

Tchoukball as an Emerging Sport in Major Games

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Introduction

Tchoukball being an exciting and highly kinetic team sport has been widely accepted and progressively popular in the Asia Pacific region suggesting the possibility of its classification as an international standard and most played sport in the future (Sports Management Magazine, 2014). Tchoukball was developed in Switzerland in the 1970s it is a derivative of handball, volleyball, and squash (Lebed, 2022). The growth of Tchoukball in the Asia Pacific region is seen through the number of national federations present, the usual regional championships, and the increasing interest of students of all ages and other groups of the population to participate in Tchoukball. Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Hong Kong are identified as the countries that have developed standard leagues, national championships, and facilities for the International Tchoukball Federation attracting talented players and fans.

This paper seeks to elucidate why Tchoukball ought to be considered as a sport in major games such as the SEA Games and Asia Games by analyzing the growth of the game, its benefits, and the matching of the Olympic values. Moreover, the given report reveals the future development of the sports in the frame of Asia Pacific that speaks about the increasing importance of Tchoukball as a sport that can supplement the Olympic games with its specific features and with the perspective for international popularity. Based on the synthesis and analysis of all the facts, we will try to prove that Tchoukball indeed fits all the requirements

necessary for being included in major games and, moreover, it is a completely new and attractive type of international sport.

Value of Tchoukball

Tchoukball remains valuable primarily due to the fact that it focuses on the principles of inclusion and avoiding injuries, all of which make it highly valuable as a sporting discipline. Unlike many contact sports, Tchoukball is created without causing or risking our players' health to become as worse as possible. Precisely for this reason, it is a contact sport of choice since it is far more acceptable to the athletes and spectators compared to many other sporting disciplines; it is non-contact, and this means that young athletes and those who are initially a bit afraid to participate in contact sports can also practice this martial art (SAD Public, 2013). Some of the basic principles that make Tchoukball an enjoyable game include; respect for other players, and integrity of the game (SAD Public, 2013). The importance of recreating the mutual respect and safety highlighted in this particular article also contributes to the overall increased appreciation of the game and is consonant with the general principles of the Olympic movement with regard to the health of athletes and their ethical standards (Cho & Kang, 2023).



Figure 1: Tchoukball in play

It is also important to note that Tchoukball is not just a safe sport, but it also has numerous advantages pertaining to the physical and mental well-being of those participating in the sport. The game challenges physical and mental competencies as the ability to coordinate movements and respond quickly involves a great deal of balance, speed, and strategy (Cho & Kang, 2023). The objective of the game involves recognizing good positions, and decision-making skills to either intercept the ball or score a goal, which aids in improving problem-solving and collaboration. This combination of physical and cerebral activity guarantees that all the individuals are involved in a balanced process of workout that has a positive impact on their thinking and, of course, on their physical condition. In this context, Tchoukball provides a good means to foster the ability and maintenance of supreme health and physical education.

In addition, promoting and supporting Tchoukball as a physical activity is complimented by its ability to bring together different communities through sport (Bae et al., 2020). The basic equipment needed for the game can be easily obtained, and since the game only requires a playing field and a hoop, it can be played anywhere from an open ground or a school playground to specially constructed courts and thus is very versatile. This aspect of the game makes it even easier to encourage organizers to involve as many individuals as possible in the game irrespective of several aspects such as colour, race, and skills. Tchoukball also has impacts on social responsibility in the sense that it allows the establishment of societal relations hence the development of social harmony among citizens (Brooke, 2022).

Furthermore, it is necessary to acknowledge Tchoukball's educational significance. The sport has the potential to inculcate important aspects like teamwork, communication as well as persistence. Teamwork is developed here in the sense that players are trained on how best to team up in order to achieve certain objectives in the game, how to comfort one another

especially when they lose, and also on how to celebrate their victories without being arrogant (SAD Public, 2013). Such lessons are not only taught at games and athletic events but in turn, prepare such players to be strong and acceptable members of society. Therefore, the activity must be included in the learning process as well as extra-curricular and community initiatives for youth, as it enhances educational outcomes for young learners.

Lastly, based on the key characteristics of Tchoukball including safe and fair play, equal opportunity, physical and mental health, fellowship, and learning, Tchoukball can indeed be considered a valuable sport (Lau & Mukherjee, 2024). Its principles correspond in many aspects with the Olympic movement and, therefore, it can be regarded as a good candidate for participation in the Olympic Games. The incorporation of Tchoukball would not only enrich the major competitions with an innovative and interesting type of sport; it would also strengthen the visual claim of the games in terms of conveying health, unity, and ethical sportsmanship all around the world.

Why it Should be Included in Major Games - SEA Games and Asia Games

The addition of Tchoukball in major multi-sport events such as the SEA Games and Asian Games is a tactical move that captures the development of the athletic event and a broad range of stakeholders. This section explores other facets that belong to the advent of Tchoukball as a proper addition to these games, including eligibility standards, escalating popularity, and congruence with the goals of these games.

