

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>List of figures</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>List of tables</i>	<i>xiii</i>
1 Comparative elite sport development	1
<i>Barrie Houlihan and Mick Green</i>	
Introduction	2
Developing elite athletes	3
Pressures for convergence	9
Explaining elite sport policy development	14
Conclusion	20
References	21
2 China	26
<i>Fan Hong</i>	
Introduction	27
The origin and development of the Chinese elite sport system	27
The characteristics of the 'whole country support for the elite sport system' (Juguo tizgi)	36
Elite athlete development	38
Elite sport system critique	44
The strategy of winning Olympic medals in 2008	46
Conclusion	49
References	50

3	Japan	53
	<i>Mayumi Ya-Ya Yamamoto</i>	
	Introduction	54
	Current structure of the elite sport system	54
	The development of elite sport policy in Japan	58
	Four dimensions of the elite sport infrastructure in Japan	63
	Talent identification system and the development of potential athletes	72
	Competition opportunities for young athletes	74
	Distinctive features of the Japanese elite sport system	76
	Conclusion	78
	Notes	79
	References	79
4	Singapore	83
	<i>Lionel Teo</i>	
	Introduction	84
	Development of sports excellence in Singapore	86
	National sport associations	91
	Dimensions of elite sport policy development	92
	Summary of key issues	104
	Recent developments and future directions of elite sport policy in Singapore	105
	Conclusions	108
	References	109
5	Germany	115
	<i>Karen Petry, Dirk Steinbach and Verena Burk</i>	
	Introduction	116
	Development and structure of the German (top level) sports system	116
	Dimensions of elite sport development in Germany	127
	Conclusions	142
	Notes	143
	References	144
6	France	147
	<i>Emmanuel Bayle, Christophe Durand and Luc Nikonoff</i>	
	Introduction	148
	Characteristics of the French model of elite sport	151
	Tensions, conflicts, and the future	156
	Conclusions	164

	Notes	164
	References	165
7	Poland	166
	<i>Jolanta Żyśko</i>	
	Introduction	167
	Elite sport in Poland	167
	Changes in the system of elite sport governance	178
	Discussion of the elite sport system	184
	Conclusions	190
	Notes	191
	References	192
8	Norway	194
	<i>Pål Augestad and Nils Asle Bergsgard</i>	
	Introduction	195
	The elite sport system in Norway	195
	The infrastructure of elite sport	198
	Focusing events	206
	Government and elite sport	208
	The Norwegian way	210
	Concluding remarks	213
	Notes	214
	References	215
9	New Zealand	218
	<i>Shane Collins</i>	
	Introduction	219
	Current structure of the elite sport system	219
	Increasing government intervention	221
	The business of elite sport	225
	Important dimensions of elite sport development	232
	Conclusion	239
	References	240
10	United States	242
	<i>Emily Sparvero, Laurence Chalip and B. Christine Green</i>	
	Introduction	243
	Federal involvement in elite sport	243
	Athlete pathways	249
	Success of American athletes	253
	Research and development	259
	Elite sport development amid the chaos	260
	Observations and implications	268
	References	270

11	Conclusion	272
	<i>Mick Green and Barrie Houlihan</i>	
	Introduction	273
	Common pressures for convergence	273
	Mechanisms for convergence and processes of learning	278
	An assessment of the three 'explanations'	288
	References	291
	<i>Index</i>	295