

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Award, Certificate and Diploma in Sports Development (QCF)

Tutor support materials – Core knowledge

BTEC specialist qualifications

First teaching January 2012

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Publications Code BA031028

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Contents

The structure of sport in the UK	1
National	1
Regional and sub-regional	1
Local	1
The background and history to sports development	2
Factors impacting on sports development	3
General	3
Health and wellbeing	3
Children and young people	3
Public sector modernisation and improvement	4
Dimensions of sports development	5
General	5
Community development	5
Club development	6
Sport in educational settings	6
Facility development	6
Workforce development	6
Volunteer development	7
Coach development	7
Official development	7
Competition development	7
Performance pathways	8

Purpose of this document

This document specifies the broad areas of knowledge and understanding that underpin sports development, and was written by SkillsActive, the SSC for Active Leisure, Learning and Wellbeing. Where examples are given they are not exhaustive. Consideration should be given to the breadth of the context that learners will be working within to identify the parameters of the knowledge they need to understand, helping them to turn policy into practice. This is particularly the case for learners working in the Home Nations.

Sports development is a process to establish pathways of opportunities for all individuals and communities to achieve their potential in and through sport.

The structure of sport in the UK

National

- The structure and function of government departments and their relationship with the UK and Home Nation Sports Councils and their international links.
- The complex nature of key agencies and their relationship with each other (UK and Home Nation Sports Councils, Youth Sport Trust, CCPR, British Olympic Association, Sports Institutes and those organisations that have responsibility for specific areas of sports development such as skills, coaching, volunteering, officials etc).
- Funding for sport and how it is administered, for example Exchequer, National Lottery, sponsorship and the increasing funding from the commercial sector and revenues such as TV funding.
- The structure and function of National Governing Bodies (NGBs).
- The connection between the key national agencies and the regional/sub-regional infrastructure.
- The structure and function of the sector's professional bodies and registers.

Regional and sub-regional

- The connections between sport and broader regional infrastructures and the opportunities this brings.
- The regional and county structure and functions of NGBs where appropriate.
- Where relevant, the sub-regional (or county) sports partnerships infrastructure, their networks and connections to national agencies, regional/county governing bodies and local organisations.

Local

- The local provision of sport through local authorities, sports clubs and other community providers.
- The local infrastructure and sports partnerships and how they connect.
- Local funding for sport and how it is administered, for example local government, local sports councils, minor grant schemes and community and charity-based initiatives.
- The growth of the Physical Activity Alliances between sports development and health professionals and the links between their infrastructures.

The background and history to sports development

- The key sporting and social interventions (or landmarks) that have impacted on the evolution of sports development.
- The impact of major sporting events in terms of securing a sustainable sporting legacy.
- The variety of definitions and models of sports development that have contributed to its complexity.
- The ways in which society affects sport and sport affects society.

Factors impacting on sports development

General

- The social and situational circumstances that affect participation, for example income, age, life stage, social class, social climate and perceived opportunity.
- International, national and local political ideology and policy influencing sporting policy and processes, for example National Lottery funding and the free swimming initiative.
- Government commitment to public sector modernisation.
- Equality issues, such as age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, social class and sporting ability.
- The community cohesion agenda and its impact on sports development.
- Legislation and good practice in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
- The interrelationship with leisure management.

Health and wellbeing

- The Chief Medical Officer's report *At Least Five a Week*, outlining the evidence of the need for physical activity for healthy lives and the range of other physical activity and obesity strategies and intervention programmes.
- The impact of physical activity on health in the context of sports development. For example, physical activity levels sufficient to achieve health benefits and reduce obesity.
- Trends in physical activity levels and differences relating to equality issues (see above for definition).
- The barriers to being active and how to tackle them, and understanding the contribution of sports development professionals to the physical activity, health and wellbeing agendas.
- National targets (UK and devolved) for levels of physical activity to achieve a health benefit, particularly those established as part of the National Indicator Set for local authorities.

Children and young people

- The implications for sport and physical activity of recent policies focused on achieving positive outcomes for children and young people, and their impact on local authorities and their partners.
- The impact of educational policies on sport such as inspections, capital investment schemes and the development of models of school provision.
- The development of networks of schools, the provision by public schools and the developments in further and higher education.
- The developments in children's play and their implications for sports development.

