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POSSIBLE ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES OF THE BRAZILIAN SPORTS PROMOTION PROGRAM UNTIL THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

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INFORMAÇÕES

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RESUMO

O Programa Bolsa-Atleta Brasileiro (PBA), criado em 2000 após o baixo desempenho da delegação brasileira nas Olimpíadas de Sydney, foi implementado através da Lei Bolsa-Atleta. Posteriormente, a Lei dos Atletas modificou a Lei original, estabelecendo que o PBA se concentraria principalmente em atletas de alto desempenho. Assim, este artigo analisa os resultados alcançados nas quatro Olimpíadas abrangidas pelo Programa Bolsa-Atleta - Pequim 2008, Londres 2012, Rio 2016 e Tóquio 2020 - comparando-os com os resultados das quatro Olimpíadas anteriores - Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 e Atenas 2004. Para isso, são utilizadas estatísticas descritivas aplicadas à metodologia de pesquisa documental, a fim de examinar empiricamente a implementação do Programa Bolsa-Atleta do Governo Federal. Os resultados mostram que o desempenho das delegações olímpicas brasileiras vem melhorando ao longo dos anos e são válidos para a literatura que investiga políticas públicas esportivas, formuladores de políticas e a sociedade em geral.

Keywords:
Bolsa-Atleta Program;
Olympic Games;
Tokyo 2020;
Public Policies.

ABSTRACT

The Brazilian Bolsa-Atleta Program (PBA), which originated in 2000 after the poor performance of the Brazilian delegation at the Sydney Olympics, was implemented through the Bolsa-Atleta Law. Subsequently, the Athletes' Law modified the original Law by establishing that the PBA would focus mainly on high-performance athletes. Thus, this paper analyzes the results achieved in the four Olympics covered by the Bolsa Atleta Program - Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 - making a comparison with the results of the four previous Olympics - Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004. For this, descriptive statistics applied to the documentary research methodology are used to empirically examine the implementation of the Bolsa Atleta Program of the Federal Government. The results show that the performances of the Brazilian Olympic delegations have been improving over the years and are valid for the literature that investigates public sports policies, policymakers and society in general.

1. Introduction

It is a consensus among scholars of the legislative evolutionary path of sport in Brazil that the first step in which sport becomes a relevant subject for the State and is included in the governmental agenda occurs through the enactment of Decree-Law nº 3.199/1941 (Bueno, 2008; Mezzadri, 2000; Pimentel, 2007; Veronez, 2005; Starepravo, 2011; Corrêa, 2016).

According to Corrêa (2016), the purpose of this Law was to organize and discipline the sports apparatus, creating a supervisory and control body for existing sports entities: the National Sports Council (CND), encompassed by the then Ministry of Education and Health

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(Ministry of Education and Culture, from 1953), which managed Brazilian sport from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Among the reasons for the intervention of the public power in the sporting sphere was the lack of democratization in terms of citizens' accessibility to sports, which was limited to certain elites (Corrêa, 2016 apud Starepravo, 2011 apud Linhales, 1996). Only in the period of the Military Regime in the country did more significant legislative changes take place (Corrêa, 2016).

Law nº 6.251/1975 revoked Decree-Law nº 3.199/1941, establishing the National Sports System; Decree-Law No. 80228/1977 established confederations, however, control of the sports structure remained with the State (Corrêa, 2016 apud Pimentel, 2007). According to Teixeira et al. (2017a), it would only be with the enactment of the Federal Constitution (CF) of 1988 that the State would be in charge of enabling citizens' access to sports as a social right, through Article 217, which privatized sports entities, guaranteeing them autonomy of operation and organization (Corrêa, 2016 apud Veronez, 2005).

Law nº 8.672/1993, named Lei Zico, dealt predominantly with football, however, replaced the CND by the Superior Sports Council (CSD), which was no longer characterized by supervisory functions, but by regulatory and advisory functions (Corrêa, 2016). After a few years, the Pelé Law was presented (Law nº 9.615/1998), which established the Brazilian Sports Development Council (CDDB), which replaced the CSD; the CDDB had the task of allocating 7% of the gross revenue of the bingo halls to sports entities (Corrêa, 2016).

In 2001, the Agnelo-Piva Law was enacted (Law nº 10.264/2001), which intended to allocate financial resources to educational and high-performance sports (Corrêa, 2016). According to Corrêa (2016), this Law established that Caixa Econômica Federal (CEF) had the duty to distribute 2% of the gross revenue of federal lotteries to entities managing Olympic and Paralympic sports; 15% of this amount was allocated to the Brazilian Paralympic Committee (CPB) and 85% to the Brazilian Olympic Committee (COB); COB was responsible for contributing 5% to university sports and 10% to the development of educational sports.

However, this Law violated Article 217 of the CF of 1988, by allocating 85% of resources to high-performance sports and only 15% to educational sports (Côrrea, 2016 apud Veronez, 2005). In 2015, this same Agnelo-Piva Law was amended, through the Brazilian Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (Law No. % and the percentage allocated to Paralympic sports increased from 15% to 37%.

