The Crux Analysis and Countermeasure Research of Paragliding Talents Training in China

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Abstract. There are some problems in the training of paragliding talents currently in China: the training direction is too single, resulting in the lack of comprehensive talents; the structure of coaches and the training management system is not perfect enough to meet the training needs of paragliding talents in the international competitive field; the guarantee system of high-level athletes is not perfect enough. Facing on these problems, this paper adopts the methods of literature review, investigation and in-depth interviews to analyze the four training modes of paragliding talents in China: national team training, college training, club training and “individual-family” training mode. The paper puts forward countermeasures for talent training of paragliding in China from three aspects: promoting the introduction of paragliding courses in universities, strengthening the training of comprehensive talents, improving and standardizing the system of coaches' certification and qualification auditing, and improving the mechanism of high-level athletes training.

Introduction

In 2014, the State Council issued “Several Initiatives of the State Council on Accelerating the Development of Sports Industry and Promoting Sports Consumption”, which mentioned that various sports competitions were widely held in various regions and organs, organizations, enterprises, institutions, schools and other units to guide and support social forces such as sports organizations to conduct mass sports events. Strengthen exchanges and cooperation with professional organizations such as international sports organizations [1,2].  

The Guidelines on Accelerating the Development of Fitness and Leisure Industry promulgated by the General Office of the State Council in October 2016 emphasized that integrating aviation resources, deepening management reform, laying out rationally the “200 km Aeronautical Sports Flying Circle”, promoting the development of aviation flight camps and clubs, and popularizing sports aircraft, hot balloons, gliding, parachuting, light and small unmanned aerial vehicles, aviation models, etc. should be carried out steadily, so as to build aeronautical sports projects and the supply system with the mass consumption services as the core [3]. The introduction of such a series of documents has strongly promoted the development of paragliding in China.

Especially in recent years, driven by national policies and supported by local governments, paragliding has shown a rapid development trend [4]. By the end of 2018, totally 9,660 people had obtained the certificate of paraglider driver of China Aviation Sports Association, an increase of 3,528 people from March 2016 to now, of which 1,037 people were added in 2017 and 1,673 in 2018. According to incomplete statistics, there are more than 300 paragliding training bases in China. At the same time, the quantity and quality of paragliding talents in China are not enough to meet the requirements of commercial practice.

Paragliding is a special kind of sports which requires high comprehensive skills [5,6]. There are many aspects involved [7]. China has also made outstanding achievements in major international paragliding precise landing (fixed-point) competitions in recent years, as shown in Fig.1. However, at the Jakarta Asian Games in 2018, the eight paragliders dispatched by our country did not achieve good results. This is due to the lack of excellent athletes in our country. On the other hand, it reflects that there are still some problems in the training of paragliding talents. The existing
training mode of paragliding talents cannot meet the requirements of market practice and the demand for competitive paragliding talents.

Figure 1. The Achievements of China's Paragliding Fixed-Point Events in the International Air Federation in the Past Ten Years.

Current Situation of Paragliding Talents Training in China

The training of practical talents is a systematic project involving many factors [8]. At present, the training mode of paragliding in China includes national team training mode, club training mode, individual-family training mode and university training mode. The first three are relatively mature. Actually, there are not many universities which have opened paragliding currently.

The aim of the training mode of national team is to meet the needs of the country for international competitions, and to centralize the training and unified management system of the players before major competitions. Since 1994, national training teams have appeared in China, mainly representing the country to participate in international competitions. Since 2009, the national training team mainly represents the country to participate in international fixed-point championships, and from this time on, the national team members are selected in the way of national fixed-point competitions.

As an important means of talent selection for China's paragliding national team, a means called “cross-border and cross-project” selection has found which successfully chose and trained some top domestic paragliding talents, such as Li Simin, Long Jingwen and Xiong Gang. They were originally skydiving team members (Li Simin, Long Jingwen) and university sports teachers (Xiong Gang), but they all showed great interest and special endowments in paragliding fixed-point projects, and they finally became the main forces of the national team to win glory for the country after continuous efforts [9]. In the Jakarta Asian Games in 2018, due to the participation of fixed-point paragliding events, the country attaches more importance to paragliding sports, but also attracts more talented people to join.

