

## CHAPTER THREE

# MANAGEMENT OF THE SPORTS SYSTEM

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### A. The Role of the NSOs

Our discussion of the structure of the Canadian sports system confirms the central role of NSOs in the development and management of sports in Canada. At the executive level of these organizations, elected directors are responsible for decisions affecting the management of human and financial resources. Volunteers who are members of the board of directors also have a strong input into the programs and activities of each NSO.

The Task Force clearly recognizes that the NSOs are still the primary agents in the development of athletes and the advancement of sport. It also emphasizes that NSOs are the organizations closest to the athletes. As such, the NSOs are said to represent the athletes and their needs and they are perceived as the most appropriate body to implement athletic training models for their respective sports. In order to have a system effectively providing high quality training development, the Task Force recommends that multi-sport agencies respond to the needs of the athlete as defined by the NSOs.

Some witnesses expressed reservations about this last recommendation. First, it was said that a high degree of cooperation with provincial associations will be necessary if the NSOs are to provide a wide range of services. There were also concerns about the effect that the participation of many NSOs which are strongly oriented towards high performance could have on a more unified sports system. Finally, it was said that it could lead to an increase in the administrative duties of the NSOs, resulting in a more bureaucratic structure which might not be appropriate for all NSOs and for the sports community.

Despite these reservations, most of the witnesses representing the single-sport organizations, the multi-sport and service agencies and various government organizations acknowledged the essential contribution of the NSOs to the sports community.

The Sub-Committee fully endorses the Task Force's recommendation that NSOs be the key agencies of sport development. It is the Sub-Committee's view that it is through the NSOs and their affiliated provincial and local bodies that the development, promotion and management of all sport disciplines in Canada are carried out.