However, Article 217 of CF 1988 continued to be violated, by allocating 85% of resources to high-performance sports and only 15% to educational sports (Law 13,146, 2015). Subsequently, after Law nº 10.264/2001, the second Sports Financing Law was established, Law nº 10.891/2004, known as the Athlete Scholarship Law, which will be the main subject of this article. This law deals with the Bolsa-Atleta Program (PBA), which directs resources directly to athletes, based on sports performance and results. The PBA is financed exclusively by the budgetary law from the Federal Government by the guidelines of the Budget Program for the Concession of Scholarships to Athletes, in line with the budgetary and financial availability of the current Ministry of Citizenship, former Ministry of Sport.

Thus, analyzing the effectiveness and potential of the PBA in terms of Olympic results since its implementation until the recent Tokyo Olympics are the main goals of this work. The article is necessary given the scarcity of academic work available on the subject and may contribute to a better understanding and implementation of this public policy and other related ones.

The theme raises considerations about the performance of high-performance Brazilian athletes, such as the development of Brazil's sporting potential; socioeconomic inequalities

and disparities in infrastructure between the different Brazilian regions and states and the comparison of support for athletes of both sexes and different age groups. The study may indicate possible results of government investment in the PBA during the four Olympics covered by the program - Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2021 - compared with the results of the four previous Olympics - Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004. The results show that Brazilian delegations have been improving their income in recent years and these findings are useful for the scientific literature that investigates public sports policies by bringing empirical evidence, for policymakers and society in general, given its interest in the application of public resources.

In addition to this introductory section, the paper has four more sections. In the second section, a brief contextualization and literature review on the subject are presented, the third section explains the methodology used, the fourth section exposes the results and, finally, section five concludes.

2. Theoretical framework

The Brazilian Olympic Committee (COB) was founded in 1914, making Brazil one of the first Latin American countries to establish an entity representing the Olympic movement (Corrêa, 2016). Nevertheless, Brazilian sport was based on international norms, without substantial State intervention, until the publication of Decree-Law No. 3.199/1941 (Rodrigues, 2016 apud BRASIL, 1941; Tubino, 2002).

The state began to finance sport through this Decree, which established financial support for sports entities and exempted taxes on sports equipment, public sports exhibitions and passport issuance for members of delegations representing Brazil abroad (Athayde et al., 2021 apud Carneiro, 2018).

According to Rodrigues (2016 apud Smolianov, 2008), the State began to invest in sports public policies from the moment that sports and the athlete began to collaborate more sharply for the composition of the country's image. According to Teixeira et al. (2017a apud Manhães, 2002), until CF 1988, all State deliberations in the sports sphere originated from the Estado Novo, with formal or secondary modifications, based on disciplinary and nationalist principles.

It should be noted that state spending and the establishment of sources of funds have historically been and continue to be guided not only by economic parameters, but also by predominant political criteria that correspond to the correlation of forces that constitute society and, therefore, meet the aspirations of the class dominant (Teixeira et al, 2017a apud Athayde, 2013).

High-performance sport is defined as one that requires a high level of dedication from the athlete to achieve the best results, supported by intense training and advanced technology (Rodrigues, 2016 apud De Rose et al, 1999; Tubino, 2007). It is important to emphasize that the concern with the Olympic performance of Brazil as a nation gained greater prominence only after the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, with the considered weak participation of the country's athletes, who did not win a gold medal (Corrêa et al., 2014).

In that edition, it was expected, at least, an achievement equivalent to that of the 1996 Atlanta Games, where Brazilian athletes won three gold medals (Rodrigues, 2016). The literature also indicates that current Brazilian sports policies are justified and implemented based on the recognition of the need for state intervention, to resolve weaknesses such as the inadequate level of financing of the private initiative (Camargo et al., 2017 apud Almeida et al, 2010; Camargo, 2016; Guimarães, 2009; Reis, 2014; Starepravo, 2011).

It was even in the face of the athletes' difficulty in obtaining investments and sponsorships, which resulted in the impossibility of dedicating themselves to training and purchasing sports equipment, that

the PBA was included in the political agenda (Camargo et al., 2017 apud Guimarães, 2009).

This financial support program for high-performance athletes went through a processing period of three years, seven months and eleven days, before being sanctioned and implemented in 2005 (Côrrea, 2016). According to information from the National Congress (BRASIL, 2000), the Bill that gave rise to Law nº 10.891/2004 (Athlete Scholarship Law), was forwarded by the then federal deputy, Agnelo Queiroz, who in 2003 would become the first Minister of Sport, in the first government of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Rodrigues, 2016).

It should be noted that a kind of Bolsa-Athlete was already granted by the Federal District government in 1999, through Law nº 2.402/1999, based on a project approved by the Legislative Chamber authored by the then district deputy, Agrício Braga (Rodrigues, 2016). As for the Bolsa-Atleta granted by the Government at the federal level, the idea was similar to the Bolsa Virtuose of the then Ministry of Culture, which awarded artists with the greatest potential (Côrrea, 2016 apud Câmara dos Deputados, 2001).

The PBA is administered by the National Secretariat for High-Performance Sports (SNEAR), currently encompassed by the Ministry of Citizenship, and chooses candidates for the benefit through meritocratic requirements established in the legislation for each class of scholarship available: Bolsa Base, monthly amount, 370 reais; Student Scholarship, monthly amount, 370 reais; National Scholarship, monthly amount, 925 reais; International Scholarship, monthly value, 1,850 reais; Olympic/Paralympic Scholarship, monthly amount, 3,100 reais; and Bolsa Pódio, monthly amount, up to 15,000 reais (Pre-Requisites, 2022).