As one of the main training modes of paragliding talents in our country at present, club training mode undertakes the important task of paragliding development not only in our country, but also in the world [10,11]. According to the way of relying, the club’s dominant mode can be divided into three kinds: government-led mode, market-oriented mode and cultural leading mode. Nowadays, the dominant mode of paraglider clubs in China is mainly market guiding mode.

Generally, market-oriented clubs organize their work in accordance with the basic laws of the market [12]. Because of its relative lack of long-term support from administrative forces, it lacks economic capital. In the club training mode, the training goal is to realize the personal commercial value as quickly as possible [13,14]. According to the market demand, the orientation of the club for talent training is mainly double parachute pilots and paraglider coaches.
“Individual-family” training mode is a kind of training model which has gradually come into people's vision since the beginning of the 21st century [15]. Some researcher held that family training mode refers to depending on the strength of family members, and the training of athletes is entirely financed by their families. Parents are responsible for the life, learning and training of athletes [16]. By employing coaches and going out to participate in competitions at their own expense, the athlete's competitive level can be improved. In the process of training athletes, family strength plays a leading role [17].

Due to the insufficient professional development and weak mass base of paragliding sport in China, its market resources are relatively scarce. According to the principle of "scarcity is the most expensive", the related expenditure of paragliding sport in China is rather high. The survey found that the “individual-family” training mode, as a new model of athletes' training in the country, has encountered multiple obstacles under the constraints of the existing social security, economic conditions and sports system, and many families are in a dilemma in the training process [18].

College training mode should be regarded as an important way. This refers to the mode that colleges and universities support paragliding in various forms through their own conditions and the social demand for talents. At current period, the major compulsory courses and elective courses represented by China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) are the main training modes in colleges and universities and could be used as a sample with high promotional value [19,20]. Under the guidance of this model, the training goal has strong pertinence and directivity. With the rich curriculum resources, perfect curriculum design, high-level teacher structure, strong scientific research team, adequate financial support, and scientific management system, the students trained by this form have not only strong professional ability, but also relatively great comprehensive level.

Problems Existing in the Training of Paragliding Talents in China

Paragliding, as a non-Olympic sport, cannot be highly valued by the government of the country. Therefore, paragliding has been introduced into China for more than 30 years, and it has been kept in the exploratory stage. During this period, a talent training model has been formed which is comparatively in line with the market demand, but there are still many problems.

The Training Direction is too Single which Causes the Lack of Comprehensive Talents

The single training direction under the main training mode is the key factor leading to the low comprehensive ability of paragliding sportsmen in China. There are three main training modes of paragliding talents mentioned above, which are: national team training mode, club training mode and “individual-family” training mode.

The training mode of national team is mainly concerned with training high-level competitive players to achieve the goal of competition, such as winning the World Cup gold medal.

The mode of club training is typically based on its own purpose and resources, in order to maximize the business purpose of personnel training and to achieve personal business value to a big extent.

The “individual-family” training mode basically depends on the role of the individual and his family. Families can make breakthroughs in personal career through training by using their own resources to meet the needs of personal professional development.

From the above analysis, it is obvious that the single direction of the existing paragliding talent training mode is the crucial problem which appears more serious, and it is also an important factor leading to the lack of comprehensive paragliding talents in China.

The Coach Team Structure is Unreasonable and the Training System is not Perfect

Coaches are the core driving force of talent training and even the development of a sport. The comprehensive quality of coaches determines the quality of training sports talents. If the coaches' comprehensive quality is not high enough, they cannot deservedly master and apply the advanced training ideas and methods.
The resulting bad methods and consequences include: lack of scientific guidance in training methods, lack of large data tracking and monitoring of training indicators, blindly increasing training time and intensity, ignoring technical details, thus making athletes extremely vulnerable to sports injury. In this sense, paragliding coaches need to be certified. Qualification certificate is a kind of affirmation of coaches' comprehensive quality.

