

From Promise to Glory: Shaping Egypt's Roadmap to Olympic Victory

Mohamed H. Abdelati

Assistant Professor, Automotive and Tractor Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering,
Minya university, Egypt
m.hilal@mu.edu.eg

الطريق من الوعد إلى المجد: تشكيل خارطة طريق مصر نحو النصر الأولمبي

محمد هلال عبد العاطي

مدرس بقسم هندسة السيارات والجرارات، كلية الهندسة، جامعة المنيا، مصر
m.hilal@mu.edu.eg

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the strategic steps needed to improve Egypt's performance in the future Olympics, with a special emphasis on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. The key areas dealt with the historical performance of Egypt at the Olympic Games, identifying priority sports against the potential for success, and developing youth centers into important hubs for talent growth. It is clear that, in particular, some improvements in sports infrastructure are urgently needed, creating a comprehensive athlete support system and international collaboration and benchmarking against leading sports nations. The study also investigates the economic and social impact of sports development in Egypt, job creation, infrastructure development, national pride, and social cohesion promotion. The implementation plan it provides secures a roadmap for executing these strategies. As such, Egypt is assured of success in successive Olympic cycles. When concentrating on these strategic areas, Egypt gives itself the best opportunity to win medals and contributes to attaining broader national goals of economic growth, social development, and international recognition.

Keywords: Olympic success, Egypt's sports strategy, athlete development, infrastructure investment, international collaboration

Introduction

Understanding Egypt's long-standing relationship with the Olympic Games is essential to fully grasping the significance of its Olympic aspirations.

Background and Importance

The Olympic Games have long been an event of great challenge and pride for Egypt since it first appeared in 1912 during the Summer Olympics in Stockholm (Toohey, 2007; Young, 2008). Ahmed Hassanein was the only individual representing the nation at the time, participating in the fencing event, thus marking the initiation of Egyptian Olympic history. Since then, Egypt has participated in all the Summer Olympics except a few, as in 1932 in Los Angeles, because of a lack of funds. Such a long historical process mirrors this country's commitment to international sports, with significant successes and intense challenges on its way.

By the end of the Paris 2024 Olympics, Egypt had amassed a total of 41 medals, including 9 gold, 12 silver, and 20 bronze. Among these, the most significant was the first Olympic medal won by Egypt, a gold by Ibrahim Moustafa, a wrestler in the Greco-Roman category at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. This historic moment not only marked Egypt's presence in international sports but also instilled a sense of national pride. Another notable achievement was in 1936 at the Berlin Olympics (Morris, 1999), when Khadr El Touni won weightlifting gold, breaking the world record in the middleweight class and gaining international recognition (Monnin, 2021).

The 1948 London Olympics were Egypt's most successful Games ever, with five medals won: two golds, two silvers, and one bronze in weightlifting and wrestling (Jenkins, 2011). That has not been so on the journey, though. Egypt's success in succeeding games goes up and down, raising questions about how to improve the quality of the programs set for sports within the country (Wacker, 2017).

Fast-forwarding to more recent history, the 2024 Paris Olympics allowed Egypt to increase those historical successes and correct some past wrongs. Fielding arguably one of its strongest teams of athletes across the board, Egypt knew it was time to haul in more medals and stamp its authority on being a worthy competitor in world sports.

The impact was felt at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where Egypt won three medals: one gold, one silver, and one bronze. In total, medals were won in key sports elements where Egypt usually had a strong potential to perform well and where investment had been focused on in the lead-up to the Games. Ahmed Elgendy won gold in the men's modern pentathlon, an event where Egypt had been getting stronger recently. It was all the more remarkable as it gave Egypt its first Olympic gold in modern pentathlon and set a new standard for future competitions.

Sara Ahmed Samir continued this impressive streak in weightlifting, winning the silver medal in the women's 81kg category. Her performance in the Paris Games embedded Egypt's powerful tradition in weightlifting. It proved the effectiveness of different support and training programs related to this sport which are in place. Afterwards, Mohamed El Sayed won a bronze medal in the men's épée individual event, becoming the first Egyptian and African fencer to win an Olympic medal in that category.

The successes at Paris 2024 are not just isolated triumphs but a testament to the strategic improvements in Egypt's sports programs. These advancements pave the way for even greater achievements in future Olympic events, with a special focus on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. The

lessons learned from Paris 2024, both from the successes and the unmet expectations, provide crucial guidance for the nation's future preparation and strategies.

The significance of the Olympic medals extends beyond the realm of sports (Haut et al., 2016). They reflect Egypt's potential, the effectiveness of its sports system, the richness of its nurturing programs, and the strategic vision of sports management. For a nation of over 100 million people, the Olympics serve as a source of inspiration, motivating a new generation of athletes, fostering national unity, and showcasing Egypt's potential to the world (Bian, 2005).

Building on this history, Egypt's performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics sheds light on both its recent achievements and areas that need further development.

Results at the Paris 2024 Olympics renewed calls for reevaluation and streamlining of how Egypt prepares its Olympic athletes. It is essential because this came as a directive from President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to conduct a comprehensive review of the performance of all sports federations involved in the Olympics. That will be the identification of strengths, rectification in case of weaknesses, and putting in place a robust framework that will ensure the preparation for Los Angeles 2028 while securing continued excellent performance in future Olympic cycles (Tomlinson, 2017).

Table 1 summarizes the medals Egypt won in the Olympic Games in various sports from 1912 through the latest 2024 Paris Olympics. Olympic sport and the number of gold, silver, and bronze medals won for each Olympic sport, where Egypt won medals, are listed. The total number of medals in each sport and the overall total are supplied to show Egypt's growth and sporting success during more than a century of competing in international events.

Table 1

Egypt's Olympic Medals by Sport (1912-2024)

Sport	Gold Medals	Silver Medals	Bronze Medals	Total Medals
Weightlifting	5	4	6	15
Wrestling	2	3	3	8
Karate	1	0	1	2
Boxing	0	1	3	4
Diving	0	1	1	2
Judo	0	1	1	2
Fencing	0	1	1	2
Modern Pentathlon	1	1	0	2
Taekwondo	0	0	4	4
Total	9	12	20	41

Source: By the author based on Youm7 News, 2024.

Considering these historical and recent performances, the purpose of this study is to develop strategies for Egypt's future Olympic success, focusing particularly on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Purpose of the Study

The main objective of this study is to come up with a strategic framework that can increase the possibility of Egypt winning medals in the Olympic Games, especially at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. The research is conducted to evaluate the performance of Egypt in the 2024 Paris Olympics in detail by determining the main drivers of success for every medal won and the areas that

need improvement. Understanding these elements, the recommendations of this study shall be set up in a more practical way to correspond with the broader sports development goals of Egypt.

The subject of research will be how sports where there is already promise by virtue of Paris 2024 performances, or those with historical success, can grow. It will also assess how existing sports infrastructure, with new developments centered on the New Administrative Capital, will address this and how all such facilities can be optimized in reinforcing elite athlete preparation. It would also evaluate, even more intimately, the effectiveness of youth development programs, governance, and policy shaping sports success, as well as the broader socio-economic benefits of Olympic success (Dendura, 2019).

This study employs a qualitative approach, utilizing a comprehensive review of existing literature and case studies, along with a SWOT analysis to assess Egypt's sports landscape. The methodology involves synthesizing insights from various sources to develop strategic recommendations for Olympic success. In other words, this study is supposed to establish a comprehensive roadmap to maximize Egypt's medal potential at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, setting the foundation for long-term success in future games. Data from various sources were categorized and analyzed to align with the study's objectives. The information was processed through a comparative lens, evaluating Egypt's sports context against international benchmarks to identify key areas for development.

A review of existing research and literature on the factors influencing Olympic success is necessary to inform this strategy.

Review of Related Literature

The determinants of countries' performance in the Olympic Games have been widely studied, revealing a complex interplay of economic, political, and social factors. One of the foundational studies in this field (Bernard & Busse, 2000) established a strong link between a country's GDP and its medal count, highlighting that the nations with higher economic resources can invest more in athlete training and infrastructure, which leads to better Olympic outcomes. Similarly, (Vagenas & Vlachokyriakou, 2012) expanded on this by revisiting the "population-GDP" model and incorporating new variables like team size and the ex-host effect, demonstrating that these factors significantly influence a nation's medal success. These studies align with (Andreff, 2021), who examined the Olympic performance of communist and post-communist countries, emphasizing the role of political regimes and economic development in shaping their results at the Games.

Beyond economic factors, several studies have explored the role of governance and institutional quality in Olympic success. (Potts, 2014) analyzed the impact of governance and corruption on Olympic outcomes, showing that countries with better governance structures tend to perform consistently well, while corruption undermines performance. This view is echoed by (Choi et al., 2022), who introduced the idea of cultural distance between nations and how this affects performance, mainly when a country participates in a culturally distant host environment. (Reiche, 2016) further questioned the traditional focus on population and GDP, suggesting that geography, national sports policies, and ideological motivations are critical in explaining why some nations outperform others at the Olympics.

Other studies have employed quantitative models to assess Olympic success. (Flegl & Andrade, 2018) used data envelopment analysis to measure the efficiency of countries' performances in the Rio 2016 Olympics, factoring in economic and institutional resources. In a similar methodological approach, (Lozano et al., 2002) used data envelopment analysis to analyze nations' performance in past Olympics, highlighting the importance of strategic focus and efficient resource utilization. These

studies underscore the multifaceted nature of Olympic success, where economic resources, governance quality, cultural factors, and strategic policies converge to determine a nation's medal-winning potential.

This literature deepens our understanding of the critical determinants behind Olympic success. It highlights the importance of integrating diverse factors—beyond simple economic metrics—into future strategic frameworks for countries aiming to improve their Olympic performance.

It is essential to examine the research approach and analysis conducted to understand how this strategy can be effectively implemented.

Methodology

While developing the current research, this study relies on a qualitative method that includes descriptive literature and case studies analysis to produce a strategic framework expected to increase Egypt's chances of winning Olympic medals. The study is particularly concerned with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and it is designed in a way that allows critical assessment of trends that have already led to success for Egypt and pinpoint areas that could be utilized as growth opportunities with an effort to impact the eventual outcomes after the 2024 Paris Olympics. As such, data collection for the study also included multiple sources and the use of a theoretical framework to identify key trends and their challenges. The main data collection method of the positive case was a comprehensive literature review that included all local and international reports, essays, and government sources that discussed the trends responsible for the implementation of successful policies leading to Olympic medals. The study also seizes on the task of compiling and making sense of past data regarding Egypt's previous Olympic performances to point to the current key ways in which the policies and training have been affected by the data.

The main methodology used in the current research is the thematic trend analysis. This method refers to a collective process that draws attention to common patterns or trends within the data collection and interpretation method. This research used the strategic focus of athlete development, governance, and infrastructure capacity targets to identify data themes and conduct the analysis. The methodology also allowed for conducting comparative analyses with leading Olympic nations and their data, including the US, China, and the UK, to reflect on and validate the information in terms of creating additional CES layers.

In addition to reviewing the existing literature and data pertaining to Egypt's Olympic history, another crucial element of the study's methodology was the utilization of a SWOT analysis to evaluate the country's current sports ecosystem. By relying on a form of strategic analysis, the study took a structured approach to examining Egypt's existing sports capabilities while assessing the degree of success the country has enjoyed in various sporting disciplines. Specifically, the SWOT analysis process highlighted Egypt's competencies in several long-standing sports, namely wrestling and weightlifting, and analyzed Egypt's prospects in the emerging Olympic sports – fencing and modern pentathlon. Furthermore, the SWOT analysis examined economic considerations and the broader socio-economic context of sports development in Egypt, including the role of youth sports programs and the efficacy of government guidelines in promoting successful Olympic athlete preparation.

Data processing and analysis took the form of a benchmarking exercise, in which the coaching and current athlete training methods in Egypt were evaluated and compared to those in countries with robust and well-managed Olympic systems. By analyzing Egypt's sports programs in reference to international best practice benchmarks, the study was able to synthesize the factors that affect achieving better Olympic results in terms of training, athlete selection, coaching, sports science

application, and infrastructure. Having assessed each of these factors and others, the study constructed a concrete set of policy recommendations based on the analysis. However, the methodology also relied on a superior framework to examine the historical background of Egypt's participation in the Games. Looking through this lens, the research sought to evaluate Egypt's past performance in the Olympics, identify the nation's successes and failures, and analyze the history of sports policy to predict the next move in the country's sports reform policy.

The research methodology, additionally, relied on insights from the leading international sports development programs. The current study could create parallels between the approaches the latter countries use to develop their athletes and those in Egypt by analyzing the most successful models developed in Norway, South Korea, and Brazil. Specifically, the youth sports centers in Norway, training centers in South Korea, and the national initiative sparked by Futebol de Salao in Brazil were used as examples to compare to Egypt's youth centers and other sports institutions. These examples allowed the provision of significant recommendations concerning the enhancement of youth centers and sports academies in Egypt and speeding up the process of training new professional athletes to perform at the Olympic Games.

The SWOT analysis was linked to the thematic analysis to ensure that all the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were connected to the relevant context of the socio-political circumstances in Egypt. Therefore, the resulting recommendations did not only reflect the best practices identified in the international examples. Instead, they connected these best practices to the unique weaknesses and opportunities of the targeted sports system in Egypt.

To ensure clarity, it is important to define the scope of this study and acknowledge the limitations that may influence the findings and recommendations.

Scope and Limitations

This research will cover critical areas important in improving Egypt's Olympic prospects. It will explain in detail the participation of Egypt in the Paris 2024 Olympics, focused on their performance and sports disciplines that contributed to their medal count and those with room for improvement. The influence the general outcome has on critical sports such as weightlifting, modern pentathlon, fencing, squash, football, handball, and volleyball shall be identified.