The benefited athlete receives the money deposited in his specific account for one year (Teixeira et al., 2017a). The Athlete Scholarship Law (Law No. 10,891/2004), would be amended by Law No. 12,395/2011, known as the Athlete's Law, by allowing sponsored or salaried athletes to receive government benefits (Côrrea et al., 2014).

In addition, it modified the PBA by limiting the total amount to be transferred to athletes in non-Olympic and Paralympic sports to 15% (Teixeira et al., 2017a); established the Base and Podium categories; and redefined investments to seek to direct Brazil to the group of the greatest powers, by changing the main focus of encouraging the training of athletes to financing athletes with high potential for achievements and performance in the modalities of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Camargo et al ., 2017).

It should be noted that in 2010 the third edition of the National Sports Conference (III CNE) was held, which guided the Ten Year Plan for Sport and Leisure – 10 points in 120 years to project Brazil among the top 10 (Athayde et al., 2021). In sequence, more precisely in September 2012, the former president, Dilma Rousseff, and the then Minister of Sports, Aldo Rebelo, launched the Brasil Medalhas Plan (PBM).

The PBM aimed to expand sports funding to place Brazil among the top ten at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games and among the top five at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games (Rodrigues, 2016).

According to Corrêa (2016 apud Castelan, 2010), confederations, federations and clubs are an inherent part of the Brazilian sporting sphere. It is important to point out that until the implementation of the PBA, the actions of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Sport and previous correlates were directed at allocating resources to these sports entities and not directly to athletes (Rodrigues, 2016).

Since the beginning of the institutionalization of sport in Brazil, entities such as federations and clubs have held considerable power and make up the basis of national high-performance sport, that is, spectacle sport, which has synergy with the passion of millions of citizens and is the destiny

a relatively high volume of private and public money (Corrêa, 2016 apud Corrêa et al, 2014).

Furthermore, with the institution of sports confederations from 1977 onwards, privatized through CF 1988, these structures that coordinate and organize national sport began to pocket fixed income from the federal lottery and tax subsidies; constitute most of the seats of the National Sports Council; establish dialogue channels with state representatives; form a bench in the National Congress.

In addition, they gained power after Brazil was selected to host major sporting events such as the 2007 Pan American Games, the 2011 Military World Games, the 2013 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Confederations Cup, the 2013 and 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games (Rodrigues, 2016).

According to Corrêa (2016), the national sports confederations significantly influenced the path of the PBA, as they were entrusted with autonomy from the former Ministry of Sport, the current Special Secretariat for Sport, and thus obtained advantages of everything that was not illegal, as well as harming the athletes benefiting from the program.

About this lack of democracy, Law nº 12.868/2013 was enacted, by amending the General Sports Law nº 9.615/1998, thus vetoing the term of office of directors beyond eight years; furthermore, it was established that the confederations would not receive their amounts from public resources if this requirement was not respected; in addition, the requirement for the alternation in the exercise of management positions was established (Côrrea, 2016).

The minimum age to receive the Bolsa-Atleta benefit is 14 years old; except for some modalities such as swimming, gymnastics, and diving, in which the apex of sports performance can occur from the age of 14 (average peak between 19 and 22 years), the other modalities are characterized by peak average between 23 and 32 years (Camargo et al., 2017 apud Longo et al, 2016).

In this sense, according to Camargo et al. (2017), by recognizing that the early success and improvement of athletes encompassed by elementary age categories do not ensure the continuation of the athlete in high-performance sport, the training purpose of the program is incoherent; since the objective is to benefit high-performance Olympic and Paralympic athletes and, secondarily, high-performance athletes from other sports.

Thus, studies on the continuity of athletes in the program, which elucidate the average period in which they remain in the program, are crucial (Camargo et al., 2017). Furthermore, collecting data on age at peak sports performance is essential for the decision-making process; may indicate whether the investment in the athlete contemplates peak performance (Camargo et al., 2017).

However, according to Malagutti et al. (2015), new categories should be added to the program, such as Athletes in Training, who would be identified and characterized as holders of future high-performance potential by the National sports administration entity.

In line with this perspective by Malagutti et al. (2015), is the explicit conception in the work of Rodrigues (2016 apud Reis, 2015) that if an adequate investment is not made, in this elementary period that can lead to income, a significant number of future athletes with the potential to reach high levels of performance, it could be wasted.

According to Athayde et al. (2021), after the 2016 Rio Olympics, there was a tendency to return in terms of sports policies towards a level of lesser importance among the government's priorities; the Ministry of Sport was extinguished and transformed into the Special Secretariat for Sport, encompassed by the Ministry of Citizenship; however, SNEAR was maintained, which demonstrates the importance of this national sports policy.

It is worth emphasizing that the mega-events hosted in Brazil had constituted the organizing pretext of the national sport and leisure agenda, which is easily noticeable when

observing the disparity between the agendas of the first two CNEs, respectively held in 2004 and 2006, in comparison with the III CNE, held in 2010, which, as mentioned earlier, focused on transforming Brazil into a sports powerhouse (Athayde et al., 2021).

