# The Realistic Predicament and Countermeasures of Chinese Youth Football Development

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Abstract: The development of youth football is the key to the cultivation of national football talents, and also an important measure for the vigorous development of national football. China's youth football has had a very good experience, but in recent years there have been serious problems in the development of youth football. This paper uses the methods of literature research and logical analysis to systematically analyze the practical difficulties in the development of Chinese youth football, and puts forward corresponding countermeasures, hoping to provide useful reference and help for the development of Chinese youth football.

Keywords: youth football, real difficulties, coping strategies

#### 1. Introduction

Youth football is the hope of the rise of Chinese football. The football developed countries all over the world place youth football training at the base of the football pyramid, and the development of youth football has always been the core topic of China's football reform and development. Youth football training is a complex and long process. In order to achieve the desired effect, teenagers need to have a preliminary understanding of the training process. In theory, coaches should try their best to apply scientific thinking concepts to youth football training; In the training process, the coach should make reasonable planning and try training methods as much as possible; On the macro level, coaches should cultivate teenagers' interest in football. In the process of youth football training, coaches should be good at summarizing rules and methods, absorbing and learning from foreign advanced training experience, so as to better promote the level of youth football in China.

# 2. The realistic dilemma of the development of youth football

## 2.1 Separation of sports and education seriously hinders the development of youth football

Under the Chinese sports management system, the sports department has too strong checks and balances on the training of young sports reserve talents, but lacks the advantages of human resources; while the education sector has obvious advantages in human resources, it does not have the advantages in training competitive sports talents [1]. This point is fully reflected in the double system of youth football development. Campus football has obvious advantages in the popularization of human resources and field conditions. The youth training system of the Football Association has congenital advantages in improving the competitive level of high-level coaches and training competitions, and both sides have obvious complementary advantages. However, the separation of sports and teaching has not only failed to realize the complementarity of advantages, but has intensified the homogenization competition of teaching, training and competition activities, consumed a large amount of resources in differences and games, and reduced the efficiency of development. In the process of interest game, due to the lack of overall planning and comprehensive coordination between the sports department and the education department, there are many factors such as input and output. Due to the unclear responsibilities and rights of the sports and teaching sides in the development of youth football, the competition between the two sides around manpower, venue, competition and coaches has become increasingly fierce, and the contradictions and problems have become prominent. Due to the conflict of training concept, team membership, training time, competition qualification and competition time, coaches, parents and athletes need to make an alternative choice between the two systems, which seriously hinders the integrated development idea of "integrated design and integrated promotion". The

success rate of professional athletes is generally low, and teenagers are constantly faced with elimination and diversion in the process of growing into professional athletes. The separation of sports and education is not conducive to the subsequent training of elimination and diversion athletes, and reduces the enthusiasm of teenagers to participate in football training, thus affecting the high-quality development of youth football.

### 2.2 Trophy doctrine restricts the fair development of youth football

Fairness is the correct direction for the development of sports, and the high-quality development of youth football needs to follow the principle of fairness. For a long time, there has been a serious tendency of championship doctrine in the development of youth football, and various chaos has been alienated around the competition results, resulting in the lack of public welfare in the development and affecting the fair development of youth football [2]. With the aim of winning the championship or winning the gold medal, the championship doctrine adopts and forms a series of sports training theories and practices to achieve the goal of victory by all means and by all means, replacing the sports focusing on health preservation, education and entertainment, and becoming an important value orientation for people to participate in sports practice. Under the background of the flooding of championship doctrine, the competition results become the main standard to measure performance. When the competition results become the chips to win support, victory becomes the ultimate goal of the school team. There are many alienation phenomena around the competition results in campus football. In the development of Chinese youth football, early specialized high-intensity training is prevalent. The earlier the early specialized high-intensity training and competition, the earlier the higher competitive level will be displayed. In order to achieve the goal of "champion is us" as soon as possible, it is normal to train 10 to 12 times a week and 5 to 6 hours a day. Young people's early specialized training can easily lead to a sharp increase in sports related injuries and health problems, including overtraining, training burnout, etc. At the same time, problems such as match-fixing, black whistle, bribery, identity fraud and stimulants alienated from the supremacy of interests continue to appear in youth football matches, and incidents such as the use of money to solve the main force qualifications, athlete grade certificates and qualifications for further education emerge in an endless stream, and the cultivation of football reserve talents tends to be aristocratic [3]. Trophy doctrine and the lack of fairness have led to the decline of the credibility of football, and the supremacy of interests has seriously affected the development of youth football fairness, and has greatly harmed the high-quality development of youth football.