This would include developing and optimizing the youth centers to their fullest potential all over Egypt (Petersen & Judge, 2023). The centers are pertinent for the development of nascent Olympic talent. The research shall, therefore, establish the current status of those centers, what upgrades may be necessary, and what programs could be added to make them more efficient. The current state of sports infrastructure, particularly the facilities in the New Administrative Capital, is also supposed to make up anchors in elite athlete training and international competitions.

More specifically, the research will investigate the systems of athlete support, such as psychological support, injury prevention programs, and comprehensive athletic development programs, indicating deficiencies and offering ways to make improvements. The study will further review international collaborations and benchmarking against prosperous Olympic nations, citing best practices that can be adopted in Egypt.

While this study attempts to be exhaustive, it is not free from its limitations. The availability of data, in particular in areas where records are incomplete or where the details of performance metrics are intricate to access, constrains the research. Furthermore, it is embedded within current geopolitical and economic developments, which may further impact the feasibility of some recommendations.

The study, however, will primarily focus on sports in which Egypt has some potential. Other sports will also be noted, although they will not be the focus of this research study.

This study seeks to provide the details and action plan to maximize Egypt's potential at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and beyond. The focus shall be on key areas such as sports infrastructure development, youth, and athlete development and support in relation to national sports policy, to try to contribute to a brighter future and greater success for Egyptian sports on the world stage.

The SWOT analysis presented in this study was conducted by systematically reviewing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified through a detailed examination of sports programs, infrastructure, and governance models. Data was gathered from both national reports and international case studies and analyzed using a thematic approach to draw actionable insights.

Historical Olympic Performance of Egypt

Egypt's participation in the Olympic Games has been marked by numerous ups and downs. From early achievements to periods of stagnation, Egypt's Olympic journey is a story of resilience. This section delves into Egypt's performance across various Olympic cycles, highlighting key successes and challenges over the decades.

Past Olympic Cycles Analysis

Egypt's participation in the Olympic Games has been a testament to resilience, marked by a journey of ups and downs. This enduring experience began over a century ago, in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. The initial decades were a period of learning and adapting to the international stage. The first Olympic medal, a gold in Greco-Roman wrestling, was claimed by Ibrahim Moustafa during the 1928 Amsterdam Games (Remijnsen, 2009). This victory was a defining moment that showcased Egypt's ability to compete at the highest level.

The 1936 Berlin Olympics underlined the potential of Egypt: weightlifter Khadr El Touni set a world record at middleweight and took a gold medal (Kodya, 2005). This event is often cited as the defining moment in Egypt's Olympic history, showing it was vital in weightlifting—a sport destined to continue earning medals in future Games.

The London 1948 Olympics saw the culmination of Egypt's early success in the Olympics (Hampton, 2012). The nation won five medals, two gold, two silver, and one bronze, in weightlifting and wrestling. That 1948 success remains the high point of Egypt's Olympic history regarding the number of gold medals won—a performance yet to be bettered (Keys, 2012).

From the 1952 Helsinki Olympics to the 1972 Munich Olympics, the medal count of Egypt fell, capturing the lethargy of the country in continuing to be competitive on the global stage (Keys, 2012). The changing political and economic scenario of the time also explains the rise and fall of Egypt in the Olympic Games. For example, Egypt didn't participate in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics because of the Tripartite Aggression, which had a significant bearing on the country's sports development and international relations (Espy, 1981; Todor, 2015).

It was resurged at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics (Dyreson, 2015). This marked the beginning of a completely different phase when Egypt started gradually refurbishing its sports programs to regain its former glory. At the 2004 Athens Olympics Karam Gaber won gold in Greco-Roman wrestling to give Egypt its first Olympic gold in 56 years.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics was yet another high point (Cai et al., 2017). The country's performance in the 2012 London Olympics and the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics proved that it would take little work. These developments still kept the modest medal profile of Egypt concentrated on just a few sports, such as weightlifting, wrestling, and judo. However, the historic gold medal in karate by Feryal Ashraf at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics became the first-ever Olympic gold in a female combat sport for Egypt and underlined the expanding potential of the country in a wide range of disciplines.

Throughout Egypt's Olympic history, there have been notable moments of glory and moments of missed opportunities. This section will explore the sports in which Egypt has excelled, particularly in weightlifting and wrestling, and examine areas where the nation has struggled to maintain consistency.

Stories of Success and Failure

Weightlifting and wrestling stand out as the key successes in Egypt's Olympic history, reflecting the country's long-standing tradition of excellence in these sports. Weightlifting, in particular, has been a consistent source of medals, with world record holders and gold medalists like Khadr El Touni and Mahmoud Fayad. Wrestling has also been a cornerstone of Egypt's Olympic successes, with contributions from great athletes such as Ibrahim Moustafa and Karam Gaber.

Several areas for improvement have marred Egypt's Olympic performance, particularly consistency over the different Olympic cycles. Even though Egypt performs well in weightlifting and wrestling, it only goes as far as that in many other events. Several reasons explain this inconsistency (Abouelazm, 2023; Hassan & Hilaly, 2022):

- The need to improve infrastructure.
- The need for long-term investment in sport.
- The need to enhance the athlete development process.

The 2024 Paris Olympics marked a turning point for Egypt. Despite the challenges, these Games demonstrated that strategic course corrections could be made, offering hope for the future. The country secured three medals—a gold, a silver, and a bronze—in modern pentathlon, weightlifting, and fencing. This success underscored Egypt's potential for improved global performance with focused investment and preparation.

The 2024 Paris Olympics saw Egypt's first-ever Olympic gold medal in the modern pentathlon, won by Ahmed Elgendy. This historic event, along with Sara Ahmed Samir's silver in weightlifting and Mohamed El Sayed's bronze in fencing, highlighted Egypt's potential for diversification into other medal-winning sports. However, it also underscored the urgent need for further development, particularly in team sports and consistency across Olympic cycles.

Egypt's performance in the Olympics has been significantly influenced by various strategies over the years. From government involvement to targeted investments in key sports, this section looks at the effectiveness of past strategies and their impact on Egypt's medal count and Olympic preparation.

Past Strategies' Impact

Egypt's strategies towards the Olympic Games have evolved over time, mirroring changes in the political, economic, and social landscapes. In the early years, Egypt focused on establishing a niche

in sports where it could quickly develop competitive athletes, such as wrestling and weightlifting. This approach led to early successes and a reliance on a narrow range of sports.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Egypt aimed at diversifying its sports programs and sought competence in areas like boxing, fencing, and judo (Bagińska et al., 2022). These strategies were supplemented by increased government investment in sports infrastructure and youth programs. However, mixed results ensued—success in some sports was compensated for by underperformance in others.

In the 2024 Paris Olympics run-up, there has been a more strategic drive to strengthen support systems for athletes and increase infrastructure and international exposure. The period equally witnessed increased government involvement in sports, with directives to review and improve the performance of sports federations. Already visible from the first results of these strategies were the medals won in Paris 2024, particularly in modern pentathlon, a sport in which Egypt had never previously excelled.

These strategies have had little effect, mainly because of factors such as inconsistent funding, an overall low level of sports science support, and the perpetual problem of keeping coaching standards high. It is evident from the recent Olympic highs and lows in performance that what is called for is a more sustained and systematic approach to athlete development and sports management (Hassan & Hilaly, 2022; Nour et al.).

While Egypt has already been able to make big scoops in its Olympic history, the issue remains open. It requires a holistic, strategic approach to performance over several consecutive Olympic cycles. Taking lessons from the 2024 Paris Olympics, a proper review of past strategies provides a robust platform for developing a roadmap to improve the likelihood of Egypt winning medals at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Strategic Focus on Key Sports

Identifying and prioritizing sports where the nation has a historical edge or shows strong potential for growth is crucial. By concentrating resources and development efforts on these specific sports, Egypt can maximize its medal opportunities. This section highlights the key sports that have historically brought success and explores how strategic focus in these areas can further elevate Egypt's standing in the global sporting arena.

Identification of Priority Sports

As a prerequisite for increasing the haul of Olympic medals in successive events, particularly in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, identifying and establishing priority sports in which Egypt has traditionally performed well or has huge potential needs to be done. Analyzing the existing strengths and opportunities in the different sports disciplines will lead to strategic focusing and consequent realignment of resources and effort in like proportion (Fraleigh, 1986).

Identified priority sports for Egypt, considering previous performance and current achievements, are:

- **Historical Success.** Weightlifting has a rich history of performance in Egypt, spanning several decades and resulting in numerous Olympic medals. Athletes like Khadr El Touni, Mahmoud Fayad, and Sara Ahmed Samir have brought international acclaim to the sport and the country.

- **Current Status.** The recent performance at the Paris 2024 Olympics, where Sara Ahmed Samir secured a silver medal in the women's 81kg category, further solidifies the strength of weightlifting in Egypt. With continued investment and development, weightlifting remains one of Egypt's most promising avenues for Olympic success.

Wrestling (Akinci, 2020; Telles & Machado, 2022)

- **Historical Success.** Another cornerstone of Egyptian Olympic success has been wrestling, with significant successes in Greco-Roman wrestling. Ibrahim Moustafa won the gold medal in 1928, and Karam Gaber in 2004 are some moments to be mentioned in this regard.
- **Current Status.** Despite recent performances that have been lukewarm, wrestling is a sport in Egypt that has an edge. To regain its dominance, focus on technique, develop better training facilities, and have an excellent youth-wrestler development system.

Modern Pentathlon (Bagińska et al., 2022; Khidr & Hamdy, 2022)

- **Recent Success.** Modern pentathlon became a promising sport for Egypt, especially after the gold medal won by Ahmed Elgendy in the 2024 Olympics. This was a breakthrough for Egypt in this multi-disciplinary sport requiring physical and mental agility.
- **Strategic Relevance.** Because modern pentathlon is a multifaceted competition that requires diverse skills, Egypt's further successes will have to be founded on an all-rounded training regime encompassing all aspects of the competition. It must start from scratch by developing young talents and providing support that enables young men and women to acquire these skills in different fields.

Squash (Eldesoky, 2019; Horobeanu & Rosca, 2014)

- **Global Dominance.** Though squash will make its Olympic debut in Los Angeles in 2028, Egypt has dominated the sport for the last several decades. Having nurtured many world champions like Amr Shabana, Ramy Ashour, and Nour El Sherbini, Egypt dominated men's and women's international squash.
- **Olympic Potential.** Because squash is part of the Olympic program, Egypt is well-placed to maximize this opportunity. Strategic preparation in intensive training camps and exposure to international competition shall secure its holding of multiple medals in this new discipline.

Handball (El Adl et al., 2022; Kreama & Alsayed Awaad, 2022)

- **Tweaking of Recent Performance.** Egypt has always had one of the most exceptional handball teams on the African continent and has considerably contributed to the world stage by reaching the 2020 Tokyo Olympics quarterfinals. The team performed poorly compared to expectations at Paris 2024, underlining the need for strategic adjustments.
- **Strategic Focus.** Handball is one of Egypt's best chances for team sports medals. Team unification, sharpening strategies, and more international matches are among the essential steps to turn that potential into podiums in Los Angeles in 2028.

Football -Soccer (Thabet, 2022)

- **Youth Success.** Football is arguably the most popular sport in Egypt, with a robust domestic league and a history of success in youth competitions. The performance of the national team in Tokyo 2020, where they ultimately reached the quarterfinals, showed great promise.
- **Medium-Term Potential.** With a good showing of success, there must be an emphasis on youth development programs and international exposure from the U23 and senior-level strategic planning into Olympic medals. Concern for successfully transitioning young talents to the senior level is essential in maintaining Olympic football relevance.

Fencing (Piccione, 1999)

- **Breaking Barriers.** Mohamed El Sayed's bronze in the men's Épée individual event at Paris 2024 marked the first-ever medal taken in this event by Egypt and Africa. This, therefore, opens up new avenues of growth in a sport where Egypt was hitherto underrepresented.
- **Strategic Development.** Based on this success, there has to be a focus on the development of fencing programs that provide more significant opportunities to fence and participate at the grassroots level and finally get access to high-quality coaching and international competition.

Carefully planning and allocating resources is essential for Egypt to build a successful and sustainable Olympic sports program.

Resource Allocation and Development Plans

This section primarily focuses on actionable strategies designed to drive development, with relevant policies referenced as supportive frameworks that guide these strategic initiatives.

The sports sector in Egypt has seen significant investment in recent years as the government continues to develop sports facilities and youth centers nationwide. According to reports from 2021, the total number of sports facilities across Egypt amounted to 5,240. This includes 4,449 youth centers spread across various governorates. These facilities are divided among different sectors, with 80 facilities in the public sector, 116 in the public business sector, 595 in private sports facilities, and 791 in private sports clubs.

Moreover, recent reports have highlighted that the Egyptian government allocated significant resources for developing sports infrastructure. For example, 7 billion Egyptian pounds have been invested in youth centers over the past five years, focusing on enhancing the facilities to meet international standards. The continuous investment is expected to create more job opportunities and foster youth development in major cities and across rural areas.

Making smart resource allocation decisions on infrastructure and facilities and comprehensive plans give Egypt the best chances in the identified vital sports. Some of the critical strategies for resource allocation and development are:

Investment in Infrastructure and Facilities

- **Upgradation of Training Centers.** Emphasis has to be placed on the upgrading and expansion of training centers all over Egypt, with a particular focus on the New Administrative

Capital, which provides ultramodern facilities. These centers must be specific to weightlifting, wrestling, modern pentathlon, squash, handball, football, and fencing (Nagy & Tobak, 2015).

