



A Peep into the Schemes of Sports Authority of India

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Abstract

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established by the Govt. of India, on 25th January 1984. Registered as a Society, SAI is a successive organisation of the Special Organising Committee, IX Asian Games-1982, originally given the task of maintenance and management of stadia built for Asiad-1982. This article deals with the different schemes and centres by SAI.

Keywords: Coaching, Training Centres, Sports Talent.

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Introduction

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established by the Govt. of India, on 25th January 1984. Registered as a Society, SAI is a successive organisation of the Special Organising Committee, IX Asian Games-1982, originally given the task of maintenance and management of stadia built for Asiad-1982. Later on, with amalgamation of the Society for National Institute of Physical Education and Sports (SNIPES) on 1st May 1987, SAI broadened its activities with an overall objective of improving the sports facilities and performance of India sports persons. The Sports Authority of India is actively engaged in implementing schemes to promote sports awareness and physical fitness. In its attempt to develop excellence in sports, SAI carries out a countrywide talent scouting exercise and nurtures the promising talent by providing coaching, sports facilities and exposure to competitions at state, national and international level. Besides maintaining and utilizing the infrastructure created in Delhi for the Asiad-1982, SAI is constantly engaged in improving the sports facilities in various states. The Sports Authority of India is managed by General Body and Governing Body. The General Body is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Governing Body is chaired by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development.(SAI) (Sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in).

National Coaching Scheme

The National Coaching Scheme which was first introduced in September, 1985 as Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme was revised to meet the requirements of the developing nature of the sports in India first in

1962 and again in 1968. The working of the scheme has recently been reviewed and as a result thereof, certain changes have been incorporated.

The scheme provides for establishing of Regional Coaching Centres, assisting National Federations in preparing National teams, conducting coaching camps, clinics/refresher courses and for the implementation of Central sports programmes. To achieve these objectives, the Scheme provides for the recruitment and assignment of coaches to various state sports councils and Nehru Yuvak Kendras. The present sanctioned cadre of coaches under the scheme is 900 which is to increase further in the 7th Five year plan. (Sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in)

Training Schemes

The SAI Coaches appointed in different coaching centres under different disciplines are categorised under different schemes to train the trainees. These schemes are National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC), SAI Training Centres (STC), Special Area Games Scheme (SAG), Centre of Excellence and Sports Academics.

National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme

This Scheme introduces the concept of stay, play and study in the same school. This scheme is designed to select genetically gifted and physically fit children in the age group of 8-12 years and groom them scientifically in SAI adopted Schools. The selected trainees are given training on one of the ten identified Olympic disciplines of Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Swimming, Table Tennis, Volleyball and wrestling. The number of trainees to be admitted in each discipline is based on team requirement, optimal utilization of infrastructure available, etc. In order to tap the rural youth, there is a

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scheme for adoption of Akharas. Under the scheme, talented boys under 14 years of age, are adopted by SAI under the NSTC Scheme and a stipend given towards diet and school expenses under the scheme 286 trainees were there in 1996-97. (Sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in)

Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)

The Scheme is an extension of the NSTC Scheme for training sub-junior boys in the age group of 8-14 years. Under the ABSC Scheme, Army has joined hands with SAI to nurture talented boys. Selection is based on a battery of tests similar to those prescribed for NSTC. The selected trainees are inducted in identified regimental centres of the army. SAI bears the cost towards equipment, boarding, lodging, sports kit, etc. in 1996-97 there were 790 trainees under the ABSC Scheme being trained at 16 Regimental Centres of the Army in the disciplines of Athletics, Archery, Basketball, Boxing, Gymnastics, Hockey, Kayaking & Canoeing, Football, Swimming, Rowing, Volleyball & Wrestling.

SAI Training Centres (STC) Scheme

The Training Centre Scheme of SAI came as the result of a decision by the Governing Body of SAI in May 1995 to merge the Sports Hostel Scheme and the Sports Project Development Area into a consolidated Scheme. Each Training Centre caters to 3-4 disciplines. Selection is based on a battery of tests and on merit for those who have secured positions at District, State and National Competitions. The Training Centres Scheme forms a natural corollary to the sub junior schemes of SAI by inducting trainees in the age group of 14-21 years. These trainees are then assessed in their chosen disciplines and finally selected to undergo in-house training at various SAI Centres. At Training Centres, sports facilities, equipment and services of qualified coaches are available along with scientific back up. (Sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in)

During 1996-97 855 trainees (including non residential trainees) are being trained at SAI Sports Hospitals disciplines are being implemented under these Centres are Athletics, Archery, Basketball, Badminton, Boxing, Cycling, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Handball, Judo, Swimming, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Wrestling, Weight lifting, Canoeing & Kayaking and Rowing.

Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme

The Special Area Games Scheme, is being implemented to scout and nurture natural talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural, coastal and hilly areas of the country and also from regions where genetically gifted individuals are located for excellence in a particular sports discipline. In order to utilize available facilities at the SAG Centres to an optimum level, it was decided to increase the number of trainees by introducing the Day Boarding Scheme wherein a maximum of 10 day boarders per Centre were

allowed to receive training along with regular SAG trainees.

In 1996-97, it was decided to increase the number of trainees through rationalization in existing disciplines, for optimal usage of the infrastructure facilities available and the minimum ideal requirement for team or competitive purposes. New disciplines were introduced based on requisite infrastructure available at the centre, mainly based on identified "priority discipline". The trainees are undergoing training in 17 sports disciplines at 4 SAG Centres in the Eastern Region. These centres are at Jagatpur, Ranchi, Port Blair or Nicobar. Each Training Centre caters to 3-4 sports disciplines.

Centre of Excellence

As a natural corollary to the Sub-Junior and Junior Schemes, the Centres of Excellence are extension of the SAI Training Centres Scheme. A scheme has been introduced to set up Centres of Excellence at all the six Regional Centres of SAI to attract and train meritorious sports persons with potential for international level excellence. Selection to the Centres of Excellence is done on merit from amongst outstanding sports persons who have won medals or distinguished themselves at the senior National level competitions for further training at the Regional Centres of SAI for nearly 200 days in a year. They are provided with the state of art facilities, equipment and scientific back up along with specialised training. These Centres of Excellence would, in fact, be operating as regular coaching camps for the best available talent in India and provide two or possibly three concurrent layers of highly skilled sports persons - giving a wider choice of talent and continuity for later selection to National Teams. Trainees have been selected for training at various Centres of Excellence at SAI Regional Centres, in the disciplines of Athletics, Boxing, Hockey, Badminton, Swimming, Lawn Tennis, Kabaddi, Table Tennis and Weight Lifting.

National Coaching Scheme

The NCS is a major source for meeting the requirements of coaches in the country. Under the scheme SAI provides coaches to States/UTs based on their requirements. Coaches are also made available to universities, various agencies like sports federations and associations. SAI regional centres, LNCPE's and in house training centres and to district coaching centres and state coaching centres. The success of the NCS depends on various factors.

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