Given this, several works have sought to understand the financing of Brazilian sport and the Bolsa Atleta Program. The work of Corrêa (2016) investigated the elaboration process of the Bolsa Atleta program by the Federal Legislative, especially about attributing greater responsibility to the national sports confederations, by analyzing how these entities are shaping the path of this public policy (Corrêa, 2016).

For Corrêa (2016), the sports confederations, established in 1977 and privatized through CF 1988, were characterized by autonomy from the then Ministry of Education and Culture and correlates, such as the Ministry of Sport, current Special Secretariat for Sport, and thus they did everything that was not prohibited by the Law, thus harming the beneficiary athletes of the program.

Rodrigues' work (2016) was carried out in the context of the choice of Brazil as the host country for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, and the need to improve public policies aimed at high-performance athletes. The same examined the process of formulation, implementation and evaluation of the PBA, and concluded that it is successful, since financial resources reach the athletes directly, despite certain obstacles. Correa et al. (2014) did an initial mapping of the PBA (2005-2011) and concluded that despite the numerous benefits to Brazilian high-performance sport, there is still a narrow-based pyramid, with inconsistencies that weaken it to the point of not being able to stand upright.

The work by Camargo et al. (2017) sought to identify the characteristics of scholarship sharing between Olympic and Paralympic athletes in terms of gender and age, by analyzing data from 16,200 athletes funded by the PBA from 2005 to 2016 years old and 35 to 45 years old benefited from a higher volume of investments; athletes from the 19 to 25 age group received a greater number of scholarships; while women, although with a smaller number of beneficiaries, received a higher investment value.

The study by Teixeira et al. (2017a) analyzed the PBA from its scope, as well as the characteristics of its spending and financing through data such as the results of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2012 London and 2016 Rio de Janeiro are intended for athletes who are already ready, and even so, the results in terms of medals were lower than expected (Teixeira et al, 2017a).

The study by Malagutti et al. (2015) investigated the functioning of the PBA from 2005 to 2008 and came to the conclusion that it had been expanding, although the greatest beneficiaries were athletes from the southeast and southern regions; however, the program did not represent an improvement in the national sport, according to the results achieved by the beneficiary athletes; moreover, these authors suggested a greater decentralization of it.

The research by Athayde et al. (2021) analyzed the PBA from 2009 to 2016, to identify the impacts of Brazil's choice to host the 2016 Olympics, through research on the financing and scope of the Program. Another research focusing on PBA carried out by Teixeira et al. (2017b) sought to examine the breadth and magnitude of its spending and funding, concluding that the investment is directed towards ready-made athletes, to the detriment of a long-term strategy and the improvement of a public policy to optimize sport for strengthen Brazilian athletes in the Olympic Games.

In addition to the works focusing on the Bolsa Atleta Program, there are others of a more specific nature, such as the one by Oliveira, Vargas and Capraro (2020) that examines the sports career of female artistic gymnastics athletes who receive the Bolsa-Atleta Pódio and the research by Reis and Capraro (2020) which

focuses on Bolsa-Atleta Pódio about the results of Brazilian judokas from 2013 to 2018.

Thus, the present work seeks to contribute to this literature by bringing empirical evidence of possible contributions of the Bolsa Atleta Program to the performance of Brazilian athletes until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the XXXII Olympiad.

3. Methodology

This work makes use of descriptive statistics methods applied to documentary research, covering data on Brazilian performance in the Olympic Games of Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. According to Gil (2002), descriptive research has as its main goal the description of the characteristics of certain phenomena or populations or even the stipulation of relationships between variables (Gerhardt and Silveira 1987 apud Trivinos, 1987).

Some examples of descriptive research are documental analysis, case studies, and ex-post-facto research (Gerhardt; Silveira, 1987). Among the descriptive research, those that study the characteristics of a certain group stand out: distribution by gender, age, mental and physical health status, and level of education (Gil, 2002). Another type of descriptive research seeks to know the associations between variables, they aim to understand the nature of the relationships between the variables and, in this way, they are similar to explanatory research there are also descriptive researches that end up creating a new perspective of the problem, thus resembling exploratory research. (Gil, 2002).

As for the approach, the work makes use of qualitative research and, therefore, aims to deepen the information on delimitations such as a social group or an organization, and is not concerned with numerical representation (Gerhardt; Silveira, 1987). The qualitative approach aims to explain why, explaining which measures should be taken, without quantifying values, and not submitting to the test of non-metric data, which are interactional and raised (Gerhardt; Silveira, 1987).

Nature is applied, as it aims to gather knowledge for practical application, aimed at solving specific problems (Gerhardt; Silveira, 1987). As for the procedures, this is documentary research. This type of research is similar to bibliographical research, which uses scientific articles and books; documentary research uses a variety of sources, such as: newspapers, reports, magazines, statistical tables, letters, official documents, etc. (Gerhardt; Silveira, 1987 apud Fonseca, 2002). Documentary research has advantages such as cost, as document analysis normally requires only the researcher's time availability (Gil, 2002). To resolve imprecision, some researchers contemplate a wide range of documents, choosing a certain number through randomness (Gil, 2002).