# 2.3 Lack of policy affects the long-term development of youth football

Policy is an important means for a country to govern society. The scientific and forward-looking nature of formulating policies determines the effective implementation of policies and affects the implementation effect of policies. From the perspective of the football policies formulated by China, most of them focus on solving the current problems, but lack of systematicness and foresight. This is mainly reflected in the implementation of the policies that are out of shape or weak, as well as the problems derived from the policies themselves, which cause the policies to fall into a "policy paradox" [4]. Solving the old problems and creating new problems will affect the credibility of the policy, make the executors doubt the effectiveness of the policy, and lead to the difficulties in the implementation, implementation and sustainability of the policy. In 2009, when the General Administration of Sport was in charge of campus football, the effect of applying the traditional reserve talent training model to campus football was not ideal [5]. In addition, the school sports work was beyond the scope of the administrative functions of the sports department, and many policies, including the Opinions on Strengthening the National Youth Campus Football Work, were not implemented. The overall development of campus football at this stage was relatively slow. In 2015, the Ministry of Education took the lead in the development of campus football and issued the Implementation Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Youth Campus Football, giving full play to the administrative function of the Ministry of Education in the management of schools, and taking popularization and promotion as the primary task, campus football developed rapidly [6]. However, due to the lack of teachers, training and competition conditions to improve the competitive level, the improvement of the competitive level of campus football was relatively slow. From the perspective of current policy orientation, most of them have problems such as insufficient funds, lack of coaches and imperfect echelon construction. From the perspective of the current situation of China's youth football development, China's football policy has obvious deficiencies in scientific, forward-looking and collaborative aspects, leading to the widespread difficulties in landing, implementation and sustainability of the policy, as well as the problems in the first China Youth Football League, such as

the recognition of the qualification of the Guangzhou-Foreign Experimental Middle School, and the need for teams in Beijing to register and draw lots to participate, lack of policy restricts the sustainable and healthy development of youth football.

#### 2.4 Social transformation has accelerated the crisis of youth football development

With the improvement of material and cultural living standards, the people's willingness to participate in sports has shown a trend of diversification. Participation in sports is more to exercise, improve sports skills and cultivate hobbies. Due to the influence of social factors such as youth population proportion, inclusive education opportunities and sports willingness, as well as the long-term low performance of Chinese football, narrow path to success and low social identity, youth football is facing a serious human resource crisis. The purpose of youth participation in football is to exercise and enter a higher school, and the pursuit of professional development is rare. The relevant national departments have issued the policy of "taking football reform and development as an important measure to build a strong sports country, and incorporating the development of football into the economic and social development plan.". This fully reflects the development concept of social governance, including football in the construction system of a sports power, and achieving diversified and coordinated governance with the pace of social development. However, the development of youth football has not formed the concept of diversified and coordinated governance due to the crisis of human resources. The sports and teaching sides have built their own competition system and set up competition barriers to compete for the stock of human resources. The competition arrangements between the National Sports School Cup and the National Summer Camp, the campus football match and the Football Association Championship are in constant conflict, thus forcing coaches, parents and players to make a single choice. The difference of the competition goal system is easy to cause the goal positioning conflict and the policy implementation block [7]. With the collapse of China's professional football system, playing football in college has become the choice of most young football players, and the entrance examination and athlete's grade certificate have become the bottom cards to attract young people to participate in football. In reality, many young players begin to reduce football after obtaining the first-level or second-level athlete certificate, and gradually leave after entering the high-level sports teams in colleges and universities. This situation forces the education department to continuously improve the recruitment standards and management requirements of high-level sports teams, and the difficulty of playing football in colleges and universities increases. Social governance is "a coordinated social activity aimed at resolving social contradictions, achieving social justice, stimulating social vitality, and promoting social harmonious development"[8]. However, the contradiction of separation of physical education and competition barriers and other solidified thinking run counter to social governance. Social transformation has plunged young football into a development crisis.

