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China's Laws and Regulations on Physical Education and Sports (II)

(The People's Republic of China)

By *Kohsuke Sasajima**

The People's Republic of China was established in October 1949, and no specific attention had been paid to sports since the days of the reigns of local government, when, it may be said, there existed no nation as yet.

Seeing from the political and economical status, the years since its foundation can be divided into three periods: one from 1949 to 1960, another from 1960 to 1966 and another from 1966 to the present. The period from 1949 to 1960 was a period during which the country was busy to make its footing established firmly, and it took steps one after another, such as diffusion hygienic thought among the people, perfection of school and social physical education, and then diffusion of sports.

In the following years of its foundation, the Korean War broke out, therefore, it was not until 1953 that the P.R.O.C. really began pouring its efforts in making the foundation firm; in the same year a five-year plan was started. It was after 1953 that educational systems were promulgated and policies for physical education were indicated concretely.

Concerning school physical education, an educational system was proclaimed and regulations were laid down to define objectives of physical education, the number of teaching hours and extra-curricular activities. With regards social physical education, instructions were issued frequently.

While concerning sports, regulations were made in 1955 covering "Physical Sports of Space Time for Boys and Girls" and "Sports Schools of Spare Time for Youths," the objective of which was to bring up excellent champions. In 1958 regulations were issued defining athletic champions, referees, a grading system

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for coaches, a system to examine physical strength and matters concerning athletic meets.

The Mao Tsu-tung's policy "A Great Advance Forward" turned up as a failure in 1958 and the year's agricultural crops were very poor, driving the country into an economical crisis. Adjustment policies were then taken by Liu Shao-chi in about 1961, and the country's economy began a favorable turn, which naturally meant a retreat of the Mao's policies. As mentioned above, no prominent laws or regulations were laid down during the period 1960 through 1966.

Liu thus established his position firm within the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, and his position became so solid that he even could exercise authority in Liu of Mao, and he had many supporters within the Communist Party. Upon this, Mao started a great civilization revolution: a struggle-for-power revolution, blaming that Liu would take by force the party, the government and military forces.

During the period 1960-1966, the politics and economy were thus in an unstabilized state, therefore, the Government had no time to take care of physical education and sports, almost no laws and regulations having been laid down. The only thing done by the Government was just to make amendments or supplements on the laws and regulations which were published before 1960. In the amendments and supplements, regulations for radio gymnastics for school children, students and factory workers, revisions on the systems established in 1958 to cover athletic champions, referees and grading of coaches, etc. were included. In addition to these amendments and supplements, two regulations related to military training were put into force.

During the period from 1966 to this date, the struggle for power was developed in the name of a great civilization revolution, which ended with a defeat on the part of Liu. The P.R.O.C. was in the state of absence of government sometime during the struggle, but Mao hardly succeeded in settling the disturbed situation by military pressure, and he had revolutionary committees established throughout the country. However, the disorder still continued thereafter. It was in the last half of 1970 that the disturbed state began to proceed toward stability. In September 1971 Lin Piao's coup d'etat plot was disclosed, and the country has been going toward stability. Stability has thus been restored, but no Conference of People's Representatives, equivalent to Diet sessions of many countries,

has been convened as yet during the past 10 years. (as of Dec. 1974)

As to the schools closed in 1966, elementary and middle schools were reopened in 1968, and universities in 1970, however, nothing has ever been done definitely concerning revision of the number of years of study and curriculums.

Such being the situation, matters concerning sports have been operated in accordance with Mao's instructions, speeches and words as well as the two or three notices issued by him.