- **Regional Hubs.** Establishing regional hubs of excellence in identified priority sports will bring world-class facilities and coaching to athletes from around the country. Decentralization will aid in spotting and developing talent from a much broader geographical base (Tobak, 2015).

Improvement in Coaching and Technical Expertise

- **International Expertise,** by inviting international coaches and technical experts, particularly in sports wherein Egypt is building or growing expertise, including fencing and modern pentathlon. Such experts bring expertise that might be of great value and training methodologies in keeping with global best practices (Greenwood et al., 2012).
- **Coach Development Programmers,** to be invested to ensure that local coaches are abreast of time regarding Knowledge and skills. Coach standards must be maintained at high levels across all sports for constant professional development.

Youth Development and Talent Identification

- **Grassroots Programs,** by expanding the reach of grassroots programs in priority sports, focusing on identification at a very young age and development. These programs should also involve schools, youth centers, and local clubs to assist young athletes from their early years (Rongen et al., 2018).
- **Talent Pathways,** by having clear talent pathways guiding athletes from the youth programs to elite competition. The pathways also include regular assessments, opportunities for international competition, and integration into national teams.

International Competition and Exposure

- **Regular Participation,** by ensuring that athletes in priority sports regularly participate at the international level. Global competition exposure is essential to develop Olympic-level skills and mental toughness.
- **Training Camps Abroad,** by setting up training camps abroad in countries that excel in the relevant sports, allowing athletes to train in different environments and against high-caliber opponents. This is very essential in developing an athlete (Brouwers et al., 2015).

Athlete Support Systems

- **Colossal Help,** by providing athletes with comprehensive support systems that include sports science, nutrition, psychological support, and injury prevention. Such services must be incorporated into the daily training routines of athletes in all priority sports.
- **Resilience Building,** by designing programs focused on mental resilience, more so for athletes competing in high-pressure sports such as modern pentathlon and fencing. Athletes will need this kind of psychological support to deliver their very best under the pressure-cooker conditions of the Olympic competition (Thibault & Babiak, 2013).

Currently, the allocation of resources in the Egyptian sports sector is fragmented, with significant disparities in funding and infrastructure support across different sports disciplines. Resources are predominantly concentrated in a few high-profile sports, leaving others underfunded and underdeveloped. To achieve optimal distribution (Alardhi et al.; H Abdelati & Abdelhafeez, 2023), it is proposed that a more balanced approach be adopted, which includes reallocating funds towards a broader range of sports, particularly those with high potential for international success. Additionally, a strategic plan should be developed to ensure resources are allocated based on performance metrics, growth potential, and the strategic importance of each sport to national objectives. This plan should involve a periodic review process to assess the effectiveness of the resource allocation and make necessary adjustments to maintain alignment with evolving priorities and performance outcomes.

Table 2 provides an extensive SWOT analysis of critical sports for Egypt. Internal and external factors affecting each sport are identified in the table, showing where Egypt can capitalize on its strengths, remedy its weaknesses, take advantage of opportunities, and reduce threats. This analysis will be helpful in strategic decisions about where more resources and efforts need to be invested to maximize Egypt's chances of medal success in future Olympic Games.

Table 2

Swot Analysis for different sport games

Sport	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Weightlifting	Strong tradition, consistent medal winner, experienced coaches	Limited resources compared to top countries, vulnerability to doping regulations	Growing global interest in the sport, potential for increased funding	Intense global competition, potential doping scandals
Wrestling	Historical success, robust training programs, strong athlete base	Inconsistent performance, lack of modern training facilities	Opportunity to revive historical dominance, potential new talent development	Emerging competitors from other countries, possible rule changes
Karate	Recent Olympic inclusion, presence of skilled athletes	Limited international exposure, less established infrastructure	Potential for rapid growth due to new Olympic status, increased global interest	Uncertainty about long-term inclusion in the Olympics, strong competitors from Asia
Boxing	Rich history in the sport, presence of talented young athletes	Declining popularity, outdated facilities	Opportunity to reinvigorate the sport with proper investments, new talent discovery	Strong international competition, decline in global interest
Diving	Access to quality training facilities, growing interest	Lack of high-level competition experience, fewer specialized coaches	Expansion of diving programs, increased international participation	Dominance of countries with stronger diving traditions
Judo	Established judo schools, consistent international participation	Limited medal success, lack of elite-level coaching	Opportunity to enhance judo infrastructure, potential for international training partnerships	High competition from countries with deep judo traditions, injuries
Fencing	Historical presence, recent	Limited resources, inconsistent	Growth in fencing interest in Egypt,	Strong European dominance,

	success in Paris 2024, skilled athletes	performance in major competitions	potential to attract sponsorships	expensive equipment and training costs
Modern Pentathlon	Increasing popularity, strong showing in Paris 2024, versatile athletes	Complexity of the sport, requires high-level skills across multiple disciplines	Potential for further growth, opportunity to dominate with strategic focus	High training costs, difficulty in maintaining peak performance across all disciplines
Taekwondo	Growing popularity in Egypt, consistent medal achievements	Limited depth in talent pool, underfunded programs	Expansion of grassroots programs, opportunity to build on recent successes	Dominance of Asian countries, risk of injury

Source: Prepared by author.

The SWOT analysis presented in Table 2 is based on a comprehensive review of the existing literature and contextual analysis of Egypt's sports environment. It integrates insights from both developed and developing countries to reflect the unique challenges and opportunities facing the sports sector in Egypt.

Development of Youth Centers Across Egypt

Youth centers play a pivotal role in fostering athletic talent from an early age. To understand how these centers contribute to Egypt's Olympic goals, it's important to first examine the current state of youth centers across the country.

Profile of Current Youth Centers

Youth centers in Egypt have traditionally acted as the impetus for sports and physical activities nationwide. These centers are located in almost every village, town, and city. They act as a focus point within a community where young people engage in various sports, train, and gain the skills required to be athletes. However, their potential has only sometimes been maximized for several reasons, including the need for more facilities and funds. With Egypt seeking to improve its chances at the Olympic Games, developing and making the most of these youth centers is imperative (Vealey & Chase, 2016).

These youth centers are very different and divergent in terms of facilities and resources available in Egypt. Most youth centers, especially in rural and less developed areas, are run with meager facilities, offering simple facilities like football fields and gyms. In contrast, more urbanized and affluent areas can boast better infrastructure, including indoor sports halls, swimming pools, and access to professional coaching. While the disparity in quality of facilities and resources from region to region is a clear call for a strategic approach to developing such centers, this will ensure that all young athletes are given equal opportunities for training and other necessities for success, notwithstanding their geographical location.

Beyond providing training facilities, youth centers play a crucial role in instilling a sports culture and identifying potential Olympic athletes. Their strategic importance is key to Egypt's long-term sports development and success on the global stage.

Strategic Importance of Youth Centers

Youth centers are essential in several ways:

Talent Identification and Development

- **Early Talent Identification.** The youth centers act as contact points for most young athletes. With structured sports offer and numerous competitions, they stand a better chance of detecting talent earlier and channeling it through proper development.

- **Skill Development.** The youth centers, through regular training sessions and access to sports facilities, help an upcoming athlete develop essential skills in their respective sport. This early development is crucial for athletes to participate at higher levels of the sport, nationally and internationally (Baker et al., 2017).

Community Engagement and Sports Culture

- **Instilling a Culture of Sports.** Youths in the community have centers where the promotion of sports and physical activity is instilled as part of the daily regime. This helps identify and nurture talent and fosters a broader sports culture to inspire future generations.
- **Social Inclusion.** These centers will offer a space for young people from different walks of life to participate in sporting activities, thus encouraging social integration and helping to close societal gaps. Diversity is essential for creating one national sports identity.

Asserting National Sporting Objectives

- **Aligning with National Objectives.** The strategic alignment of youth centers with Egypt's larger national objectives regarding international sports, especially the Olympic Games, is paramount. By directly contributing to the national pool level, these youth centers strengthen the foundation of sports in Egypt, reassuring the audience about the strategic direction of sports development in the country.
- **Strategic Resource Allocation.** Attention to youth centers assures that resources will be spent wisely on nurturing talent from an early age, making the athlete development process much more effective and sustainable.

While Egypt's youth centers have potential, certain areas require targeted improvements to maximize their effectiveness. Identifying these priority areas will ensure that youth centers contribute effectively to Egypt's Olympic success.

Priority Development Areas

For the realization of the high potential for the youth centers throughout Egypt, several main areas will have to be addressed, including:

Infrastructure Upgrades

- **Facility Renovation.** Most youth centers are in dire need of renovation (Hurt, 2021). This ranges from renovating the existing sports fields to constructing an indoor hall for sports and access to state-of-the-art training equipment. The ones in regions that are not well served by sports infrastructure should be given priority.
- **Specialized Facilities.** Along with the upgradation of the centers in general, some youth centers may be tailored explicitly as nuclei of specialized training for a particular sport. For instance, a few centers could be assigned to weightlifting, wrestling, or football and, thus, provide the relevant facilities to train the relevant athletes.

Training and Development Programs

- **Development of Coaches.** Coach training and certification are critical for youth center development. With investment in coaching education, top-quality training is assured for young athletes. Coaches should be well equipped with state-of-the-art techniques and up-to-date sports science knowledge to nurture young raw talent successfully.

- **Athlete Development Programs**, such as establishing structured development programs for athletes of different ages and classes. These activities should entail regular training sessions, competitions, and promotions for young athletes to higher levels of competitions (Cunningham et al., 2022).

Access to Resources and Support Services

- **Sports Science Integration.** This involves integrating sports science into the courses offered by the youth center through access to advice on nutrition, strategies for injury prevention, and other psychological services critical to the wholesome growth of young athletes (Jackson et al., 2001).
- **Scholarships and Funding.** This includes instituting scholarships and funding avenues that aid talented athletes, especially those from poor backgrounds. The funding will then help remove the barriers that prevent the participation of such athletes, who promise to continue with their talents.

Community and Parental Involvement

- **Community Engagement.** Engaging the community in the activities at the youth center through community outreach programs, sporting activities, and other forms of volunteerism. A good link between the youth resource center and the community provides an enabling environment for young athletes to exercise and grow (Legg et al., 2015).
- **Parental Support Programs.** This includes designing programs that will orient parents about the relevance of sports in the development of their children. By engaging parents, the youth center can foster a supportive home environment for young athletes, which is critical for young athletes.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Performance Metrics.** Spelling out clear performance metrics to determine the success of the youth center is important. This would include tracking athletes, progress effectiveness of training programs, and utilization of facilities. Checks regularly ensure youth centers are meeting their objectives and contributing to national goals in sports.
- **Feedback Mechanisms.** Instituting mechanisms for obtaining feedback from athletes, coaches, and the community is critical. This kind of feedback is essential in constantly improving the programs and facilities offered in the youth centers.

Integration with National Sports Strategy

Youth centers should be fully developed to integrate with Egypt's national sports strategy. This means that the goals should correspond to the needs of the youth centers and the general objectives of the national sports federations. There should be a direct pathway from youth sports to elite competition.

Alignment with Sports Federations (Alikhah et al., 2023)

- **Combined Efforts.** The youth centers should collaborate with national sports federations so that the talent identified at the grassroots level can be properly linked to the national development programs. Coordination is required to have a pipeline of talent that needs to be fixed.
- **Cycle Standardization of Programs.** Standardizing the training programs in the youth centers will ensure that athletes are developed at a standard level. The national sports federations should be guided to meet the needs of elite sports.

Pathways to Elite Sports

- **Progression Routes Clearly Defined.** Progression routes for the athlete from the youth center to national teams/elite training facilities need to be clearly defined. This would also involve opportunities for athletes to participate in regional and national competitions where they could be scouted for higher levels of training (Cury et al., 2024).
- **Transition Support.** All support will be given to athletes transitioning from a youth center into an elite sports program. This includes coaching specialization, scholarships, and other resources that prepare young athletes for adjusting to the rigors of higher competitive levels.

Table 3 outlines the SWOT analysis conducted on the current situation of youth centers across Egypt in connection with athletic talent development and sports infrastructure improvement. Knowing the various internal and external factors through the SWOT analysis provides the basis for reviewing areas necessary for the renovation of the youth centers and, subsequently, the setting of their roles in the process of long-term sports development for Egypt.

Table 1
SWOT Analysis of Youth Centers in Egypt

Aspect	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Infrastructure	Widespread presence in urban and rural areas, accessible to a large population	Many centers lack modern facilities and equipment	Potential for upgrades and expansion, leveraging government and private sector support	Limited funding and maintenance issues, especially in rural areas
Talent Development	Early identification of talent through grassroots programs, diverse sports offerings	Inconsistent quality of coaching, lack of specialized training programs	Opportunity to establish partnerships with elite sports academies, potential to nurture future Olympians	Competition from more established private sports academies, risk of talent drains to other countries
Community Engagement	Strong community ties, centers serve as social hubs	Varying levels of community involvement, lack of awareness about the importance of youth centers	Potential to build stronger community support, increased participation through awareness campaigns	Economic and social challenges in certain areas may limit engagement
Government Support	Supported by government initiatives, potential for increased investment	Bureaucratic challenges, slow implementation of development plans	Opportunity for policy reforms and streamlined funding processes, alignment with national sports strategy	Political and economic instability could affect long-term funding and support

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Learning from successful models in other countries can provide valuable insights for enhancing Egypt's youth centers and sports development. Case studies and best practices from nations with well-established sports programs will help identify strategies that can be adapted to Egypt's unique context.

Case Studies and Best Practices

These can be useful in informing the development of youth centers in Egypt with some successful models in other countries, which have had a robust building process regarding national sports programs through the use of their youth centers. For example:

Norway's Youth Sports Programs (Kristiansen & Houlihan, 2017)

Inclusive Participation. The Norwegian approach to sports for young people is based on inclusive participation and having fun. This has resulted in very high levels of involvement and success at elite levels. It represents a model not only for creating a healthy sports environment at the grassroots but also for fostering elite-level success through a strong foundation at the grassroots level, emphasizing the holistic development of athletes from the community to international competition.