Eligibility and Requirements

Tchoukball indeed strictly complies with the eligibility criteria that can allow the sport to have competed in major competitions such as the SEA Games and the Asian Games.

One of the prime requisites is the existence of an international federation form of government. This role is played by the International Tchoukball Federation (FITB) to monitor the sport's adherence to the set rules and regulations towards the insurance of fairness and merit in the competition (FITB, n.d.). Nonetheless, having the FITB ensures that Tchoukball has a clear and effective system of governance that supports the bid for the sport to be included in multi-sport events but one can confidently assert that Tchoukball is well-regulated professional manner.

Moreover there is a large number of active national federations that support Tchoukball, especially in the Asia Pacific countries. Tchoukball has grown popular in Asia; Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Hong Kong have associations formed that host national Tchoukball championships and engage in international competitions (Tianbao, 2023). The presence of these national bodies supports extensive participation area and a clear competition framework indicates that there was effective regional participation and involvement.

One other criterion they highlighted is the principles of fair play and sportsmanship which are core tenets of Tchoukball (SAD Public, 2013). The characteristic, that can be referred to as Dart, is that it is an indoor and non-contact sport and respect between the players and the opponent, including the spirit of fair play, which perfectly corresponds to the values of the big multi-sport games (SAD Public, 2013). This position also reinforces qualification for Tchoukball but helps to illustrate how it can bear an important and positive impact on the spirit of SEA Games and the Asian Games that also should embrace this sport.

Popularity and Growth

According to Brooke (2022), the increasing popularity and the growth rate of Tchoukball in the Asia Pacific region supports the arguments for the inclusion of the game in

both the SEA Games and the Asian Games. Despite the general trend where participation in other sports decreases, Tchoukball has undergone tremendous changes in the last decade, where more and more schools, universities, and communities are getting into it (Jones et al., 2023). This can be evidenced by the number of regional and international tournaments held yearly focused on Asian teams and those interested in Asian countries.

Additionally, the appeal of the sport therefore is the ability to attract many players and even fans, from different backgrounds. This makes it exciting for the audience, as audiences enjoy watching the fast-paced action, as well as the tactical elements involved such as passing and communication that are involved in the synchronization of a team. Tchoukball also receives more media coverage and its social media tags also help in getting the game in front of newer audiences helping in getting more takers for the game (Spa Business, 2014).

Relevance with Major Games Goals

Tchoukball certainly fits nicely into the objectives of events like the SEA Games and Asian Games that are meant to foster workable cooperation and cultural exchanges and the enhancement of sport. Through the incorporation of Tchoukball, these events can demonstrate a sport that embodies such values. Tchoukball does not allow physical contact between playing competitors, and players must not make use of abusive language, hence the principles of respect and splendid performance are fostered and achieved during major multi-sporting games.

Furthermore, Tchoukball is a game that can be played by anybody without any discrimination of gender, which helps towards the achievement of narrowing the gender gap in Sports. It is played by and practiced by both men and women, thus ensuring equal chances for any gender willing to excel in the sport. This is in line with the overall policy of most games that are aimed at spotting and preventing prejudice in their sporting events.

Infrastructure and Accessibility

One of the tangible benefits of incorporating Tchoukball in the SEA and Asia Games is the fact that it only demands a few facilities and equipment investments. Tchoukball does not require a specialized court and can be played on a facility designed for basketball or volleyball, thus there is no need for significant financial investment to play the game (SAD Public, 2013). This ease of setup makes it ideal to book new events without immense work on the side of the organizer for new sports.

Furthermore, since Tchoukball only requires simple equipment, the expense of implementing the game is not very high. This affordability contributes to Tchoukball's place in grassroots sports programs and is attributed to the increase in participation of the number of individuals from all classes. This is important because, through its simplicity and relative lack of equipment requirements, the sport can be played by anyone from novice to professional.

In conclusion, Tchoukball's long-standing and effective governing structure, the level of its popularity, its compliance with the goals and objectives of the major games, and, finally, its low demands for facilities will make Tchoukball a perfect fit for the SEA Games and Asian Games. These positive attributes and features would enhance these events to foster unity, participation, and the enhancement of the sports in the region. Indeed, integrating Tchoukball in both the SEA Games and Asian Games can extend a vibrant and attractive new activity that not only enthralls the athletes but at the same time, fortifies the audiences' experience of the respective mega-sporting events.

How Emerging Sports like Tchoukball Will Take Lead in the Future

Emerging sports like Tchoukball could serve as models for the future of athletic competitions and games because they tend to embrace the general societal trends and the Tchoukball in Asia Pacific as an Emerging Sport
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dynamics that are expected to emerge in the near future. With issues of diversity and safety on the shift across the global society today of immense importance, Tchoukball as a non-contact sport with major tenets focused on respect and ethical play appeals to an increasingly diverse audience seeking ethical, safe, and enjoyable sports (Vargas-Mendoza et al., 2018). Given the evident sporting potential, the possibility for the sport to grow big and be loyal, means that players of all genders, and those reluctant in other forms of sport, can embrace it. Moreover, the sport has advanced sequences and rapid actions which are fascinating to a younger generation who wants to be associated with exciting sporting events and hence the modern world always has a place for competitive sporting events like Tchoukball (FITB, 2021).