#### 3. Countermeasures for the development of Chinese youth football

From the experience of developed countries in the world, the popularity of youth football is the basis for the sustainable development of professional football. The long-term and stable high-level training and competition determine the competitive level of professional football. Youth football popularity and competitive level promote each other. The integration of sports and education is based on the integration and reference of experience. It is a process of continuous development and improvement of the modernization of the national sports and education governance system and governance capacity, highlighting the institutional advantages of the coordinated governance of socialism with Chinese characteristics in sports and education [9]. Therefore, the high-quality development of youth football is a reserve talent training system based on the integration of sports and education, leading the right direction of high-quality development of Chinese youth sports.

#### 3.1 Clarify the responsibilities and rights of sports and education integration

The sports and education departments have significant complementarities in the development of youth football. The integration of sports and education can make up for the shortcomings of both sides. It is urgent to build a development system of youth football with the integration of sports and education. Clarifying the boundaries of responsibilities and rights can reduce the differences between the two sides, help to give play to the advantages of both sides to form a joint force, promote the improvement of the quality and efficiency of youth football development, and the smooth implementation of relevant policies. Therefore, clarifying the boundaries of responsibilities and rights is the basis for the

integration of sports and education. The training of professional football players includes four stages: "popularization - improvement - elite - career". The sports department relies on sports schools and professional football clubs to achieve the "elite professional" stage and improve the level of football competition. The connection of "improvement - elite" stage is related to the smooth growth channel of campus football and professional football, and is also the key to cultivate professional athletes. The integration of sports and education can realize the integrated design and promotion of coaches, training, competition and selection, and realize the effective connection of the "improvement - elite" stage through sports schools and youth training centers. At the same time, the integration of sports and education is conducive to broadening the channels and routes of talent development, eliminating the worries of young people choosing the path of professional sports, and diverting athletes to become professional talents in football research, teaching, management, health care and operation in the future. This is in line with the current development needs of Chinese youth football.

#### 3.2 Build a competition system integrating sports and education

To deepen the integration of sports and education and promote the healthy development of young people, we need a complete system of youth sports events as a support. In the organization of youth sports competitions, the two departments of sports and education often start from the standard to manage the youth sports competitions led by each department, and there are many disharmonious phenomena. The professional youth sports events are sponsored by individual associations and cooperated by the Student Sports Association of the Ministry of Education "and" the education and sports departments establish unified standards for the level certification of school students' sports level and jointly evaluate"[10]. Although the question of "unified registration qualification" and "recognition of sports level" was raised, it was only limited to school students and did not include all the youth competition system. Therefore, in the compulsory education stage, replacing the registration qualification with student status and canceling the recognition of sports level can effectively curb the championship doctrine of youth football, break through the institutional barriers, and truly achieve the integration of the competition system. The improvement of the system of integrating sports and education with youth sports events will certainly promote the formation of a new competitive sports talent training system with multiple inputs from the sports system, education system and social organizations, and change the selection and establishment mode of the national team.