Up to now, there are only 62 coaches who have been certified by China Aviation Sports Association, of which only one is a woman. The composition of coaches’ team in China is unreasonable in terms of gender structure and quantity structure targeted to market demand. Usually, there are many stages to train a qualified coach:

Usually, there are many stages to train a qualified coach: Firstly, the basic conditions for applying for the examination are that the level of individual skills is more than three years after grade C (the level of individual skills in paragliding in China is from low to high as A, B, C, D, E). Secondly, the number and quota of assessment classes of grade C and coaches are small, which cannot meet the basic market demand.

In addition, the C-level assessment and coach appraisement cannot achieve the same pace, thus affecting the quality and quantity of coach training. In this sense, the system of training coaches in China is in urgent need of reform.

The Training Mechanism of High-level Athletes is Chaotic and Lacks Guarantee System

At present, the certification and training of high-level paragliders in China is only one form of national team, and the training of paragliders is not perfect, and security is inadequate.

Lack of Athlete Grade Certification System. In our country, high-level paragliders have not established an athlete level certification system, which hinders the development of paragliding competitions and the training of competitive talents. At the same time, paraglider national team members do not belong to the athletes in the system and cannot enjoy basic wages and training funds, which adds the economic burden of athletes in a great measure.

Training Management Mode is Single. Our national paragliding team adopts the management mode of "pre-competition training", which only carries out unified and centralized training before the contest, and the training time is relatively short, which greatly limits the athletes' awareness and improvement of their own competition level, and will lead to the instability of athletes' performance, which is not conducive to the results of the competition.

Weak Logistic Support System. The paraglider national team lacks logistical support system, which is mainly reflected in psychological counseling and accompanying doctors. First of all, for the national team members, the training task before the competition is heavy, the body is prone to fatigue, if the physiological state is not adjusted in time, sports injury is easily to occur, and if there is no timely professional treatment in the event of sports injury, it will affect the follow-up training tasks and thus affect the results of the game, which reflects the importance of doctors with the team. Secondly, the national team members participate in international competitions on behalf of the country, with heavy tasks and great psychological pressure. If they do not adjust their mental state in time, it will affect their performance in the competitions, which requires professional psychologists to conduct psychological counseling for athletes. At the Jakarta Asian Games in 2018, the failure of paragliders in China to achieve good results is closely related to the lack of psychologists in the team.

Design of Talent Training System for Paragliding

In view of the above problems in the personnel training mechanism of paragliding sport in China, it is necessary to carry out scientific discussion and analysis from the training system in order to establish a perfect system to promote the popularization of paragliding activities and the training of high-level athletes.
Integration and Combination of Various Cultivation Models

On the basis of the three traditional modes of “national team training”, “club training” and “individual-family training”, it is important to establish and perfect the mode of “professional personnel training in institutions of higher learning”, and integrate it into other modes to realize the organic combination and scientific integration of the four modes, as shown in Fig.2.

![Training Mode of Paraglider Professionals](image_url)

Figure 2. Training Models and Their Combinations of Paraglider Professionals.

Analysis of the Relations among Various Cultivation Models

From a systematic point of view, paragliding talent training is a whole composed of many elements and modules. In order to improve the training mode of paragliding talents in China, the relationship between the various training modes of paragliding talents in China should be interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Fig.3 shows the designed system and the relationship between the training modes of paragliding reserve talents in China in the future.

![The Relationship between the Training Modes of Paragliding Reserve Talents](image_url)

Figure 3. The Relationship between the Training Modes of Paragliding Reserve Talents.