In the past, sports events required significant investments in facilities, equipment, and player training for overall team success. However, emerging sports like Tchoukball do not require much equipment and its rules are easy to grasp which makes it ideal for indoor spaces, and sharing on social media and in digital spaces. With Tchoukball continually expanding itself, its incorporation into schools and community organisations will create a pool of young talents and perpetual beliefs by the public (FITB, 2021). In addition, strategic marketing and international cooperation, starting from the grassroots level, will put Tchoukball in the international sports arena and place it as one of the premier sports of the society that embodies the themes and essence of today's world.

Why We Should Value and Scale Up Tchoukball

The expansion and establishment of Tchoukball not only has the potential to benefit and improve many aspects of people's lives but can also positively impact the health and well-being of the communities in question. It is thus possible to bring this potential in major

games to foster a healthier, more inclusive, and prosperous society through the recognition and investment that Tchoukball deserves as follows:

Promoting Health and Wellness

There is potential to hugely promote Tchoukball as a sporting activity, which can greatly impact public health and wellness. According to game SAD Public (2013) reports, the sport helps people improve their physical fitness, which is important since many people nowadays have more sedentary work and spend much of their time sitting behind the computer (Nguyen et al., 2020). Therefore, by enabling people to exercise physically frequently in a safe manner and recreation activities through Tchoukball, some of the prevalent health problems including obesity, cardiovascular diseases, and mental illnesses can be solved for the formation of a healthy society.

Strengthening Community and Social Identity

In this perspective, tchoukball is indeed a generally interesting sport, which can gather all sorts of people of different backgrounds to come together to play (Jones et al., 2023), consequently strengthening community interactions and the social identity of a given society. This is inclusive since it encourages social contact and cooperation with others, as well as fostering healthy teamwork, in communities. Tchoukball can therefore provide valuable assistance in the process of scaling up and become a useful agent in the process of social inclusion and community enhancement among people of all ages (Gadais et al., 2021).

Educational Benefits and Character Development

Tchoukball education in school should not be limited to health aspects only because many other attributes go along with the game. The sport entails the development of various life capacities including work ethic, communication, and critical thinking (SAD Public,

2013). Through these activities, students are able not only to cooperate with their peers but also to obtain leadership skills and learn how to cope with success and failure. These skills assume importance in different spheres of life cutting across classroom and career.

Support Needed From the Local Community, Olympic Council, and Government

Local Community Support

The successful development of Tchoukball requires adequate support from the local population. This starts with community sensitisation through awareness-creating programmes within schools, recreational facilities, and other organisations. Local-based sports associations can also make a vital contribution through conducting some training sessions, workshops, and local championships to motivate the participants. Such can contribute to the growth of the fan base via social occasions, media, and participation; which is important for the development of the sport at the grassroots level.

Olympic Council support

The Olympic Council can help in giving official recognition to Tchoukball about being an option for inclusion in future Olympics to help improve the visibility of the sport. Olympic Council support itself may consist of measures such as providing administrative help in arranging international events, providing courses for coaches and referees, streamer or exchange programmes between nations on best practices for the sport.

Support from the Government

Tchoukball requires government backing to receive the requisite funding and tools to grow the game at the developmental level and in the national team program. The authorities can support Tchoukball at the governmental level by including it within the framework of physical education in schools to provide children with the sport at their early stages of

development. Additionally, grants and funding sources can help build infrastructure and ensure that adequate facilities exist and are sustained, establish national leagues and tournaments as well as train athletes and coaches.

Call for Support

For the successful growth of Tchoukball, several organizations which include the local community, the Olympic Council, and different government departments have a role to play. Local people can support the development of the sport by involving everyone in grassroots levels as well as volunteerism while the Olympic Council can uplift the sport by internationally endorsing it. Moreover, to ensure that Tchoukball receives a favorable environment that will facilitate its growth and development, it is important to have government support in terms of the development of infrastructure and funding. The aforementioned stakeholders stand to benefit Tchoukball in a big way through its promotion in the sporting arena while enhancing physical health, social interactions, and the well-being of sports participants.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Tchoukball has the potential to be considered for consolidation within several major sports events such as the SEA Games and Asian Games due to its simplicity, non-contact nature, safety, and strategic aspects. Adding to its advantages, it perfectly responds to modern values and does not presuppose the need for many infrastructural changes. However, the full potential of such preparations can only be reached with the support of the local communities, the Olympic Council, and state authorities. It means that investing in Tchoukball, will increase people's awareness in terms of health, bring the nation closer focus on unity and cultural sensitivity, and also, create awareness of other countries. Lastly, fostering an acceptance and inclusion of Tchoukball not only expands the choices that

are available in terms of sports but is also synonymous with promoting elements of togetherness and depictions of sportsmanship in major competitions.

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