Furthermore, documentary research is important not because it definitively solves problems, but because it offers a better perspective on the problem or hypotheses that lead to an investigation by other means (Gil, 2002). According to Secchi (2020), the analysis of a public policy can use benchmarking to find similar solutions that other cities, public bodies, states, or countries have used to combat the same problem (Secchi, 2020, p. 105 apud Ramos 1966; Bergue et al, 2010).

4. Results

Chart 1 shows the performance of the Brazilian delegation in the four Olympics that preceded the implementation of the PBA.

Table 1. Results, number of athletes and modalities of Brazil by Olympics (1992-2004).

	Number of medals	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Final position	Number of athletes (homens/mulheres)	Modalities
1992/Barcelona	3	2 Judo (Mildweight [up to 65kg] - men; Volleyball team - men	1 Swimming (100m freestyle - men)	-	25th of 169	197 (146 men/51 women) (26% women/74% men)	34
1996/Atlanta	15	3 Candle (Laser); Candle (Star); Beach volleyball - women	3 Beach volleyball - female; Swimming 200 meters freestyle - men; Basketball team - women	9 Volleyball team - female; Swimming 50 meters freestyle - men; Swimming 100 meters freestyle - men; Judo (up to 95kg - male); Judo (up to 65kg - male); Equestrianism (Team Jumping); Football - male; Athletics (4x100 meters relay - men); Candle (Tornado)	25th of 197	225 (159 men/56 women) (35% women/65% men)	21
2000/Sydney	12	-	6 Athletics (4x100m relay - male); Judo (Lightweight [up to 73kg] - male); Judo (Medium weight [up to 90kg] - male); Sailing (Laser Class - men); Beach Volleyball (Doubles - Men); Beach Volleyball (Women's Doubles)	6 Basketball - female; Equestrianism (Jumping - male); Swimming (4x100 free relay - men); Sailing (Star Class - male); Volleyball - female; Beach Volleyball (Women's Doubles)	52nd of 199	205 (111 men/94 women) (45% women/55% men)	27

2004/Atenas	10	5 Equestrianism (Individual Jumping - Male); Candle (Laser - male); Candle (Star - male); Volleyball - men; Beach volleyball - men)	2 Football – female; Beach Volleyball (Women's Doubles)	3 Athletics (Marathon - male); Judo (Male up to 73kg); Judo (Up to 81kg – men)	16th of 201	247 (125 men/122 women) (49% women/51% men)	22

Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

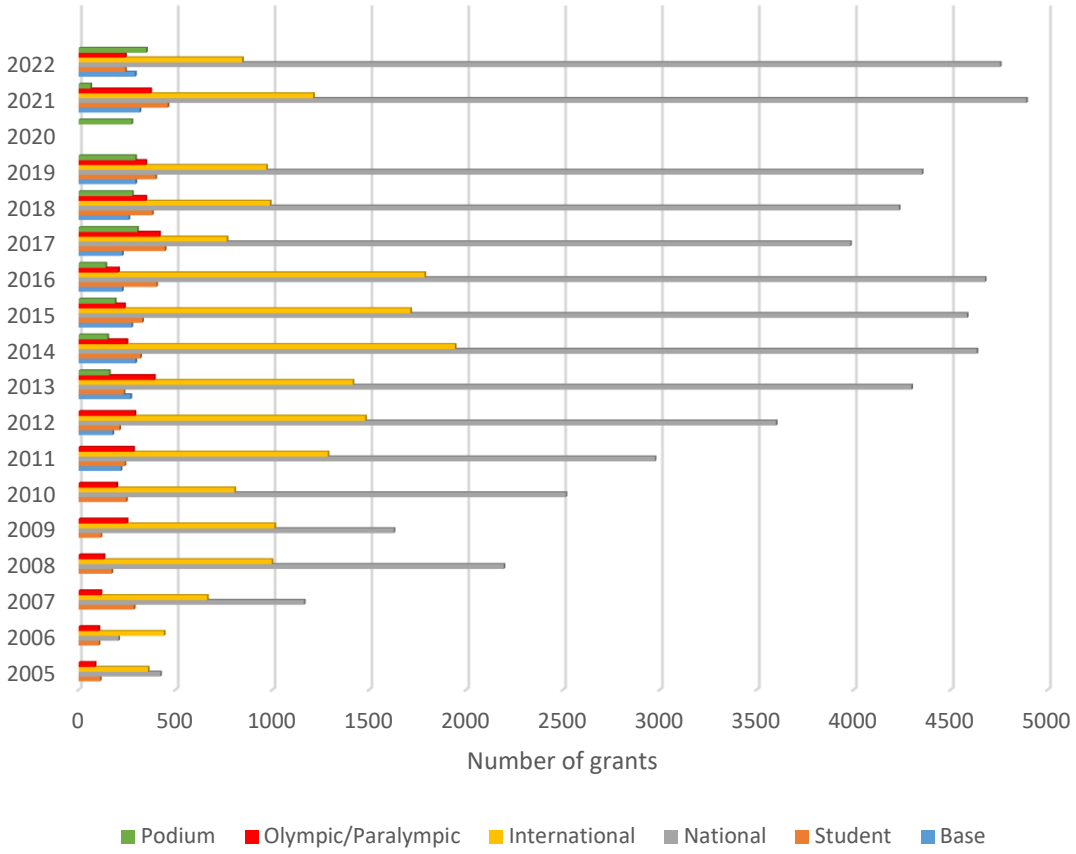
By analyzing Table 1, it is possible to reach some conclusions. The first comparison is between the 1992 and 1996 Games, in which the number of medals increased considerably, from three to 15; the first Brazilian women's medals of all time were won, for beach volleyball (gold and silver), for women's basketball (silver), and women's volleyball (bronze); however, the position in the general table of medals remained the same, 25th; moreover, the size of the delegation grew by 28 people and the proportion of women increased by 9%.