(1) As a base and think tank for comprehensive talents training, colleges and universities can provide talents and policy consultation for national teams, provide further education policies for high-level athletes [19] of national teams, and support retired athletes to enter colleges and universities to learn more advanced concepts, skills and techniques;

(2) Athletes trained under the “individual-family” training mode and the club training mode can transport elites for the national team through the annual “fixed-point League matches”, while the national team members can also provide more in-depth technical guidance for the athletes under the “individual-family” training mode and the club training mode;
(3) College graduates have been able to get strong comprehensive abilities. They can be coaches, senior managers and research personnel of paragliding clubs, and contribute to the educational management system, future development and scientific research of paragliding in China. (4) Athletes trained under the “individual-family” model are better to get chance for further study, and then they are possible to become the manager of the club, and promote the long-term development of the club.

Conclusion

Introducing Paragliding Courses in Colleges to Train Comprehensive Talents

As an important place for talent training, colleges and universities play an important role in education, scientific research and policy consultation (think tank). The training of college athletes can draw lessons from the joint training experience of the Climbing Team of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) and the Climbing Team of Hubei Province, and combine the paragliding college sports team with the provincial team to train a group of athletes with good quality, high level and comprehensive ability, so as to provide adequate guarantee for the reserve of paragliding talents in China.

Depending on the educational advantages of colleges and universities, it is capable to make full use of the existing scientific research resources and equipment, train professional coaches, athletes, retired athletes and other professional talents in scientific research ability, so that they can further learn advanced scientific and technological knowledge on the basis of familiarity with and mastery of sports technology. Not only can we cultivate high-level athletes, referees, coaches and other comprehensive talents, but also provide useful opinions and suggestions for the formulation of relevant policies, laws and regulations of paragliding in China.

Standardizing the Coach Certification Training System

It is important to improve and standardize the coach certification training system, and to strictly control the coach qualification audit system. Training and introducing high-level sports talents and scientific research personnel, regularly carrying out planned and organized training for reserve talents coaches, improving the level of scientific training, and establishing a sufficient number of high-quality coaches, are all significant measures to construct a powerful paragliding talents team.

The Aviation Sports Management Center can cooperate with local governments and educational institutions to increase the number of C-level assessment classes and coaches' training classes and enhance training and assessment subjects so as to maximize the professional level of coaches. In addition, scientific research personnel can also be introduced to carry out curriculum design, market analysis, future development planning, policy guidance and consultation of paragliding, so as to contribute more to the future development of paragliding in China.

Improving the Selection and Training Mechanism

A perfect selection and training mechanism is vital to build a great team of paragliding sports, so does a precise guarantee system which offers a big support for the potential athletes.

High-level athletes represent the highest competitive level of a region or even a country, so it is urgent to improve the selection mechanism and guarantee system of high-level athletes.

Widening Channels for High-Level Athletes Selecting. Firstly, the provinces organize opting contests to choose the players to participate in the “five-stop League tournament”, which not only ensures the quality of the competitors, but also enhances their level of contest. Secondly, increase the number of other national fixed-point competitions, which can not only provide more opportunities for ordinary athletes to participate, but also conducive to tapping and training potential athletes. In addition, during the competition, auditorium can be established to attract ordinary people to watch the game, so as to achieve the purpose of developing the mass base.

Perfecting the Guarantee System of Paragliding Talents. It is necessary to establish a
comprehensive safeguarding system to ensure the construction and growth of sports teams, which
includes the following measures.

(1) Enlarging the spending on high-level paragliders training. Generally, the training funds are
the basis to ensure the normal practice, and are indispensable to the use of personnel in training
management, the renewal of venues and equipment, the purchase of medical equipment and the
establishment of information management system. Paragliding requires higher training investment
because of its higher requirements for equipment, which is more expensive to buy and faster
damaged in use.

(2) Consummating the relevant laws, regulations and insurance services of paragliding. It is
major to formulate detailed laws and regulations related to paragliding to protect the basic rights
and interests of paragliding talents.

(3) To equip the national team with psychologists and health doctors is capable to provide
psychological counseling and emergency treatment for athletes with psychological disorders,
anxiety and trauma so as to enable the paragliding talents in the best physical and mental state
to play a better role in the competition and achieve good results.

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