South Korea's specialized training centers (Kim & Kim, 1995)

Categories Targeted Development. Specialized training centers have been developed in South Korea, focusing on sports like archery and taekwondo. These proved instrumental in the country's domination of the said events at the Olympic level. This can serve as a model for Egypt to create specialized hubs for priority sports tailored to its unique strengths and strategic objectives.

Brazil's Talent Development Programs (Abd Karim et al., 2022)

Community Inclusion. Talent development programs in Brazil are incorporated at the community level, leading to high diffusion of sports facilities and training in most parts of the country. This model can be cited as an example of involving communities in the youth development process in sports.

Specific actions and strategies must be implemented to fully capitalize on the potential of Egypt's youth centers. The following recommendations outline practical steps to ensure that these centers become a driving force for athletic development and Olympic success.

Implementation Recommendations

The following are the recommended ways to realize the potential of having youth centers in Egypt:

Investment in Infrastructure

Prioritizing renovation of existing youth centers and construction of new youth centers in deprived areas. This should be well facilitated for a multitude of different sports.

Holistic Athlete Training Programs

- Initiating standardized training programs in the various youth centers.
- Such initiatives should target not only skill development but also the overall development of athletes.
- Updating these programs regularly in light of the newest research and best practices in sports science.

Improved Coaching Education

- Developing the coaches through constant education and certification.
- The national coaching academy can also be established to train and upgrade them repeatedly.

Community and Parental Involvement

- Designing programs to integrate community involvement with the activities in the youth center.
- Structuring and educating the parents about the benefits of participation in sports and involving them in the athletic development of their children.

Monitoring and Improvement

- Measuring the youth centers' performance properly.
- Making informed decisions based on data-driven insights regarding programmatic adjustments and proper resource allocation.

This will enable Egypt to have a youth center network that helps not only in the Olympic ambitions but also in the overall development of the youth in the country. These centers will provide an excellent base for future success in sports, lay the setting for a culture of excellence, and ensure the athletes of Egypt are ready to compete at more excellent platforms.

Developing Sports Infrastructure

To understand the future development needs of Egypt's sports infrastructure, it is important to first assess the current state of existing facilities across the country. Evaluating these facilities will help identify gaps and areas for improvement that can support athletic growth.

Current State of Sports Infrastructure in Egypt

The current state of sports infrastructure in Egypt has seen significant changes in recent years, with substantial investments in stadiums, sports complexes, and training facilities. These efforts aim at enhancing the country's capacity to host international events and support elite athletes. However, despite these advancements, there are still significant disparities in the level and provision of sports infrastructure across the country. While Cairo and Alexandria boast large, state-of-the-art sports facilities, many rural areas and smaller towns lack proper infrastructure. This imbalance not only limits the opportunities for young athletes to participate but also hinders the effectiveness of national sports programs (Nour et al.).

While the Cairo International Stadium, Borg El Arab Stadium in Alexandria, and the newly developed sports venues in the New Administrative Capital have been instrumental in building national capacity, there is a pressing need for better integration of these resources into the national sports development strategy to fully utilize their potential.

Addressing the major disparity that exists between rural and urban sports infrastructure is crucial to ensuring equality of opportunity in sports. The lack of standard gym facilities, swimming pool facilities, and well-maintained playing fields in rural areas not only limits the talent pool but also negatively impacts the sports culture at large (Majowiecki et al., 2022).

Addressing the gaps in Egypt's sports infrastructure requires well-planned strategies. These priority strategies will help enhance facilities and ensure that athletes are provided with the best environments for training and competition.

Priority Strategies for Developing Infrastructure

Several strategies will go to great lengths to make good infrastructure available to enhance Egypt's sporting activity standards. They are basically targeting upgrading the facilities that already exist,

developing new infrastructure where it is needed, and ensuring all facilities operate at high levels of utility in support of athletes' development and the national goals set for sports.

Many of Egypt's sports facilities require modernization to meet international standards. Upgrading these existing infrastructures is crucial to creating high-performance training environments for athletes.

Modernization and Upgrading of Existing Facilities

- **Facility Renovation.** Some existing sports facilities in Egypt, especially those constructed several decades ago, need serious renovation to meet modern standards. This would involve upgrading seating areas, fixing more advanced light systems, and ensuring that facilities are friendly and accessible for athletes with disabilities.
- **Integration of Technology** (Bădescu et al., 2022). State-of-the-art sports facilities must incorporate the latest technologies to enhance athletes' performance and involve the audience most fittingly. This shall involve installing the most advanced, high-tech training equipment and sophisticated timing systems for track and field. These digital platforms will be at the forefront of data analysis and performance monitoring.
- **Sustainability Initiatives** (McCullough & Kellison, 2017; Trail & McCullough, 2020). Modernization needs to include sustainability practices in working sports facilities. This may include using renewable sources of energy, water recycling systems, and construction materials, which will reduce the environmental impact caused by sporting infrastructure.

To foster nationwide athletic development, it is essential to build new sports facilities in under-served regions. This will provide greater access to sports infrastructure and expand opportunities for young talent across Egypt.

Development of New Sports Facilities in Under-Served Areas

- **Regional Sports Hubs.** They play a crucial role in bridging the gap in sports infrastructure between urban and rural areas. These hubs, strategically located in areas with high populations and limited access to sports facilities, can focus on popular or high-potential sports within the region. By providing specialized training and resources, these hubs can significantly enhance the accessibility of sports facilities, ensuring equal opportunities for all.
- **Multipurpose Sports Complexes** (Veličković et al., 2018). In addition to the regional hubs, the construction of multipurpose sports complexes in smaller towns and villages would enhance the accessibility of sports. Such complexes should provide for various sporting activities such as football, basketball, volleyball, and athletics and be deemed noteworthy for hosting community events and local competitions.
- **School-Based Sports Infrastructure** (Hogan & Stylianou, 2018). Every school, particularly those in the rural setting, should be provided with sports facilities to develop an interest in sports at an early age. Where applicable, the construction of sports fields, gymnasiums, and swimming pools should be considered. School-based programs on sports can act as feeder systems for regional and national sports teams (Eime & Payne, 2009).

Efficient use of existing facilities is just as important as building new ones. Ensuring that the current infrastructure is fully utilized will help maximize resources and create continuous training opportunities for athletes.

Maximizing the Use of Existing Facilities (Schwarz et al., 2016)

- **Facility Utilization Maximization.** Some sports facilities in Egypt are underutilized, and programs must be developed to keep these facilities in constant use to maximize their impact. Events can comprise hosting national and regional competitions, training camps, and community sports events.
- **Facility Management and Maintenance.** Good management and regular maintenance are the keys to long-lasting and available sports facilities. Following best practices in facility management requires an appropriate scheduling and staffing pattern that keeps these resources in the best possible condition for everyone's use.
- **Community Access and Engagement.** By ensuring accessibility of these facilities to the local communities to enhance the broader sports culture. Community access programs could be facilitated through open days and by offering special discounted rates for people living locally and with community organizations, events, and activity hosting.

Integrating advanced technology and sports science into Egypt's sports infrastructure is vital for improving athlete performance. Leveraging cutting-edge tools and techniques will give Egypt's athletes a competitive edge on the global stage.

Leveraging Advanced Technology and Sports Science

- **Sports Science Centers.** These centers should be established within major sports complexes, especially those associated with elite athlete training. They should concentrate on specializations like biomechanics, nutrition, physiology, and psychology and provide complete support to enhance athletes' performances (Naughton et al., 2024).
- **Analytics in Sports Performance.** This includes using data analytics to monitor and improve athletes' performance. Systems aimed especially at managing training progress, analyzing competition results, and providing real-time feedback will help the athletes and coaches make informed decisions about the training process and their strategy.
- **Virtual and Augmented Reality,** by researching how virtual and augmented reality can be applied across the training programs. They have the potential to replicate competitive environments, enable scenario training, and enhance the mental preparation for competition.

Forming strategic international partnerships is key to developing world-class sports infrastructure. By collaborating with global leaders in sports development, Egypt can access new technologies, best practices, and resources to enhance its athletic facilities.

International Partnerships and Collaboration

- **Global Facility Standards.** This involves collaborating with international sports federations to work out global standards for the sports facilities in Egypt, especially those used to host key international events or as training bases for foreign athletes.

- **Exchange Programs.** They will help the countries with advanced sports infrastructure. This can be an excellent way of getting exposure to facility management, coaching styles, and athletes' training for competition preparedness for the benefit of Egyptian facility managers, coaches, and athletes.
- **International Events Hosting.** The upgraded and new facilities would attract international sports events to Egypt. This would not only advertise the respective facilities but also expose the local athletes to the highest competitions (Peachey & Cohen, 2016).

Ensuring that Egypt's sports infrastructure is sustainable and adaptable to future needs is crucial for long-term success. A clear long-term vision will help guide the development of facilities that support athletes for generations to come.

Long-Term Vision and Sustainability

The long-term vision for Egypt's sports infrastructure is sustainability, inclusivity, and global competitiveness. Based on those basic principles, Egypt will be able to provide itself with a network of sports facilities that are not only supportive of Olympic aspirations but also contribute to the health and well-being of the population in general (Mallen & Chard, 2011).

Sustainability and Care for the Environment

- **Green Building Practices.** All the new sporting facilities should be designed with sustainability in mind by promoting energy-efficient materials in building construction, tapping into renewable energy resources such as solar panels, and, most importantly, having environmentally sensitive water and waste management systems.
- **Long-Term Maintenance Plans.** This includes developing an appropriate maintenance plan for all sports facilities to ensure they remain operational and sustain themselves for a very long time (Abdelati, 2023). This will involve regular inspections, prompt repairs to the facility, and upgrading the infrastructure where needed.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

- **Universal Design Principles.** This means ensuring that all sports facilities are designed according to universal design principles so that everyone can use them regardless of their abilities. This would call for ramps, elevators, accessible seating, and any other accommodation that may be necessary.
- **Community-Centered Development,** by engaging communities in planning and developing new sporting facilities. This will ensure the facilities meet local needs and foster ownership and pride in the infrastructure at local levels.

Global Competitiveness and Innovation

- **Continuous Innovation.** The program should fund continuous innovation in sporting infrastructure, ensuring Egypt is second to none regarding sports technology and facility design. This includes state-of-the-art advancements in construction, training equipment, and athlete support services (Ratten, 2020).

- **Strategic International Alliances**, by developing strategic alliances with leading international sports nations to stay up-to-date with changing global trends and best practices. Such alliances may be further leveraged to secure major international sports event hosting rights and enhance Egypt's global sports profile.

Athlete Support Systems

A comprehensive support system is essential to achieve optimal athletic performance. This includes not only physical training but also access to services such as medical care, psychological support, and nutrition, all of which contribute to an athlete's overall success.

Introducing Athlete Support Systems

International athletes' success in competition reaches the highest possible level, particularly through the intensive setting of the Olympic Games. In fact, it is the whole system of support that operates at all levels concerning athletes' lives that can secure the optimization of performance, health, and mental well-being. With the potential for Egypt to realize continued success in future Olympic cycles, there is a promising opportunity to initiate and build an athlete support system.

Some services and materials for an effective athletic support system include sports sciences, medical care, psychological, dietary, and financial assistance. With properly equipped athletes, Egypt will ensure it uses athletes' potential to the maximum. There are reduced injuries and enhanced performances in general.

An effective athlete support system is built on multiple components, each playing a vital role in the development and well-being of athletes. These components range from sports science and performance monitoring to medical care and psychological resilience.

Components of an Effective Athlete Support System

Sport Science and Performance Analysis

- **Biomechanics and Physiology.** Sports science is applied to athlete performance's biomechanical and physiological parameters. This can detect such things as athletes' movement patterns, how athletes use their muscles, and how much energy they expend when exercising, with programs designed to make training more accessible and less likely to result in injury.
- **Performance Monitoring.** By using data analytics and wearables, most athletes can monitor performance in real-time, adjust their training regimens, and get feedback. Data-driven training makes sure that athletes train optimally toward the set goals (Coutts et al., 2021; Schelling & Robertson, 2020).

Medical Care and Injury Prevention

- **Comprehensive Medical Support.** Any athlete will always accord paramount consideration to access to the best available medical care. This becomes all the more important during the treatment of injuries and the recovery processes involved, including routine health checkups, access to sports medicine specialists, and access to high-end diagnostic facilities (Emery & Pasanen, 2019).
- **Injury Prevention Programs.** The proactive prevention of injury also forms a significant component of the support for an athlete. Chances of potential injuries can be considerably reduced

by these programs, which include building strength and conditioning, flexibility, and proper technique. Besides, educating the athlete on prevention and intervention strategies is also highly important (Chalmers, 2002; Verhagen & van Mechelen, 2010).

Support in Psychological and Mental Health Issues

- **Sports Psychology Services.** Mental toughness and resilience are equally important as physical strength, more so in sports. Sports psychologists can help develop coping strategies, manage stress, and build confidence, especially in pressure-full situations like the Olympics.
- **Mental Health Resources.** Other than performance-oriented psychological support, attention to mental health matters is key, such as anxiety, depression, and burnout. The proposed athlete support system will provide access to professionals handling mental health, and also create an environment that allows athletes to express themselves without fear of judgment concerning their mental well-being. This comprehensive approach to athlete well-being is crucial for their overall performance and success.

