THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY CHINA

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN SPORT AND MITIGATING THE RISK OF CORRUPTION

CHINA(SEVENTH MEETING)

China’s Practices for Clean and Thrifty Organization of Sport Events

China successfully staged the 29th Olympic Games in August 2008, which were, as Jacques Rogge, the then president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) put it, “truly exceptional Games”. Chinese delegation won 51 gold medals, 21 silver ones and 28 bronze ones, occupying the first place on the gold medallist and second place for the total number of medals. At the 128th IOC Session in July 2015, Beijing was elected as the host city of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, thereby becoming the first city to hold both the Summer and the Winter Olympic Games. In recent years, China holds nearly 3000 national single-event sport competitions and comprehensive major sports events each year. The events are many in number, and often organized on a tight schedule and with heavy responsibilities. China’s competent authority on sport events has, on the basis of legal, just, efficient and clean principles, strived to take effective measures to improve the accountability regime, strengthen supervision and inspection, and reinforce precaution and punishment against sport corruption. Such measures have achieved remarkable success, which have accumulated positive experiences and developed good practices.

First, we have reinforced accountability mechanism with the establishment of supervising agencies.

For the organization of sports games, disciplinary inspection committees (hereinafter referred to as DIC) are established simultaneously along with organizational committees. The organizational committees as part of the administration authority for the organization of a sports event, is responsible for the organizational work as well as prevention of corruption. The organization committees shall diligently perform its duties in terms of the leadership of the organization, supervision, correction, support and selection and appointment of personnel. It establishes subordinate divisions such as the competition department and competition committee of each individual sport (hereinafter referred to as CC) for purposes of organization, supervision and inspection, and handling of business, etc. The DIC also establishes a general office and the inspection and audit — 9 — department for assumption of specific aspects of supervision. The subordinate divisions, which perform six functions for the proper operation of sport events: supervision, correction, deterrence, precaution, coordination and settlement, are required to timely publish their responsibilities and functions, formulate work plans, adopt mechanisms for events supervision, issue handling as well as communication and coordination. They also announce supervision hotlines, emails, contacts and office addresses as means for social supervision. They shall accept reports carefully, and conduct examinations in accordance with prescribed rules, and make sure that “each report is processed and every inquiry is replied”.

Second, guarantee the use of earmarked funds for the designated purpose to protect fund safety.
One of the primary responsibilities of the competent sports administration authority is proper management and use of earmarked funds and to prevent embezzlement and corruption. Therefore, the competent authority on sport events practices the separation between revenue and expenditure, strengthens budgeting and implementation management, and clarifies protocols on the scope, standard, conditions and procedures on the use of earmarked funds for sports. Key areas for management and supervision for this purpose are funds for the training of the national teams, specialized equipment for the national teams, repair and upgrading of sport sites and equipment, and apparatus and equipment for scientific research. Specialized supervision teams are established to conduct careful inspection on the use of earmarked funds, and will order rectification within a prescribed period of time for the timely correction of any irregularities in the use of such funds. External audit agencies are retained publicly to audit earmarked funds and timely detect and correct wrongdoings existing in the management and use of such funds. Communication and cooperation between the supervising authorities and finance management authorities are also strengthened, so that new situations and new issues in the use of such funds could be spotted and researched in time. Hence, the internal supervision mechanism is continuously improved and efforts from different departments are joined to promote the appropriate, safe and effective use of — 10 — earmarked funds for sports.

Third, regulate sports events operation by strengthening supervision and inspection

Selection of athletes is the crucial link in sport events, a manifestation of the sport spirits, sport ethics, and the fundamental requirement of fair competition, as well as a spotlight of the sport sector, news media and the public. To strengthen supervision and inspection for athlete selection, ensure the compliance of the selection mechanism and platform with the “open, equal, competitive and selective” principles, the supervising authorities, in cooperation with the event administration authorities, strive to promote improvement of the rules for selection, establish selection supervision working groups, listen to selection reports, strictly implement the selection procedures and regulate the selection activities, so that fraudulent operations, backroom deals and other misconducts are forestalled at the institutional level. The DIC conducts strict examinations on the qualification and conditions of candidates for the “sport ethical award” to the extent that confirmed false statement or other corruptive activity would definitely lead to disqualification. The DIC and other supervising authorities play the role of “supervisor” as well as the “coordinator”, which lay their emphasis on monitoring of compliance with the disciplinary rules and the precautionary education and in-process prevention measures, conduct assessment and communication on the symptoms and suggestive indications, and strengthen analysis and responsive actions. Meanwhile, the DIC enhanced supervision on the competition committees and participating teams as to the performance of their responsibilities by sending members to sit pre-competition meetings, reinforcing education and management of the participating teams and referees on voluntary maintenance of the competition order, and strengthening the supervision on events that involve scoring, points calculation, adversary system and whistling.