The second comparison is between the 1996 and 2000 Games, in which three fewer medals and zero gold were won; women's medals came from beach volleyball (silver), basketball (bronze) and beach volleyball (bronze); Brazil dropped 27 positions, to be 52nd in the final overall table; in addition, the size of the delegation decreased by 20 people, although the ratio of women to men increased by 10%.

The third comparison is between the 2000 and 2004 Games, in which two fewer medals were won, despite five gold medals; women won medals in women's soccer (silver) and beach volleyball (silver); the number of athletes in the delegation increased by 42 people; the ratio of women to men increased by 4%; and Brazil climbed 36 positions, reaching 16th place in the overall medal table, thus surpassing the levels of the 1992 Barcelona Games and the 2000 Atlanta Games, in which it obtained the 25th position.

Next, it is necessary to display a graph that includes the distribution of grants by category, by year, since 2005, when the PBA was implemented, so that patterns and trends are more clearly displayed. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of grants by category and year from 2005 to 2022.

Figure 1. Distribution of grants by category by year (2005-2022).



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

When analyzing Figure 1, it can be seen that the number of grants in the Base category, implemented from 2011, remained oscillating, without registering substantial growth; the minimum number of grants was in 2012, with 176, and the maximum in 2021, with 316.

As for the Student category, it grew gradually, with volatility, having registered a minimum of 111 scholarships in 2005, and a maximum of 460 scholarships in 2021. minimum of 1,164 scholarships in 2007 to a maximum of 4,890 in 2021, registering a prominent growth.

The number of scholarships for the International category grew considerably, registering a minimum of 358 scholarships in 2005, and a maximum of 1,786 scholarships in 2010. As for the Olympic/Paralympic category, this registered an oscillating growth, reaching a minimum in 2005 with 84 scholarships, and a maximum in 2017 with 417 scholarships.

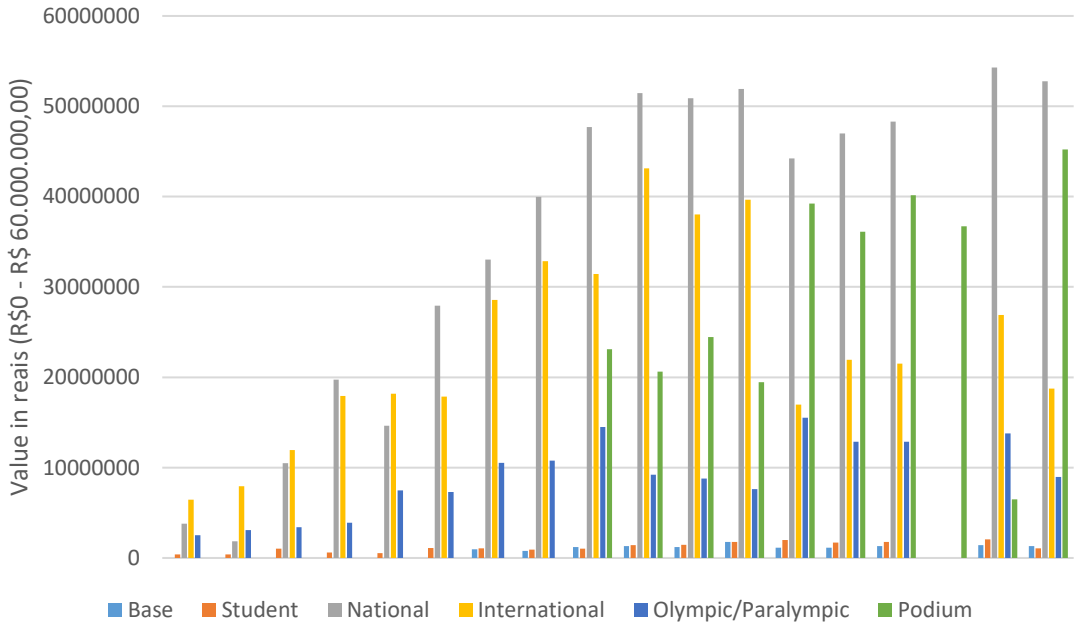
The Podium category, implemented in 2013, registered volatility, reaching the minimum amount in 2021 with 62 scholarships, and the maximum in the following year, 2022, with 349 scholarships. Therefore, in general, it is noted that the numbers from the Bolsa Nacional are overwhelmingly predominant; and the International category received, on average, the second highest number of scholarships, although its level was reduced.

Regarding the disproportionality between the categories, this occurs due to the number of competitions available for registration in the PBA. Olympic and Paralympic Games have less participation of athletes, so they are less attended. On the other hand, the values received by the higher categories are better. It is also important to point out that due to the

Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020 only the Podium category allocated scholarships to athletes.