Nutritional Guidance and Support

- **Personalized Nutrition Plans.** Proper nutrition generally forms the base of athletic performance. Therefore, A nutritionist should be involved in tailoring meal plans to each athlete's energy and recovery needs. This may include diet adjustments respecting the demands of their sport, the intensity of their training, and competition schedules.
- **Education and Supplementation.** The athlete's education regarding nutrition and supplementation needs is essential. Athletes must know when and how to take various nutrients, be warned about the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs, and use supplements safely for recovery and performance.

Financial and Logistical Support

- **Funding and Sponsorship.** Financial stability would allow the athletes to focus on training without worrying about economic security. Scholarships, grants, and other forms of sponsorship would come in handy in catering to some of the expenses related to training and traveling, among other needs.
- **Logistical Support.** Planning logistics for training, competition, and travel are other areas of support that prove highly relevant to the athletes. It involves the coordination of schedules, transportation (Abdelati, 2024), and other facilities to ensure all athletes are exposed to the best facilities and equipment during competition.

Implementing a successful athlete support system requires careful planning and coordination. The strategies outlined here will help ensure that every athlete receives the support they need to perform at their best, both in training and in competition.

Athlete Support System Implementation Strategies

Integration of the Support Services

- **Central Support Centers,** to entail setting up central support centers so that athletes can go to one place and get the services of sports science, medical care, and psychological and nutritional

consultations under one roof. This comprehensive approach ensures total care, providing athletes and stakeholders with the confidence that all their needs are being met.

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**, by integrating input from coaches, sports scientists, medical professionals, and psychologists to deliver a quality support system that can cater to the needs of each athlete. Regular meetings with an integrated care plan can ensure that an athlete's development of concern is addressed.

Capacity Building and Education

- **Support Staff Training**, by providing continuous education and training of support staff, particularly coaches, sports scientists, and medical personnel. Keeping them abreast of the latest research findings and techniques shall ensure that athletes receive the best possible care (Edwards, 2015).
- **Athlete Education Programs**, by establishing institutes to educate athletes about the resources available and how to use the services effectively. This includes workshops on nutrition, mental health, injury prevention, and financial management.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Regular Review**, regularly reviewing the Athlete Support Systems to establish their effectiveness and efficiency and discover any shortcomings.
- **Individual Needs Adaptation**. Each athlete is an individual with needs that change over time. Regular follow-up care and individually developed care plans ensure that the support systems in place remain applicable and effective throughout an athlete's career, demonstrating our commitment to valuing each athlete's unique journey.

Resource Allocation and Sustainability (Abdelati et al., 2023; Mohamed, 2023; Abdelati, 2023)

- **Priority Setting**, by strategizing effective utilization of available resources on priority support areas that can make the most difference in performance, including identification and support for high-performance athletes and Olympic medal prospects.
- **Sustainable Funding Models**, by creating long-term funding models that can sustain programs. This would involve government funding, private sector sponsors, and community fund-raising exercises (Bradbury et al., 2021).

Learning from successful athlete support systems in other countries can provide valuable insights into Egypt's approach. Case studies and best practices demonstrate how comprehensive support can lead to consistent Olympic success.

Case Studies and Best Practice

Australian Institute of Sport -AIS (Wells et al., 2020)

Holistic Support Model. The AIS has built a reputation for embracing an all-inclusive support model that extends services holistically to athletes in all spheres of their development. Their model emphasizes collaboration between the disciplines to ensure athletes receive holistic care.

Performance Implications. The AIS support system has been a cardinal factor in Australia's overall success at the Olympics, notably in sports like swimming and cycling. The Institute's focus on sports science and personalized care helped the athletes reach their peak performance.

UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport -EIS (Lindsey & Bloyce, 2023)

Tailored Athlete Support. Through its countrywide network of performance centers, UK Sport and the EIS provide targeted support to elite athletes. This also includes world-class facilities, access to cutting-edge sports science, and coaching at world-class standards.

Results and Successes. This model has yielded dividends through improved Olympic performances in the UK, where in the recent games, athletes again and again performed above expectations in sports such as cycling, rowing, and athletics.

South Africa's Athlete Support Systems

South Africa has implemented a comprehensive athlete support system emphasizing a holistic athletic development approach. The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) collaborates closely with government bodies to provide athletes access to high-quality coaching, sports science, and psychological support. Elite athletes benefit from specialized training programs to improve their physical and mental resilience, preparing them for international competition. Additionally, the country has established performance centers where athletes receive tailored support in areas such as injury prevention and recovery (Burnett, 2015). This model mirrors those seen in developed nations, proving that even with limited resources, developing countries can achieve high performance through strategic support.

Specific recommendations must be implemented to enhance athlete support and strengthen Egypt's Olympic prospects. These recommendations focus on providing athletes with the necessary resources, training, and care to ensure peak performance.

Recommendations for Egypt

National Athlete Support Centers

- **Centralized Hubs.** National Athlete Support Centers will be established at critical locations in the New Administrative Capital and other major cities. These centers will ensure services from sports science advice to medical and psychological.
- **Regional Access.** While the sizeable regional training hubs will also be appropriately serviced, they still focus on regional access with essential support services for athletes in those regions to have better accessibility.

Investing in Sports, Science and Technology

- **State-of-the-Art Appliances,** by endowing support centers with state-of-the-art sports science equipment, including performance monitoring systems, tools for biomechanical analysis, and recovery facilities.
- **Research and Development,** by entailing research and innovation in sports science, particularly the development of new techniques and technologies that can yield an added advantage for Egyptian athletes.

Enhanced Psychological and Nutrition Support

- **Mental Health Programs**, by increasing access to sports psychologists and mental health resources so that every athlete can get the help necessary for dealing with stress and developing mental strength.
- **Nutritional Services**, such as general nutrition consultation and education emphasizing individual diet plans and safe supplementation.

Sustainable Financial Support

- **Scholarship Programs**, by setting up scholarship and grant programs for the financial backing of athletes so that they can concentrate on training and competition without financial worries.
- **Private Sector Partnerships**, by engaging private sector sponsors in support of other services to athletes and providing a long-term, viable model for the benefit of future generations.

By developing robust and comprehensive support systems, Egypt will ensure its athletes are best prepared to compete at the top level. These systems will enhance performance and the long-term welfare and success of athletes and position Egypt as a real contender in years to come at the Olympic Games.

International Collaboration and Benchmarking

International collaboration plays a crucial role in elevating national sports programs. By learning from the successes and innovations of other countries, Egypt can improve its own sports development initiatives, fostering stronger athletes and better overall performance.

Role of International Collaboration in Sports Development

International collaboration is a critical component in the advancement of national sports programs. By engaging with other nations, sports organizations, and international bodies, Egypt can gain access to advanced training techniques, coaching methodologies, sports science innovations, and competition strategies that have proven successful elsewhere. These collaborations provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and exposure to higher levels of competition. This exposure is essential for preparing athletes to compete at the highest levels, thereby enhancing Egypt's sports infrastructure, athlete performance, and success in global competitions, including the Olympic Games (Sam, 2016).

To understand where Egypt stands in terms of international partnerships, it's important to assess the current state of collaboration efforts. This evaluation will highlight existing successes and identify areas where deeper partnerships could be beneficial.

Current Status of Egypt's International Sports Collaborations

Historically, Egypt has participated in various international collaborations, particularly in sports where the country has traditionally excelled, such as football, weightlifting, and squash. However, the extent and impact of these collaborations have been uneven, with some sports benefiting more than others. While Egypt has successfully engaged in partnerships with certain countries and international sports bodies, there is significant potential for growth to expand and deepen these relationships across a broader range of sports (Chadwick et al., 2021).

In recent years, efforts have been made to collaborate with international sports academies, particularly in Europe and the Middle East. However, there is an urgent need for a more structured and strategic approach to these partnerships. It's crucial that they align with Egypt's national sports objectives and contribute directly to the development of athletes and sports infrastructure (Fares et al., 2021; Sulayem et al., 2013).

For Egypt to make the most of its international collaborations, clearly defined strategic objectives are essential. These goals will guide future partnerships, focusing on areas that can directly impact athletic performance and sports infrastructure development.

Access to Advanced Training and Coaching Techniques

- **Elite Coaching Exchange Programs**, by establishing exchange programs with countries that excel in specific sports, allowing Egyptian coaches to learn from their counterparts abroad. These programs should focus on sports where Egypt has potential but needs advanced coaching techniques (Lemyre et al., 2007; MacLellan et al., 2018).
- **International Training Camps**, by organizing joint training camps with leading sports nations, where Egyptian athletes can train alongside international competitors. These camps provide exposure to different training regimens and competitive environments, which are crucial for athlete development (Kozma et al., 2014).

Adoption of Global Best Practices

- **Benchmarking Against Top Performers**, by creating regular benchmarks for Egypt's sports programs against those of leading Olympic nations, identifying gaps and areas for improvement. This benchmarking should cover athlete development, coaching standards, sports science integration, and competition preparation (Sherry et al., 2024).
- **Learning from Successful Models**, by studying the sports systems of countries like the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Korea, which have successfully transformed their Olympic performance through targeted investments and strategic planning. These models can offer valuable insights into building a robust sports ecosystem.

Participation in International Competitions

- **Increased Competition Exposure**, by ensuring that Egyptian athletes regularly participate in international competitions, particularly in sports where the level of domestic competition may not be sufficient. Competing internationally exposes athletes to higher standards of play and helps them adapt to the pressures of global tournaments (Taks et al., 2018).
- **Hosting International Events**, by leveraging Egypt's sports infrastructure to host international competitions, attracting top athletes worldwide. Hosting events not only raises the profile of Egyptian sports but also allows local athletes to compete on home soil against international opponents.

Collaboration in Sports Science and Technology

- **Joint Research Initiatives**, by partnering with international sports science institutions to conduct joint research on performance enhancement, injury prevention, and recovery strategies.

Collaborative research can lead to the development of new techniques and technologies that benefit Egyptian athletes.

- **Technology Transfer**, by entering into technology transfer agreements with leading sports nations, acquiring advanced training equipment, performance monitoring systems, and other technological innovations that can enhance athlete preparation and performance.

Examining case studies of successful international collaborations provides valuable lessons. These examples show how targeted partnerships can significantly improve a country's sports development and Olympic performance.

Case Studies of Successful International Collaborations

United Kingdom and Australia: Performance Partnerships

UK-Australia Sports Collaboration. The United Kingdom and Australia have established solid collaborative ties in sports, particularly in areas like swimming, cycling, and athletics. These partnerships have involved coaching exchanges, joint training camps, and shared sports science research, contributing to the success of both nations in the recent Olympic Games (Nichols et al., 2015).

Impact. The collaboration has improved training methodologies, athlete recovery protocols, and competition strategies, with both nations consistently ranking among the top medal winners in the Olympics (Green, 2007).

South Korea and the United States: Archery Excellence

Korea-US Archery Partnership. South Korea, the dominant force in Olympic archery, has collaborated extensively with the United States to enhance its training programs. This partnership involved sharing coaching expertise, conducting joint training sessions, and participating in bilateral competitions (Choi & Ok, 2019; Park et al., 2016).

Impact. The collaboration has reinforced South Korea's dominance in archery while also helping the United States improve its standing in the sport. The exchange of knowledge and techniques has been mutually beneficial, leading to higher performance levels for both nations.

China and Russia: Weightlifting Collaboration

China-Russia Weightlifting Cooperation. China and Russia, both powerhouses in weightlifting, have collaborated on various aspects of training, including strength conditioning, technique refinement, and anti-doping measures. This collaboration has also extended to sharing insights on sports psychology and athlete motivation (Chen et al., 2019; Zheng, 2018).

Impact. The partnership has helped both countries maintain their dominance in weightlifting, with athletes consistently achieving top ranks in international competitions, including the Olympics.

To fully capitalize on the potential of international collaboration, Egypt must implement specific strategies aimed at strengthening its global partnerships. These recommendations will help Egypt leverage international resources and expertise to improve its sports programs.

Recommendations for Enhancing Egypt's International Collaboration

Establishing Strategic Partnerships with Leading Sports Nations

- **Targeted Collaborations**, by focusing on establishing partnerships with countries that excel in sports where Egypt has potential, such as athletics, swimming, and gymnastics. These partnerships should address gaps in Egypt's sports programs, such as coaching expertise or sports science capabilities.
- **Government and Private Sector Involvement**, by encouraging the involvement of both government bodies and private sector sponsors in supporting these international collaborations. This can include funding exchange programs, sponsoring joint training camps, and facilitating the transfer of technology and expertise.

Developing a National Framework for International Collaboration

- **Centralized Coordination**, by creating a centralized body within the Ministry of Youth and Sports to coordinate all international collaborations. This body would identify potential partners, negotiate agreements, and ensure collaborations align with national sports objectives.
- **Long-Term Collaboration Plans**, by developing long-term plans for each collaboration, with clear goals, timelines, and metrics for success. Regular evaluations should be conducted to assess the effectiveness of these partnerships and adjust as needed, providing reassurance about the effectiveness of our strategies.

Enhancing Participation in Global Sports Networks

- **Engaging with International Federations**, by strengthening ties with international sports federations, ensuring that Egypt is actively involved in global governance and decision-making processes. This engagement can provide access to valuable resources, including funding opportunities, training programs, and competition slots.
- **Leveraging Diplomatic Channels**, by using diplomatic channels to foster sports collaborations, particularly in regions where Egypt seeks to expand its influence. Sports diplomacy can open doors to new partnerships and enhance Egypt's global standing in the sports arena.

Promoting Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

- **International Workshops and Conferences**, by hosting international workshops and conferences in Egypt, bringing together experts worldwide to share knowledge and best practices in sports management, coaching, and athlete development. These events can also serve as networking opportunities for Egyptian sports professionals.
- **Cross-Cultural Training Programs**, by developing cross-cultural training programs that prepare Egyptian athletes and coaches for the challenges of competing and collaborating internationally. These programs should focus on cultural awareness, communication skills, and adapting to different training environments.