Fourth, adhere to the principle of “three strictness” for honest participation in the games

Use of doping is a manifestation of sports misconduct. That is why the sports administration authority has always regarded it as an issue that affects the overall proper development of the sports sector. It has adhered to the policy of “the three strictness”, i.e.,
strict ban, strict examination and strict punishment, and conducted comprehensive supervision of doping in cooperation with other relevant authorities. It has first implemented a strict accountability regime by dividing the anti-doping responsibility to different layers, assumed by designated individuals, so that a comprehensive supervision network is established with no oversights. Secondly, it has adopted the anti-doping qualification access system, where an athlete may not participate in a game without receiving anti-doping education, sitting the anti-doping knowledge test, and passing the test thereof. Thirdly, it has done more frequent examination. Recently China conducts over ten thousand anti-doping tests each year, especially for athletes in games that depend on the physical stamina. Fourthly, it has increased the severity of punishment. Adopting a “no tolerance” policy, athletes who are tested with positive results are punished under the Anti-Doping Regulation. The continued investment of efforts into the anti-doping work guarantees the clean participation in sport as well as integrity of medals won. The success of China’s anti-doping policy has won consistent acclaims from the international community.

Fifth, strict compliance with the regulations and severe punishment of violations

The DIC carefully handles letters/visits and reports, by designating specific officials in charge of the logging, briefing and reporting of the letters. This aims to safeguard the solemnness and authority of the system by regulated procedures, high requirements, and strict accountability. The reports and leads so received will be processed with group discussions, through which an investigation and verification plan will be formulated. The plan will be carried out in compliance with the relevant regulations so that the facts could be investigated and ascertained. Where wrongdoing is discovered, it will be seriously dealt with in accordance with the law and regulations. The system is under frequent review for improvement. The public’s right to know, right to participate and right to supervise are protected, so that requests that comply with laws and regulations will receive proper explanation response and expeditiously handled by the relevant authorities. The issues so spotted are analyzed so that the deeper reasons could be discovered so as to nip the problem in the bud and propose preemptive steps. Follow-up supervision is conducted with specific focuses so that precautionary measures could be adopted, the relevant work could be improved so as to reconcile conflicts and resolve problems. The wrongdoings identified shall be disclosed promptly. And the participating delegations in the games are also reminded to take lessons from those incidents, to reinforce education and regulation of their team members, to respect the referee, the opponent and the audience, to comply with the game discipline and to prevent similar problems from happening.

Sixth, reinforce education and guidance and increase awareness of compliance.

Guided by the scientific theory of integrity and clean governance, we shall use the abundant literature and art on clean governance as the carrier, with sports as the theme, to organize a variety of lively publicity campaigns by actively inheriting and promoting the traditional culture, and vigorously carrying forward the Chinese spirit of sports. As a result, a healthy sport ethic and a purified sport cultural environment could be natured. We also need to firmly uphold rightful values of sport, shoulder the historical mission of developing sports in this new era, and vigorously carry out the principle of sports for the people, benefit the people and close to the people. We shall put emphasis on the education of the disciplinary rules, and closely integrate them with the day-to-day training. Athletes, coaches and referees shall be given targeted education, where they learn the laws and regulations and the rules, reinforce the ideology and morality to prevent irregularities. We should improve the means of
clean education, enrich it and enhance its relevancy and effectiveness, with special focus on giving clean sports education on the field, and into the sports entities and into sports teams, with a view to expanding the coverage and influence of the education and fully leveraging the paragon effect of sports stars.

Cases of irregularities can be used to warn the people familiar with the facts. We need to use the publicity means that people enjoy and the new media to maximize the alerting and preventing effect, so as to create a clean environment for sports development. Thrifty should be practiced and extravagance should be eliminated so as to actively urge participants to sports events to build and practice the philosophy of sport events organization. We should streamline the sports events opening and closing ceremonies, simplify the torch-passing ceremony and route, adjust and compress the number and scale of games and cancel arrangements irrelevant to the sports activities so as to restore the sports nature of such events. Game-time disciplines and protocols should be formulated to prohibit celebration by way of extravagant entertaining, and use of public fund for gift purchasing and giving. We should also effectively enforce strict discipline to put a brake on hedonism and extravagance.

This is a great era for sport events. With the support of the International Olympic Committee and other friendly countries, China will leverage the preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Winter Paralympic Games to actively promote the comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of sports undertakings, to make new and greater contributions to achieving the sports dream, and to comprehensively build a well-off society, thus making greater contribution to a more healthy China.