centers

Facilities that offer complete support services to people with disabilities, from functional recovery training to reentry into society.

6. Recovery centers for people with disabilities

These welfare centers are designed for people with physical disabilities in order to improve their health and social participation by providing a place where they or family members can freely lodge, rest, or engage in recreation at.

7. Others

Facilities that have been established by prefectures or ordinance-designated cities for purposes other than those listed above (1 to 6).

Usage of sports facilities with exclusive or priority access for disabled people

The method each sports facility with exclusive or priority access for disabled people uses to calculate visitor numbers varies; 54.0% of these facilities determine it by totaling the number of individuals who complete the sign-up process at the reception desk, while 36.5% count for the number of users of each section of the facility. All of the facilities that had over 10,000 total visitors (including people with disabilities) in 2014 are located in major cities and are ranked as follows, from most visitors to least (Table 4-6): Osaka City NAGAI Sports Center for Persons with Disabilities; Yokohama Rapport Sports & Cultural Center for Disabled; Tokyo Metropolitan Sports Center for the Disabled; Osaka City MAISHIMA Sports Center for Persons with Disabilities; Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Sports Center for the Disabled; Saitama Social Activities Center for the Disabled; Osaka Prefectural Community Center for People with Disabilities (Fine Plaza Osaka); and Kyoto Disabled Sports Center.

Sports participation for people with disabilities is expected to increase since the Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities went into effect in 2016, thus sports facilities with exclusive or priority access for disabled people are anticipated to help handle new influx of disabled people to public sports facilities.

Table 4-6 Sport Facilities with Exclusive or Priority Access for Disabled People with more than 100,000 users (2012 - 2014)

Name of facilities	2012	2013	2014
Osaka City NAGAI Sports Center for Persons with Disabilities	241,504	248,294	253,860
Yokohama Rapport Sports & Cultural Center for Disabled	228,893	222,254	227,078
Tokyo Metropolitan Sports Center for the Disabled	152,522	154,586	157,977
Osaka City MAISHIMA Sports Center for Persons with Disabilities	151,754	151,353	156,434
Tokyo Metropolitan Tama Sports Center for the Disabled	127,592	129,957	128,634
Saitama Social Activities Center for the Disabled	126,278	129,039	122,039
Osaka Prefectural Community Center for People with Disabilities(Fine Plaza Osaka)	120,870	117,954	121,575
Kyoto Disabled Sports Center	99,179	101,582	101,325

SSF Research on Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities (2016)