#### 3.3 Establish a supervision and evaluation mechanism for the integration of stereoscopic education

The supervision and evaluation mechanism is the result of integrating policy knowledge, basic theories and technical effects on the basis of policy formulation and implementation effects, reflecting the degree of symmetry of policy formulation and implementation. China's youth football needs to establish a supervision and evaluation mechanism for integrating three-dimensional education, improve internal and external supervision mechanisms, ensure the effective implementation of policies, and promote high-quality development. The education department needs to improve the evaluation index system of various construction projects of campus football, strengthen the construction of internal supervision and evaluation mechanism, strengthen the audit and performance evaluation of special funds for campus football, allocate resources according to the evaluation results, and supervise and rectify or disqualify the units that fail to pass the evaluation. The China Football Association has the absolute power to independently manage China's football competition system, judges, coaches and players' grade certificate evaluation. In order to prevent corruption and chaos caused by the absolute power, it is necessary not only to further strengthen the internal supervision and evaluation mechanism, but also to introduce the external supervision and evaluation mechanism dominated by the third party. The sports department should establish a database of youth football coaches, referees and players, and carry out supervision and evaluation according to the performance in the competition, as the basis for talent selection and grade promotion review, so as to strengthen the supervision and evaluation of the work of the Football Association. The integration of sports and education can realize the sharing of youth football information resources, facilitate the effective implementation of youth football policies, and promote the improvement of internal and external supervision and evaluation mechanisms.

#### 3.4 Improve the government-led public welfare security system

According to the national regulations on the management of public welfare institutions, sports and education both belong to the category of public welfare undertakings. China Football Association is a football association legal person with public welfare and extensive representativeness, professionalism

and authority. Professional football clubs should also actively assume social responsibilities. Sports undertakings including professional clubs are generally public welfare, which is also the basic principle of professional clubs in developed countries of football in the world. From the perspective of the development history of China's youth football, the public welfare football led by the government before professionalization developed well, but the youth football after professionalization developed slowly and bred many new problems. It can be seen that the market-oriented mechanism is ineffective for the development of youth football, and the government-led public welfare security system is more conducive to the development needs of youth football. Since 2009, the Ministry of Education has included youth campus football into inclusive education activities, and the State General Administration of Sport has spent more than 5.5% the sports lottery public welfare fund of 500 million yuan supports youth campus football. The government-led public welfare security system has promoted the rapid development of youth football. At this stage, the development of Chinese youth football needs to improve the government-led public welfare security system, and realize the public welfare training at the stage of "popularization - improvement - elite". Only the integration of sports and teaching can realize the sharing of resources such as team members, coaches and field facilities, solve the integrated design and promotion of cultural education, popularization, after-school training and competition selection, implement the registration of reserve talents in their localities and not divorced from social reality, form a closed loop of football talent training in the region, and create a pure and good environment for youth football development.

#### 4. Conclusion

The popularization and development of youth football is not a necessary condition for cultivating high-level football talents. High-quality and sustainable development is the core of cultivating high-level football talents, which is the inevitable trend and law of football talent cultivation. From the perspective of historical development, the integration of sports and education has brought unlimited expectations for the high-quality development of Chinese youth football. The chaotic situation of professionalization reform cannot lead to high-quality development, but has caused the serious loss of control of the separation of sports and education. The reshaping of the national system brings opportunities for the development of youth football, especially when the market is out of control, the government-led public welfare security system is very important. The integration of sports and education is an effective prerequisite for maximizing the policy at this stage, which can promote the sustainable development of Chinese youth football with high quality, efficiency and fairness, and achieve a rapid leap from quantitative change to qualitative change. Therefore, it is a feasible way for the high-quality development of Chinese youth football to reshape the whole country's system and integrate sports and education. Its correctness and urgency have been widely confirmed in various countries around the world. The key is to implement it decisively from practical problems, carry out effective experiments within the scope consistent with China's national conditions, and break through institutional obstacles under the promotion of national policies, to explore the high-quality and sustainable development path of youth football with Chinese characteristics and lay an important theoretical foundation for the final realization of the goal of China's football reform and development.

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