Long-Term Vision for International Collaboration

The long-term vision for Egypt's international sports collaboration should focus on building a globally competitive sports system that is resilient, innovative, and capable of producing world-class

athletes. By fostering international solid partnerships, Egypt can enhance its sports infrastructure, improve athlete performance, and achieve tremendous success in global competitions, including the Olympic Games (MacIntosh et al., 2016).

Sustainable Collaboration Models

- **Continuous Engagement**, by ensuring that international collaborations are sustainable and based on mutual benefit. Continuous engagement with global partners, rather than one-off exchanges, will create lasting relationships that contribute to long-term sports development.
- **Institutional Partnerships**, by developing partnerships with leading sports academies, universities, and research centers globally. These partnerships can provide ongoing access to the latest sports science research, coaching techniques, and technological innovations.

Global Recognition and Influence

- **Positioning Egypt as a Global Sports Hub**, by leveraging international collaborations to position Egypt as a global sports hub in the Middle East and Africa. Hosting major international events, establishing world-class training centers, and becoming a sports research and innovation center can elevate Egypt's global sports profile.
- **Building a Legacy**. Through these collaborations, the study aims at building a legacy that benefits current athletes and lays the groundwork for future generations. This includes creating pathways for young athletes to engage in international sports and ensuring that Egypt's success in global competitions is sustained over the long term.

By strategically enhancing international collaborations and benchmarking against the best in the world, Egypt can significantly elevate its sports programs, improving performance at the Olympics and other global competitions. These efforts will contribute to immediate success and create a strong foundation for the future of Egyptian sports.

Governance, Policy, and Finance

The governance of sports in Egypt involves multiple stakeholders working together to shape the direction of the country's sports programs. Understanding the structure and roles of these governing bodies is key to improving the national sports framework.

Background on How Sports Are Governed in Egypt

Sports governance in Egypt is seen as a key actor involved in the construction, organization, and exercise of the sports sector at the national level, inside and around sporting events, and the representation of its athletes in global competitions, like the Olympics. This governance structure is implemented by many actors: The Ministry of Youth and Sports, national sports federations, the Egyptian Olympic Committee, and the private sector (Reiche & Sorek, 2019). The private sector significantly contributes to the financial aspect of sports governance through sponsorships and investments in sports infrastructure. Effective governance ensures transparency and accountability, as well as providing strategic direction in sports. Success in athletes and national sports programs means effective governance in sports (Wicker et al., 2009).

Some successes and many challenges have come hand in hand. While there is effort in reforms geared toward sports federations and policy implementation for increased government support for the athletes, more measures still need to be taken to ensure appropriate coordination and efficient bureaucracy in these entities. That ensures Egypt needs to realize its true sporting potential. Solid governance reforms are the only pathway out for Egypt regarding the issue area of competitiveness (Jorgič, 2023).

Sports Governance in Egypt

Effective sports governance depends on a set of fundamental principles that ensure clarity, accountability, and long-term planning. These key ingredients provide the foundation upon which successful sports programs are built.

Critical Ingredients for Effective Sports Governance

1. Clear Organizational Structure and Responsibilities

- **Defined Roles and Accountability.** Unclear roles and responsibilities could be disastrous for the entire governance framework. Thereby, from the Ministry of Youth and Sports to the cluster down, the delineation of roles and responsibilities very sharp in the sports governance framework is crucial so that every entity knows what is expected of it and is held accountable for what it does (Lam, 2014).
- **Improving coordination and communication channels among the governmental bodies, sports federation, the Egyptian Olympic Committee, and the private sector is a significant challenge.** This coordination is crucial for the working together in concerted efforts toward a common goal. For example, improving athlete performance and enhancing sports infrastructure. However, due to bureaucratic hurdles and differing priorities, achieving this level of coordination remains a challenge (Abd Elhamed, 2020).

2. Transparency and Accountability

- **Transparent Decision-Making Processes.** Transparency in decision-making processes, particularly in areas such as funding allocation and athlete selection, is a cornerstone of effective sports governance. It instills confidence in stakeholders and ensures that resources are used in the most effective and fair manner, enhancing the integrity of the sports governance system (Král & Cuskelly, 2018; Lam, 2014).
- **Regular Audits and Reporting.** Regular audits and detailed reporting requirements for sports federations and governing bodies are crucial for ensuring sound financial management in sports governance. These measures provide a sense of security and accountability, as they assess financial management, board practices, and program evaluation in sports, making the results public to ensure transparency and accountability.

3. Strategic Planning and Long-Term Vision

- **National Sports Strategy,** by developing and regularly updating a comprehensive national sports strategy that outlines the long-term goals, priorities, and actions for Egypt in improving performance in sports. The document should align with broader national objectives such as youth development, health promotion, and international reputation building (Nazari & Abedi, 2013).

- Performance Metrics and Evaluation, by unambiguously setting down performance metrics against which the success of the sports and governance reforms may be judged. Periodic evaluation will ensure constant improvements are made, which will upgrade the sports sector of Egypt and keep it up-to-date with competition.

4. Inclusion and Diversity in Sports Governance

- Gender Equality and Inclusion, by ensuring that gender equality and inclusion in the sports governance structure provide opportunities for women and underrepresented groups to participate in decision-making. Diverse leadership in sports will bring about new ideas and robust innovation.
- Youth Involvement, by encouraging youth engagement in sports governance, more so at the advisory level or youth councils. This means the views of upcoming generations are considered in how sports policies and programs are devolved upon and implemented.

5. Sports Policy Formulation and Implementation

Sound sports policy sets the scene behind effective sports programs. The case of Egypt will present what is required as a strategic approach for developing and implementing sports policy. The goal is to meet the country's national goals and priorities, stakeholders' demands or expectations, as well as obtaining policy models from top-performing sports nations that will link back to athlete development, investments in sports infrastructure, sports science, and policy on international collaboration amongst others (Chalip, 1995).

6. Policy Areas and Objectives

- Athlete Development Policies, as the policy emphasizes harnessing, training, and developing athletes from the grassroots to elite competition. It should include pathways for young athletes to advance progressively from regional to national and international competitions (King, 2009).
- Investment in Infrastructure, by developing policies that first ensure investment in sports infrastructure where they are short of requirements. This includes upgrading the old ones, building new training centers, and developing infrastructure that is available and accessible.
- Sports Science and Technology, by aiding the relevant regulatory bodies in integrating sports science and technology in all training programs their respective athletes undertake. Policies should encourage research in the development of biomechanics, nutrition, and injury prevention to ensure athletes apply the latest developments.
- International Collaboration, by developing policies that will enhance international cooperation in sports, including collaborating with other countries, presentations in international competitions, and hosting of international events in Egypt.

7. Policy Implementation Barriers

- Bureaucratic Hurdles, by overcoming the bureaucratic difficulties that stand in the way of timely and successful implementation of sports policy. Streamlining processes and reducing red tape guarantee that execution is done smoothly and effectively.

- **Resource Allocation**, by guaranteeing that resource allocation is done according to the policy priorities outlined. This includes channeling funds into programs for developing athletes, infrastructural projects, and international collaboration. There has to be transparency and equity in its distribution (Mountjoy et al., 2019).
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**, by developing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the sports policies. Regular review and necessary updates in accordance with the feedback and performance data would make policies relevant and operational.

Adequate funding and sound financial management are crucial for sustaining sports development in Egypt. Without the proper financial resources, it is difficult to maintain the infrastructure and athlete support systems necessary for success.

Funding and Financial Management in Sport

Adequate funding goes a long way in ensuring the success of any sports program because it provides the capacity to develop infrastructure, offer athlete support services, and organize competitions. National sports funding in most countries, including Egypt, is usually from government allocation, the private sector through sponsorships, and international grants. Efficient financial management programs ensure that such monies are used appropriately to ensure the investments bear the highest possible return regarding athlete performances and sports development (Brown et al., 2016; El Hosiny, 2023).

Egypt's sports programs are funded through various sources, including government allocations, private sector sponsorships, and international grants. Understanding these sources and how they contribute to sports development is key to creating sustainable funding models.

Sources of Funds

Government Allocations. The government has been funding sports massively supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The funds support infrastructure, national sports federations, and athlete training programs. Principles on ensuring proper allocation and judicious use of government funds bring out the best impacts.

Private Sector Sponsorship. The private sector plays a significant role in funding sports in Egypt through sponsorship deals with corporations. Tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and corporate CSR encourage more private sector interests, which will enable the country to have more resources to invest in this portfolio of sports development.

International grants and donations. International organizations, such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the majority of sports federations, offer grants and donations that fund specific projects in sports development. Money is peculiarly valuable, essentially for youth projects and infrastructure development.

Effective financial management practices are essential to ensure resources are used wisely and in alignment with national sports priorities. Budgeting, transparency, and accountability are all critical components of this process.

Practices in Managing Finance

Budget and Resource Allocation, by developing stringent budgeting processes that require spending only on strategic priorities. This must include setting clear financial goals, tracking expenditures, and adjusting as necessary to stay within budget.

Accountability and Transparency. This involves the insistence on detailed financial reporting for all manner of sports organizations that receive any form of public or private fund manifests in an organization's improved financial accountability. Such transparent ways of management of finances create trust among stakeholders and ensure that funds are utilized effectively.

Sustainable Funding Models. This means identifying and setting out at least two sustainable funding models that will diminish the dependence on government allocations and increase the inclusiveness of the private sector and international donors. It is to develop endowment funds, subscription-based sponsorship, and tapping new revenue sources like sports-related tourism, a fast-growing industry in various parts of the world, and merchandising.

Sports funding in Egypt faces economic challenges, but with careful planning and strategic opportunities, it is possible to overcome these limitations and maximize the return on investment in sports programs.

Challenges and Opportunities in Sports Funding

Economic Limitations. Egypt's economy needs to be improved, leading to limitations that may affect public funds for sports. Determining ways to reduce these limitations, i.e., source diversification and financial efficiency, will ensure the sustenance of sports programs.

Maximizing ROI, by ensuring that a high return on investment is realized regarding athlete performance, infrastructure development, and international recognition in sports investments. This may involve adequate planning, execution, and monitoring of projects funded.

Leverage International Funding, by aggressively pursuing and applying for international grants and funding opportunities. The relationship with global sports organizations will enhance the chances of more finance if evidence shows that Egypt is committed to sports development.

Looking at successful models from other countries offers valuable insights into how Egypt can improve its governance, policy, and funding structures. Case studies provide practical examples of what works in sports systems around the world.

Case Studies in Effective Governance, Policy and Funding

Australia's Sports Commission

Governance Reform. The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is one of the best governments with effective governance that has cemented clarity of roles, accountability, and transparency. ASC has also pursued vigorously formulated policies and strategic plans in line with national goals, leading to the success of Australians in the Olympics.

Funding Model. The funding model for Australian sports is the result of a system in which there are unique features of solid and organized government involvement, substantial private sector involvement; a range of funding sources secure funding mechanisms through the establishment of long-term sponsorship contracts, appropriate levels of government grants, which are of targeted

nature, consistent, secure funding helps in publicizing notion of government support for particular sports programs (Rule, 1998).

UK Sport's Governance and Funding Strategy

Strategic Funding Allocation. Strategic funding allocation is part of the UK Sport governance framework. Strategic funding is on offer for those sports with the highest medal potential. It is the very nature of the strategic funding allocation directed towards the outputs, which has gone on to ensure that the UK has risen in its Olympic medal rankings over the past two decades (Girginov, 2017).

Accountability mechanisms. UK Sport mandates rigorous accountability for the agencies it finances. This is consisted of reviews of performance and finances to guarantee value for public and private money and identifiable and quantifiable accomplishments in sports initiatives.

Norway's Holistic Sports Policy (Skille & Säfvenbom, 2011)

Inclusive Governance. Norway's model of sports governance is based on inclusivity, having targeted the involvement of all citizens in sporting activities. The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) encourages equal gender balance and children's participation in sports governance.

Integrated Funding Approach. A high level of state assistance is complemented by corporate partnerships and lottery incomes in the Norwegian funding approach. Meanwhile, NIF ensures a fair allocation of resources to sports and areas for elite and grassroots schemes.

Recommendations for Strengthening Governance, Policy, and Funding in Egypt

To ensure that Egypt's sports sector remains competitive on the global stage, there is a need for reforms in governance, policy, and financing. These recommendations focus on enhancing transparency, streamlining organizational structures, improving policy implementation, and diversifying funding sources. By adopting these strategies, Egypt can build a sustainable sports development framework that supports athletes and promotes long-term success.

Governance Reforms

- The organizational structures of sports governance in Egypt have to be Simplified and streamlined to enhance efficiency and reduce bureaucracy. Established hierarchies and delineated responsibilities will help in better decision-making and accountability.
- Stronger mechanisms of accountability need to be put in place, including regular audits, performance evaluation, and public reporting of the outcomes. This would make sports organizations answerable for their actions and ensure optimal usage of resources (Abdelati et al., 2024; Hilal Abdelatli Abdelwali, 2024; Abdelwali, 2024).

Policy Improvements

- **Developing a National Sports Strategy**, by developing a comprehensive national sports strategy indicating Egypt's long-term objectives, priorities, and actions set for the country. Such a strategy must be updated regularly due to changes in the global arena in terms of sports and domestic needs.

- **Focusing on Inclusivity and Diversity**, by implementing a sports policy that promotes and enhances inclusivity and diversity, where women, youth, and other minority groupings are given a space in sports and sports governance.