Public sector modernisation and improvement

- Local government's role in the shaping of place through the establishment of local strategic partnerships and themed partnerships.
- Local government's duties to produce area strategies, delivery plans and to work in partnership.
- The National Indicator Set, local government improvement agenda, assessment of local areas and the improving data set for sport.
- Increasing expectations of the third sector as a provider of public services.

Dimensions of sports development

General

- Relevant legislation impacting on sports development, for example organisational, employees and volunteers.
- Good practice in sports development and how it can be applied in a variety of contexts, for example rural, urban, local authority, governing body, education, lone officer and part of a team.
- The role of different sports development professionals, for example generic, sport-specific and target group focused, and their contributions to sports development.
- The range of different stakeholders, both internal and external, relevant to specific roles.
- The importance of strategic management and partnership working in sports development.
- The move towards and purpose of commissioning to deliver services.
- The drive to build sustainable sporting infrastructure and provision.
- The development and use of an evidence base for developing sport, including the different data sources, data complexity and performance management uses.
- The different quality management systems.
- The use of sporting role models.

Community development

- Developing the community 'through' sport, for example the achievement of other/wider policy objectives using sport as the tool.
- Developing sport within the community.
- Understanding the range of communities and how to actively engage with those most relevant to their role.
- Local community networks and their role in developing sport.
- Awareness of existing community development programmes and the learning created by them.

Club development

- The role of the club (including professional clubs) within its NGB and the different approaches taken by NGBs to developing their clubs.
- Understanding of how a club functions and the factors influencing its development.
- The networks within which clubs operate, inside and outside of NGBs.
- The ways in which clubs can be supported, for example capacity building, relevant training etc.
- The drive to improve the club infrastructure through raising standards in club provision via accreditation where appropriate.
- The differences between NGBs in developing, modernising and building sustainable clubs and the impact of commercial funding in some sports to support this process.

Sport in educational settings

- The role of schools, further education colleges and higher education institutions in the development and delivery of sport.
- The role of physical education (PE) and sport in whole school improvement.
- The strategy, initiatives and investment in sport in education, for example the PE & Sport Strategy for Young People.

Facility development

- Strategic facility planning tools available to support facility planning and audits, for example Active Places.
- Facilities specific to individual sports.
- Knowledge of the use of facility investment strategies locally and through NGBs to improve facilities.
- Different models for managing facilities.

Workforce development

- The need to plan strategically the development of a sporting workforce to meet aims and objectives, for example the need for more coaches and volunteers to deliver a greater number of opportunities, or the need to 'train the trainers'.
- Resources available to support skills research and workforce development planning methods.
- The use of National Occupational Standards to support the professional development of the workforce and the continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities available.
- The sources of funding available to support workforce development.

Volunteer development

- Professionalisation of volunteers.
- The variety of roles undertaken by volunteers, the networks within which volunteers operate and the organisations that may support them at a local level.
- The ways in which volunteers may be recruited, retained, developed and managed.
- The role and management of young people as leaders and the initiatives available to support and mentor young volunteers.
- The need to match appropriate people to appropriate settings.

Coach development

- Recruitment, retention, deployment, employment and management of coaches.
- Continuing professional development of coaches and the range of appropriate courses.
- Understanding and awareness of safe and effective coaching practice.
- Professionalisation of coaching.
- Implications of the UK Coaching Framework.

Official development

- Recruitment, retention, deployment, employment and management of officials.
- Professionalisation of officiating.
- Continuing professional development of officials and the range of appropriate courses.

Competition development

- The role and use of competition within sports and its relationship to coach and player development, as well as community development and school improvement.
- The role of NGBs in providing and supporting competition frameworks in partnership with local agencies.
- The developing infrastructure focused on improving school competition, where appropriate.
- Understanding of participation in sport for recreational benefits and the purpose of competition in this context.

Performance pathways

- The variety of performance pathways that exist at different levels and within different sports (local to national) to develop talented athletes, coaches and officials.
- The functional roles that individuals and organisations play in creating, developing and sustaining performance pathways.
- Talent identification, its systems and processes, and the resources available for supporting talented athletes, coaches and officials, for example grants and facilities.
- Holistic support of the talented athlete with career, education and social development and preparing them for life after performing.

Publications Code BA031028 April 2012

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