Next, for comparison purposes with Figure 1, Figure 2 shows the amount invested by scholarship category, by year, from 2005 to 2022.

Figure 2. Amount invested by scholarship category per year (2005-2022).



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

When observing Figure 2, it is noted that the Student category received the second lowest investment value of all, at a level comparable to that of the Bolsa Base; the Student Scholarship received an average of R$ 1.5 million (mi) per year, since 2005. The Base Scholarship is the destination of an amount even a little lower than the Student category, on average. As for the Bolsa Nacional, it grew gradually, considerably, maintaining an oscillating level between R$ 52 million and R$ 44 million.

The Bolsa Internacional was the destination of a volume of money that gradually grew oscillating until 2016; however, after that, the level of investments was reduced by approximately half, from approximately R$43m to approximately R$20m.

Regarding the Olympic/Paralympic Scholarship, this has fluctuated a lot, having reached its maximum in 2013 with around R$ 14 million, and in 2022 it is at an average of approximately R$ 9 million. Bolsa Pódio, implemented in 2013, rose significantly from 2017 onwards, reaching its record in 2022 with approximately BRL 45 million.

Therefore, trends, in general, are the predominance of investments in the National Stock Exchange; investments in the International category were reduced by about half; and as of 2017, the Podium category was the second largest investment destination. It is also essential to emphasize that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020 only the Podium category allocated scholarships to athletes.

The data shown above in Figures 1 and 2 were collected through consultations on the website of the research project "Inteligência Esportiva" (Esportiva Intelligence), which is the result of cooperation between the Center for Research in Sport, Leisure and Society (CEPELS) of UFPR, SNEAR and the Ministry of Citizenship's Special Secretariat for Sports.

However, to exhaust all the search for information about the PBA, it was necessary to send manifestations to the Integrated Platform of Ombudsman and Access to Information (Fala.br), of the Comptroller General of the Union (CGU); in addition, it was possible to get in direct contact with representatives of the IE site; moreover, it was necessary to file a document with the Electronic Citizen Information System (E-Sic), also from the CGU.

Since the IE research project started in 2013, and there are no data represented by graphs for the period from 2005 to 2012, Table 2 shows the distribution of grants by category, region and gender from 2005 to 2012.

Table 2. Distribution of grants by category, region and gender (2005-2012).

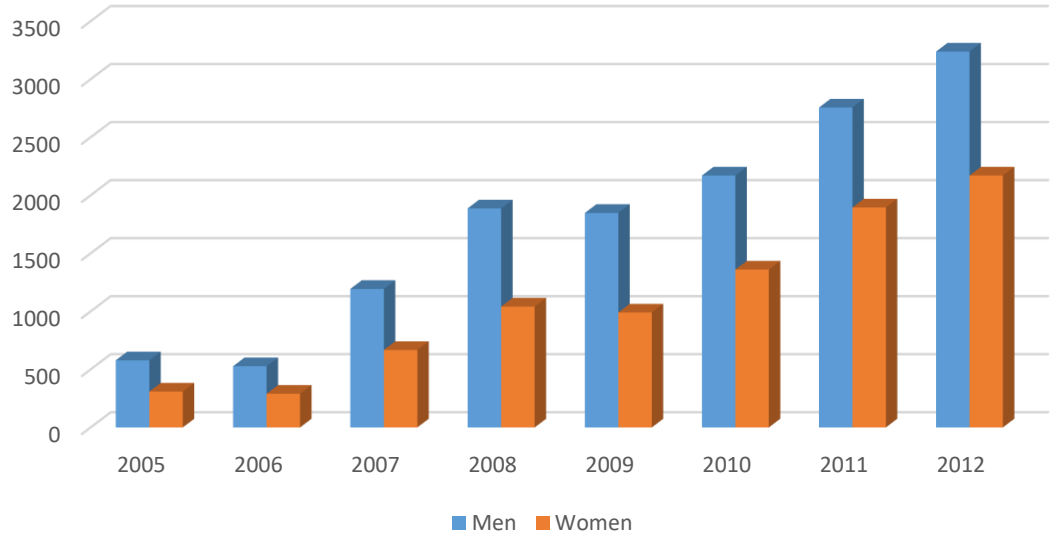
Number of bags (male/female)	Base	Student	National	International	Olympic/Paralympic	Podium
2005	0	South: 16/15 Southeast: 24/22 North: 3/1 Northeast: 3/7 Midwest: 9/2	South: 44/23 Southeast: 158/59 North: 8/4 Northeast: 19/17 Midwest: 29/17	South: 31/27 Southeast: 132/80 North: 2/0 Northeast: 23/12 Midwest: 15/17	South: 7/0 Southeast: 14/36 North: 0/1 Northeast: 4/11 Midwest: 8/1	0
2006	0	South: 10/8 Southeast: 23/21 North: 3/3 Northeast: 7/5 Midwest: 6/11	South: 27/22 Southeast: 69/40 North: 3/2 Northeast: 7/11 Midwest: 9/8	South: 53/40 Southeast: 199/67 North: 4/1 Northeast: 19/19 Midwest: 11/11	South: 8/3 Southeast: 47/14 North: 0/1 Northeast: 12/3 Midwest: 10/0	0
2007	0	South: 35/19 Southeast: 50/42 North: 11/8 Northeast: 17/13 Midwest: 23/13	South: 118/74 Southeast: 371/168 North: 15/17 Northeast: 66/34 Midwest: 49/45	South: 64/46 Southeast: 243/126 North: 6/2 Northeast: 34/19 Midwest: 14/18	South: 10/4 Southeast: 44/20 North: 1/1 Northeast: 14/5 Midwest: 8/3	0
2008	0	South: 26/11 Southeast: 23/26 North: 4/3 Northeast: 9/7 Midwest: 11/5	South: 220/144 Southeast: 657/354 North: 32/30 Northeast: 147/61 Midwest: 88/57	South: 109/73 Southeast: 378/167 North: 13/6 Northeast: 55/31 Midwest: 30/29	South: 10/3 Southeast: 50/23 North: 2/2 Northeast: 14/6 Midwest: 9/3	0
2009	0	South: 16/12 Southeast: 27/29 North: 1/1 Northeast: 17/13 Midwest: 9/6	South: 152/121 Southeast: 597/258 North: 29/18 Northeast: 129/59 Midwest: 88/65	South: 136/84 Southeast: 385/193 North: 9/6 Northeast: 60/29 Midwest: 37/18	South: 27/14 Southeast: 81/34 North: 3/10 Northeast: 25/10 Midwest: 20/10	0
2010	0	South: 34/22 Southeast: 49/37 North: 10/8 Northeast: 20/16 Midwest: 23/10	South: 267/219 Southeast: 868/454 North: 36/11 Northeast: 191/109 Midwest: 102/91	South: 96/67 Southeast: 269/186 North: 10/10 Northeast: 47/36 Midwest: 24/18	South: 13/24 Southeast: 67/29 North: 2/1 Northeast: 21/13 Midwest: 10/10	0
2011	South: 35/25 Southeast: 66/43	South: 28/27 Southeast: 42/28	South: 300/268	South: 156/124 Southeast: 380/306	South: 30/18 Southeast: 95/49 North: 4/7	0