Improved financing

- **Diversify Sources of Sports Funding**, by reducing dependency on the government by looking for other ways of funding sports, encouraging more participation of the private sector through sponsorships, and expanding their CSR to include development in the sports sector and public-private partnerships.
- **Improve Financial Management**, by developing financial accounting practices of all sports bodies, focusing on transparency, accountability, and sustainability, and developing long-term funding models to ensure continuing financial support for sports.

International Linkages and Benchmarks

- Ensuring that there is the adoption of global best practices by benchmarking the framework of sports governance, policy, and funding practices within Egypt regularly, systematically, and consistently against the leading sports nations of the world so that Egypt remains guided against the improvements in sports systems to achieve tremendous success at international levels.
- International collaboration by increasing and enhancing international collaboration in sports governance and the development of policies. Global sports agencies and the experience gained through international collaboration can be involved in the development of governance frameworks and funding strategies in Egypt.

Therefore, governance, policy, and financing would be the areas on which a strong base for sports development could be built within Egypt to leverage and sustain these continued glorious achievements in the Olympics as well. In the international arena, this will enhance the performance of Egyptian athletes and contribute to the broader goals of national pride, social inclusion, and economic development.

Economic and Social Impact

The sports industry plays a significant role in Egypt's economy, contributing to job creation, infrastructure development, and GDP growth. Understanding the economic impact of this sector is key to realizing its potential in driving national progress.

Introduction to the Economic and Social Impact of Sport

Sports play a significant role in shaping a nation's economic and social fabric. In Egypt, this is realized in the sense of sports development, particularly in the elite sector - referring to high-performance sports that generate substantial economic returns through broadcasting rights, sponsorships, and large audience engagement. The following is a comprehensive review of the economic benefits and social effects of sports development, particularly at the elite level, in Egypt. This holds not only financial benefits in the simple form but also job creation, infrastructure development, tourism, and international investment. It also brings social benefits by enhancing national pride, public health, and social cohesion and inclusion (Barbu et al., 2020; Spaaij, 2009).

One critical aspect of understanding this effort is its broader economic and social impact in helping Egypt improve its performance in the Olympic Games and other international sports competitions. Strategic investments in sports can yield substantive returns, both in medals at international competitions and as a driver of economic growth and social development (Houlihan & Malcolm, 2015).

Economic Impact of Sports Development

The sports industry in Egypt is more than just about athletes and competitions; it has significant economic implications. By generating revenue, creating jobs, and stimulating local economies through infrastructure projects, sports development serves as a catalyst for broader economic growth. Understanding these impacts is crucial for shaping future sports policies and investment strategies.

Job Creation and Employment Opportunities

- **Employment Opportunities in the Sports Industry.** Such growth in sports infrastructure and programs opens up employment opportunities in sectors such as coaching, administration, sports medicine, facility management, and event planning. The construction and subsequent maintenance of sports facilities also create jobs in industries like construction and services (Barbu et al., 2020). Recent data highlights that the sports industry in Egypt was valued at over USD 5 billion in 2023, contributing significantly to employment growth. The sector directly supports over 2.5 million jobs, encompassing areas such as facility management, coaching, and event logistics, reflecting its importance in national job creation efforts (Mohammed, 2022).
- **Youth Employment.** Many of Egypt's youth centers and sports academies could transform into employment centers with coaching, mentoring, and facility management jobs. Engaging more young people in sports-related employment will reduce unemployment among the youth in Egypt, besides offering them gainful employment.

Infrastructure Development and Urban Planning (Dickson & Zhang, 2020; El-Wahab et al., 2021)

- **Investment in Sports Infrastructure.** The development of sports infrastructure, such as stadiums, training centers, and sports complexes, is also related to urban development infrastructure. This not only helps the performance of athletes but also improves the quality of life within communities through the arrangement of spaces for recreational purposes.
- **Impact on Real Estate and Local Businesses.** Sports facilities often spur area renovation, increasing property values and supporting growth in local businesses. Modern sports infrastructure can attract investment and spur the development of related industries, such as hospitality, retail, and entertainment.

Tourism and International Investment

- **Sports Tourism.** Mega international events such as the Olympics work like magic in positively influencing tourism; they attract visitors worldwide. They are revenue-earning for the hospitality and tourism sector, with businesses like hotels, restaurants, and transport services (Yıldız & Cekic, 2015).

- **Global Exposure and Investment.** International sporting successes elevate Egypt's global profile, leading to increased FDI and international joint ventures. Firms and investors are more likely to invest in a country viewed as stable, dynamic, and a winner on the world stage.

Income Generation from Sporting Activities

- **Ticket Sales and Sponsorships.** Large sports events make much revenue from ticket sales, sponsorship deals, and broadcasting rights. In this way, the commercialization of sports can offer substantive income to national sports federations and the government.
- **Merchandising and Branding.** Sports success can fuel the selling of merchandise like team jerseys, equipment, and even memorabilia. Effective branding and marketing can turn sports achievements into a bankable business for athletes and organizations.

Social Impact of Sports Development

Beyond economic benefits, sports have a profound social impact. Sports foster community engagement, promote inclusivity, and improve public health by encouraging physical activity. In Egypt, sports also serve as a powerful tool for youth development and national cohesion, shaping a more united and health-conscious society.

National Pride and Social Cohesion

- **National Identity.** The success of our sports sector, particularly in international events such as the Olympics, serves to instill a deep sense of national pride amongst our people. Athletes who perform well at the international level become powerful symbols of our national identity, bridging different social and economic backgrounds and uniting people across geographical boundaries (Spaaij, 2009).
- **Promoting Social Cohesion.** Sports have a unique ability to unite communities, thereby enhancing social cohesion and reducing social tensions. Increased participation in sports across different groups in Egypt will foster greater social integration and contribute to a more cohesive society.

Health and Well-being

- **Public Health Improvement.** Participation in sports and physical activity has a direct and positive impact on public health, reducing the burden of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions. Promoting an active lifestyle through sports events can help create a healthier society and alleviate the strain on the healthcare system (Safai, 2022).
- **Benefit to Mental Health.** Games also provide mental health benefits by reducing stress, anxiety, and depression associated with exercise. Physical activity triggered through exercise releases endorphins, enhances mood, and gives one a sense of purpose and achievement, especially in young people.
- **Youth Development and Education.** The ability to develop character and life skills is one of the most effective ways of sports for youngsters; it teaches teamwork, discipline, leadership, and perseverance. These skills can be transferred to other areas, such as education and employment.

- **Educational Opportunities.** Success in sports can mean educational opportunities through scholarships, scholarship opportunities, and the like, which also include entry into elite, excellent schools. School and youth-center-based sports programs can develop higher academic achievement through a physically fit body, increased concentration, and a more balanced life.

Gender Equality and Empowerment

- **Promoting Gender Equality.** The real potential lies in sports being a vehicle through which gender equality can be promoted; hence, it avails opportunities for participating, competing, and excelling for women and girls. Equal opportunities and access to facilities, sports programs, and leadership roles in sports bring down gender barriers and challenge the status quo within society.
- **Empowerment through Sports.** Most women and girls feel empowered, confident, and self-reliant. Participation in sports challenges conventional gender roles and opens up opportunities for women to take on leadership roles in sports and society.

Strategic Recommendations for Maximum Economic and Social Impact

To fully harness the potential of sports development in Egypt, it is essential to implement strategic recommendations that maximize both economic and social outcomes. By focusing on key areas such as infrastructure investment, public-private partnerships, and community engagement, Egypt can leverage sports as a driver of economic growth, job creation, and social well-being. These recommendations outline actionable steps to ensure that the sports sector continues to contribute positively to the nation's development.

Strategic Investment in Sports Infrastructure

- **Multi-Use Facilities,** which are sports facilities that are designed to cater to both elite-level athletes and members of the general public. They are specifically designed with international events in mind, while also providing community access for casual recreational use. This approach ensures that the facilities are not only used for high-level competitions but also serve the local community, thereby maximizing their economic and social impact.
- **Public-Private Partnerships,** by encouraging public-private partnerships that can avail finances for developing and maintaining sports infrastructure. For instance, the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for the 2012 Summer Olympics was a successful public-private partnership, with the private sector contributing expertise and funding. Such partnerships can help pull in the resources and expertise of the private sector in ascertaining facilities are of high standards and efficiently managed.

Encouragement of Sports Tourism

- **Host International Sports Events.** Bid for the hosting right for various regional and international sports competitions as a way of asserting Egypt as a leading destination. The hard currency and tourist attraction from such events yield added promise in raising the prestige of Egypt internationally.
- **Sports Tourism Packages.** Major sporting events can be packaged with visits to Egypt's different cultural and historical sites to create sports tourism packages. This will help diversify the tourist experience and increase the economic value of sports tourism.

Grassroots Participation

- **Increasing the Inclusiveness of Sports Programs**, by extending the sports activities to all sectors of society with attention to rural and underprivileged areas. Expansion in access to sports could identify talent at its preschool age and allow citizens to be involved in physical activity.
- **Community Sport Initiative Support**, by providing funding and resources for community-based sports initiatives operating at the grassroots level to increase participation. These programs help to develop a good foundation for future athletic achievement and a culture of physical activity.

Physical Activity Within the School System

- **Compulsory Physical Education Programs**, to revisit physical education in schools by improving and integrating sports and physical activity within the curriculum. All schools should offer a range of sports that meet student interests and abilities.
- **Scholarships and Educational Pathways**, by providing grant scholarships and educational channels for young talent in sports, thus making provisions that allow young athletes to balance their academic and athletic pursuits. Collaboration between education institutions and sports organizations can ensure dual-career pathways to provide an athlete with academic and athletic training.

Support for Women's Sport

- **Investment in Women's Sports Programs**, by allocating the budget for developing women's sports programs, hence providing equal opportunities to women and girls for utilizing the facilities, availing coaching, and participating in competitions.
- **Promotion of Female Role Models**, by projecting the achievements of female sportspersons as role models for the future generation. Media campaigns or public recognition of successful female athletes will encourage more women and girls to participate in sports.

The Use of Sports to Drive Social Development

- **Sports as a Vehicle for Social Inclusion**. Sports programs should be employed to drive social inclusion for refugees and people with disabilities, as well as economically weak groups and regions. Giving them opportunities to be part of society, to interact socially, and to integrate themselves into society through inclusive sports programs breeds personal growth among such groups and thus integrates them.
- **Community Sports Festivals**. Such Sports festivals encourages people to come together to experience and celebrate sports and physical activity. Events present the most suitable vehicle for community spirit, social interaction, and cultural exchange.

Case Studies for Economic and Social Impact of Sports

Examining successful case studies worldwide provides valuable insights into how sports development can drive economic growth and social transformation. These examples demonstrate the potential of well-executed sports strategies to stimulate urban renewal, create jobs, and foster national pride. The following case studies showcase the far-reaching impact of sports on both the economy and society.

Barcelona 1992 Olympics: Urban Renewal and Economic Growth (Brunet, 2017; Monclús, 2012)

Urban Transformation. The 1992 Barcelona Olympics is a good instance of how sports can drive urban renewal. Besides changing the existing infrastructure, new sports complexes, transport networks, and public areas were created. This investment resulted in long-term direct economic benefits in terms of enhanced tourism and exposure to the world.

Economic Impact. The Olympics generate excellent business for the city from the event, the increased tourism, and international investment sustained over time. Barcelona is generally considered a model of success for those cities desiring to use sports as a means of economic development.

Use of Sports in Rwanda for Social Reconciliation (Didier & Nzeyimana, 2020)

Post-Genocide Social Cohesion. After the genocide in 1994, the government of Rwanda employed the sports sector to mend the tattered country. Sports programs rolled to form a bond amongst the various ethnic groups hence leading to dialogues and understanding among others.

Social Inclusion in sports. The country has developed social cohesion and reconstructed trust in societies. They also allowed an opportunity for the youth to expend their energy on constructive activities that will contribute to the development of the country at large (Collison et al., 2016; Eklund, 2021).

South Korea's Investment in Sports and National Identity

National Identity. South Korea's exposure to sports, particularly its preparations for the 1988 Seoul Olympics, brought about an improved sense of national identity and reputation abroad. Indeed, South Korean athletes' glittering performance has become a source of pride for the nation and has enhanced its status within the community of nations (Hong, 2011; Kang & Houlihan, 2021).

Economic and Social Dividends. Investment in sports infrastructure and athlete development has accrued long-term benefits from increased tourism, job creation, and inward foreign investment. Social dividends are that the numerous successes recorded at the international level have turned many people to sports, thus making the population healthier.

Brazil's Sports Infrastructure Development (Mazzei et al., 2015)

Brazil has emerged as a leading example in developing sports infrastructure among developing countries. Over the past years, the Brazilian government has completed more than 4,400 sports infrastructure projects, including the construction of gymnasiums, athletics tracks, and multi-use sports facilities. A significant portion of these projects was strategically targeted toward areas of social vulnerability, creating 60 Citizenship Stations that offer modern sports amenities to local communities. These facilities serve elite athletes and provide access to recreational use by the general public. Funding for these initiatives has come primarily from the Brazilian government's Sports Incentive Law, which ensures continuous investment in expanding sports infrastructure and promoting broader community access.

India's Khelo India Program and Infrastructure Expansion

India's Khelo India program has had a significant impact on the country's sports infrastructure. With over 282 sports projects funded and a total investment of USD 1.43 billion in the past five years, this initiative has been instrumental in the construction of state-of-the-art sports complexes, including

stadiums and training centers. The program's focus on fostering talent from the grassroots to elite levels has been a key driver of this infrastructure expansion. The Indian government's strategic partnerships with the private sector have played a crucial role in securing the necessary funding for these projects, such as the Vishakhapatnam Sports City, which is part of India's National Investment Pipeline. These efforts not only enhance athletic performance but also stimulate local economies through sports tourism and job creation (Kumar, 2024).

