**Senior Secondary Physical Education Elective**

**Part 8 Social Aspects**

**Worksheet 8**

**Sport and Politics**

1. Themes:
2. What is politics?
3. Is there any relationship between sport and politics?
4. How can we prevent political interference in sport? Should we do so?
5. Content:
6. Meaning of “politics”: “Politics” refers to the process of using social power to make decisions that affect people’s lives.
7. Relationship between sport and politics:
   * 1. There is a long relationship between sport and politics in the Olympic history such as Olympic truce and Olympic boycott.
     2. Political functions of sport:
        1. increase nationalism
        2. use sport for political propaganda
        3. encourage national integration
        4. sustain existing social conflicts
        5. act as vehicles for socialization
        6. act as political ambassadors of international goodwill
        7. enhance the international status of the country or region
     3. In the context of sports sociology, politics covers the following areas:
        1. What is the definition of a sport?
        2. Who set the rules of a sport? What are the principles underpinning the rules?
        3. Who implement the rules in a sport?
        4. Who has the ultimate control over a sport?
        5. Which country or region is the best place to host the competitions of a sport?
        6. Who are eligible to participate in sports competitions?
        7. In general, how does an event organiser distribute the rewards to athletes?

1. How can we prevent political interference in sport? Should we do so?
   * 1. These questions are inherently political, we need to deal with them within the political agenda.
     2. In reality, it is impossible to eliminate the mutual impact between sport and politics.
     3. The political actions below may bring positive impact on sports development:
        1. Balance the interests of different stakeholders in the sports world
        2. Have more transparent processes and reasonable outcomes in sports development
        3. Involve more people from different stakeholders in the decision making process
2. Questions and activities
3. List three political issues in the history of modern Olympic Games.
4. Does politics have any positive impact on sport? If yes, what is it?
5. Does sport have any positive impact on politics? If yes, what is it?
6. References
   * 1. Coakley, J. (2015). *Sport in society: Issues and controversies* (11th edition). WCB McGraw – Hill.
     2. Bridges, B. (2014). Sustaining Identities: Hong Kong and the Politics of an Olympic Boycott. *International Journal of the History of Sport*, *31*(3), 276–289.
     3. Merkel, U. (2014). The Politics of Sport and Identity in North Korea. *International Journal of the History of Sport*, *31*(3), 376–390.