Implementation Plan

The execution of these strategies identified in the preceding sections calls for a detailed, step-by-step plan to ensure all activities are effectively and efficiently executed (Finch & Donaldson, 2010). Such an implementation plan maps out the pathway toward actualizing strategic objectives. The plan will be organized around focus areas: governance, infrastructure development, athlete support, youth centers, economic and social impact, and international collaboration (Pyne & Périard, 2023). Every part details explicit activity, parties liable, timelines, and expected results. The aim is to ensure that Egypt's sports sector can realize sustained success in future Olympic Games and beyond. Table 4 aims at ensuring that all strategic objectives are implemented in practical and measurable actions. Figure 1 illustrates the Gantt chart, which outlines the timeline and sequence of key activities within the implementation plan, highlighting important milestones, responsible parties, and deadlines to ensure that all strategic objectives are met efficiently and on schedule.

Table 2

Implementation Plan Overview: Actions, Timelines, and Outcomes

Area of Focus	Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Expected Outcome
Governance, Policy, and Funding	Governance Reforms			
	Streamlining organizational structures within sports governance	Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Sports Federations	6-12 months	Enhanced decision-making, reduced bureaucracy, improved coordination
	Implementing stronger accountability mechanisms	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Egyptian Olympic Committee	Ongoing, initial measures within 12 months	Increased transparency, effective resource use, greater stakeholder trust
	Policy Development and Implementation			
	Developing a comprehensive national sports strategy	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Policy Development Task Force	12-18 months	Clear, cohesive strategy guiding sports development in Egypt
	Promoting inclusivity and diversity in sports policy	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Women's Sports Committee	6-12 months for formulation, ongoing for implementation	Increased participation of women, youth, and underrepresented groups

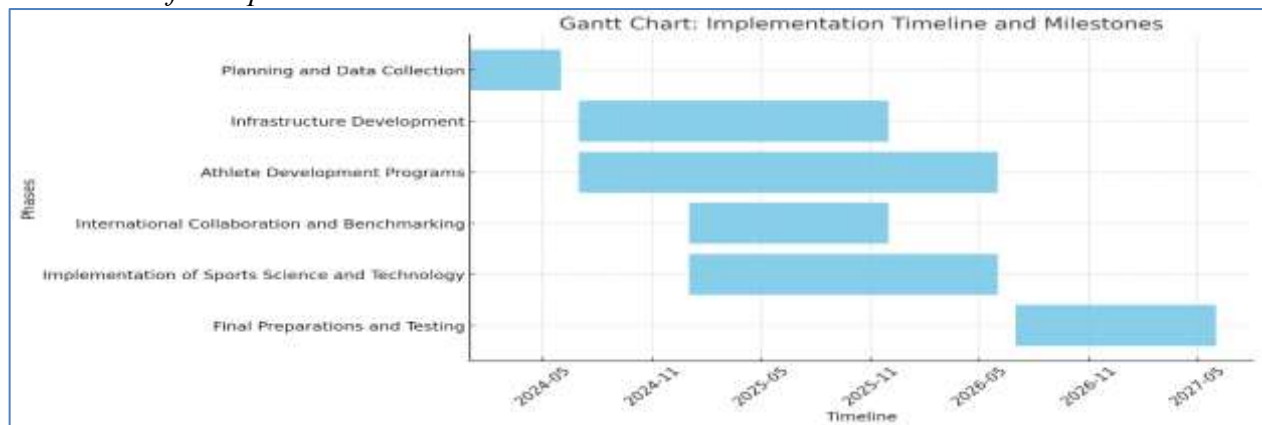
	Funding Improvements			
	Diversifying funding sources via private sector involvement	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Private Sector Liaison Office	Ongoing, key partnerships within 12 months	Reduced reliance on government funding, increased sports development resources
	Enhancing financial management practices across sports organizations	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Financial Oversight Committee	6-12 months	Efficient fund use, clear reporting, auditing practices
Enhancing Sports Infrastructure	Development of New Facilities			
	Prioritizing construction/upgrading of multi-use sports facilities	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Urban Development Authorities	24-36 months for major projects	Improved access to quality sports facilities for elite and grassroots sports
	Establishing regional sports hubs in strategic locations	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Regional Sports Councils	18-24 months	Enhanced regional development, talent identification, community engagement
	Maintenance and Sustainability			
	Implementing sustainable management practices for sports facilities	Facility Management Teams, Environmental Sustainability Unit	Ongoing, frameworks within 12 months	Long-term viability, reduced operational costs, minimized environmental impact
Development of Youth Centers	Expansion of Youth Centers			
	Developing and upgrading youth centers across Egypt	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Local Government Authorities	24-36 months for major upgrades, ongoing development	Increased access to sports for youth, fostering talent and engagement
	Equipping youth centers with modern sports facilities	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Facility Development Teams	18-24 months	Improved training environments, higher levels of skill development
	Youth Engagement and Talent Development			
	Launching nationwide youth sports programs targeting Olympic talent	National Sports Federations, Youth Program Coordinators	12-18 months for design/rollout	Robust pipeline of young talent prepared for elite competition

	Providing training and certification for coaches in youth centers	Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Coaching Academy	6-12 months	Higher quality coaching at the grassroots level, better athlete outcomes
Athlete Support Systems	Enhanced Athlete Support Services			
	Establishing comprehensive support services for elite athletes	Egyptian Olympic Committee, National Sports Federations	12-24 months	Improved performance and well-being, reduced injuries, enhanced resilience
	Developing a centralized athlete management system	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Sports Science Institutes	12-18 months	Data-driven decision-making in training and management, optimized performance
	Support for Dual-Career Athletes			
	Implementing dual-career programs for athletes	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Educational Institutions	12-24 months	Balanced athlete development, career opportunities post-retirement
	Providing scholarships and financial support for dual-career athletes	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Corporate Sponsors	12 months	Financial stability for athletes, reduced dropout rates due to economic pressures
Economic and Social Impact	Maximizing Economic Benefits			
	Developing sports tourism packages combining events with cultural site visits	Ministry of Tourism, Sports Event Organizers	12-18 months	Increased revenue from sports tourism, boosted local economies, raised international profile
	Encouraging public-private partnerships for funding infrastructure/events	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Private Sector Liaison Office	Ongoing, partnerships within 12 months	Sustainable funding for sports development, reduced reliance on government resources
	Enhancing Social Impact			
	Expanding community sports programs promoting social inclusion	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Community Organizations	12-18 months for rollout	Increased social cohesion, reduced tensions, enhanced community engagement
	Using sports to promote health and wellness	Ministry of Health, National Sports Federations	6-12 months for campaign development	Improved public health outcomes,

				more active and healthier population
International Collaboration and Benchmarking	Strengthening International Partnerships			
	Establishing international training/exchange programs	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Egyptian Olympic Committee	12-24 months	Enhanced skills/knowledge transfer, improved international competition performance
	Engaging in regular benchmarking against top-performing nations	Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Sports Federations	Ongoing, annual reviews	Continuous improvement in sports strategies, keeping Egypt competitive globally
	Hosting International Events			
	Bidding to host regional and international sports events	Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Sports Federations	24-36 months for planning/execution	Increased international exposure, economic/social benefits from hosting global events
	Developing marketing/branding strategies to promote Egypt as a top sports destination	Ministry of Tourism, National Sports Federations	12-18 months	Enhanced global reputation, increased tourism revenue from sports events

Source: Prepared by the author.

Figure 1
Gantt Chart for Implementation Plan Timeline



Source: Prepared by the author

Recommendations for Further Development

To ensure that this success in these priority sports does not remain a one-off chance event, the following recommendations are put forward:

Strategic Focus on Youth Development

- Continued emphasizing on youth development programs, identifying young talent early, and supporting them to develop their potential into elite athletes.
- Developing a national academy for each priority sport, where talented youngsters could receive highly specialized training and education.

Building a Stronger Coaching Network

- Investing in developing a robust coaching network that encompasses local and international expertise. Regular coaching clinics, certifications, and exchange programs should be initiated to raise the standard and quality of coaching in Egypt continually.

Leveraging International Partnerships

- Strengthening international partnerships with countries that have accomplished a strong record in the priority sports. Such partnerships can comprise joint training camps, coaching exchanges, and research collaborations in sports science.

Maximizing Utilization of Facilities

- The full utilization of the sports facilities in the New Administrative Capital and other significant centers will be ensured by holding national and international competitions, training camps, and community outreach programs. This shall help better prepare the athletes and also serve towards disseminating sports culture into society.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establishing an aggressive monitoring and evaluation system for measuring progress regarding athletes, coaches, and programs realized by each priority sport. The actualization processes of these initiatives shall be reviewed regularly to spot the gaps and resource effectiveness.

If the effort is concentrated in such strategic areas, higher chances exist that Egypt will win Olympic medals in identified priority sports. Such efforts, coupled with relentless investment and a commitment to excellence, shall place Egypt as a force to be reckoned with at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and beyond.

To ensure a strong link between the study's findings and the proposed recommendations, we have detailed how each recommendation directly stems from the results of the analysis. For example:

Linking Infrastructure Development to Results

In the SWOT analysis, one of the key weaknesses identified was the insufficient sports infrastructure in Egypt, which hampers athlete performance and preparation. To address this, the

recommendation to invest in modern and accessible training facilities is directly aligned with the identified need. By improving infrastructure, we aim at mitigating the weaknesses outlined in the results, thereby enhancing the overall competitive readiness of Egyptian athletes.

Linking Governance Reforms to Results

The analysis of current governance structures revealed a need to clarify roles and improve coordination among sports bodies. In the results section, these governance challenges were highlighted as barriers to effective sports management. Consequently, the recommendation for governance reforms, including clarifying roles and improving coordination, directly addresses these identified issues, ensuring a more structured and effective governance framework.

Linking Youth Development Programs to Results

The results indicated a need for talent identification and development at the grassroots level, which was categorized as a critical threat in the SWOT analysis. The recommendation for expanding youth development programs is proposed to tackle this challenge. This recommendation aims at directly responding to the findings by strengthening the pipeline of young athletes, thus supporting long-term success in Olympic competitions.

Conclusion

The successful execution of the strategies outlined by this plan is critical to leaving Egypt with a better Olympic performance and setting it ahead as a leader in the global sports arena. It shall be important to set as priority areas: governance reforms, development of a comprehensive national strategy for sport, and diversification of funding streams as a way of ensuring that Egypt sets a strong base for sports development in the long term. Improvement in sports infrastructure and an increase in the number of youth centers, which will be equipped with [specific facilities or programs], are also highly relevant to the process of talent spotting at an early age. That would be complemented by strong support systems for athletes to ensure that athletes are accorded the necessary medical, nutrition, and psychological attention if they have to succeed at the highest levels of competition.

Furthermore, integrating sports into the general socioeconomic features of the country will significantly contribute to fostering national pride and social cohesion. This aspect of our strategic plan is crucial in promoting a sense of unity and belonging among all Egyptians. The stimulation of economic growth through sports tourism and infrastructure development is an added benefit. International cooperation and periodic benchmarking against the best-performing nations will enable Egypt to continue readjusting its strategies and remain competitive at the international level.

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الطريق من الوعد إلى المجد: تشكيل خارطة طريق مصر نحو النصر الأولمبي

المستخلص

تقدم الدراسة رؤية متكاملة لتحسين الأداء الأولمبي لمصر من خلال تطوير البنية التحتية، والاستثمار في الشباب، وتعزيز التعاون الدولي، وتهدف إلى تقديم خارطة طريق لتحسين أداء مصر في الألعاب الأولمبية المقبلة، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على أولمبياد لوس أنجلوس 2028. وتعرض الدراسة تحليلاً لأداء مصر في الدورات الأولمبية السابقة، وتحدد الرياضات التي يمكن أن تحقق فيها مصر نجاحاً أكبر. ومن بين التوصيات الرئيسية، تؤكد الدراسة على ضرورة تطوير البنية التحتية الرياضية في مصر، وتحويل مراكز الشباب إلى مراكز رئيسية لاكتشاف وتطوير المواهب الرياضية. ويظهر البحث أيضاً كيف يمكن للرياضة أن تساهم في تحقيق فوائد اقتصادية واجتماعية مهمة لمصر، مثل: خلق فرص عمل جديدة، وتعزيز الشعور بالفخر الوطني والتماسك الاجتماعي. ومع ذلك، توضح الدراسة أن تحسين البنية التحتية وحده ليس كافياً، بل يجب أيضاً تطوير نظام شامل لدعم الرياضيين، بما في ذلك الدعم النفسي وبرامج الوقاية من الإصابات. وتركز الدراسة على النجاحات التي حققتها مصر في الرياضات، مثل رفع الأثقال والمصارعة عبر التاريخ، لكنه يشير إلى الحاجة إلى تحسين الاستعدادات في الرياضات الأخرى لتعزيز فرص النجاح في المستقبل. ويبرز أيضاً أهمية التعاون الدولي مع الدول الرائدة في مجال الرياضة، وكيف يمكن لمصر أن تستفيد من تجارب هذه الدول لتحسين أداء الرياضيين المصريين، استناداً إلى أداء مصر في أولمبياد باريس 2024، حيث حصلت على ثلاث ميداليات (ذهبية، فضية، وبرونزية)، وتشير الدراسة إلى أن هناك فرصة كبيرة لتحسين الأداء في رياضات مثل الخماسي الحديث ورفع الأثقال والمبارزة. ومن خلال تحليل نقاط القوة والضعف والفرص والتحديات، يوصي البحث بتركيز الموارد والاستثمار في هذه الرياضات لتعزيز فرص مصر في أولمبياد لوس أنجلوس 2028.

الكلمات الدالة: النجاح الأولمبي، استراتيجية الرياضة في مصر، تطوير الرياضيين، الاستثمار في البنية التحتية، التعاون الدولي