	North: 3/1 Northeast: 9/1Center-west: 7/1	North: 8/12 Northeast: 19/20 Midwest: 20/13	Southeast: 995/577 North: 65/39 Northeast: 213/128 Midwest: 110/92	North: 9/14 Northeast: 67/51 Midwest: 43/31	Northeast: 26/18 Midwest: 18/11	
2012	South: 22/28 Southeast: 55/42 North: 1/1 Northeast: 3/3 Midwest: 5/0	South: 26/27 Southeast: 39/27 North: 14/7 Northeast: 15/13 Midwest: 19/9	South: 393/316 Southeast: 1184/734 North: 75/45 Northeast: 253/118 Midwest: 131/109	South: 197/126 Southeast: 496/326 North: 21/44 Northeast: 84/49 Midwest: 55/34	South: 26/18 Southeast: 82/53 North: 4/7 Northeast: 26/21 Midwest: 12/13	0

Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

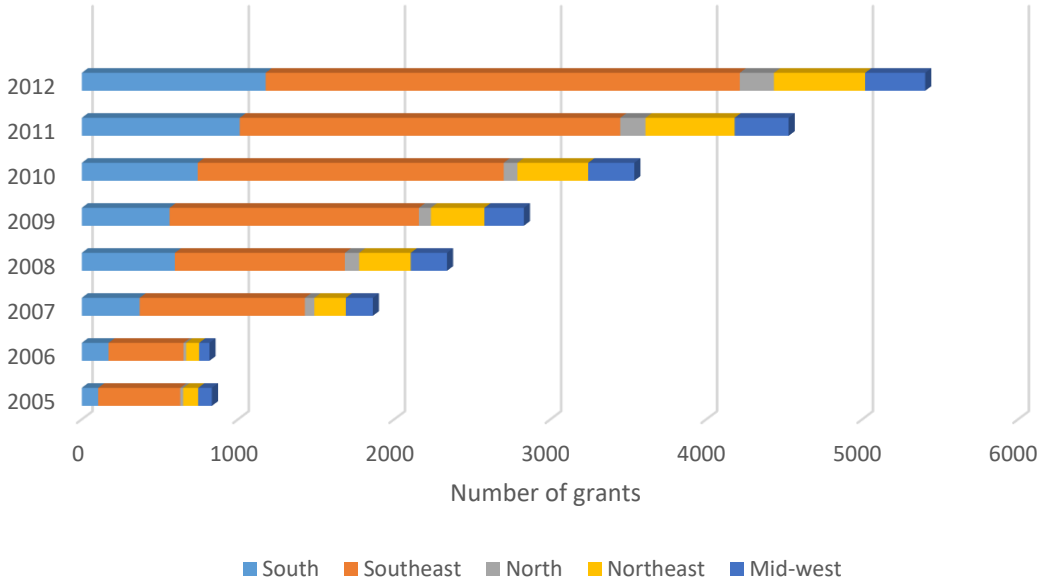
From Table 2, it was possible to create Figures 3 and 4, which respectively represent, from 2005 to 2012, the number of grants distributed between men and women; and by region of birth of the athletes.

Figure 3. Number of grants distributed between men and women (2005-2012).



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

Figure 4. Number of scholarships distributed by region of birth (2005-2012).



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

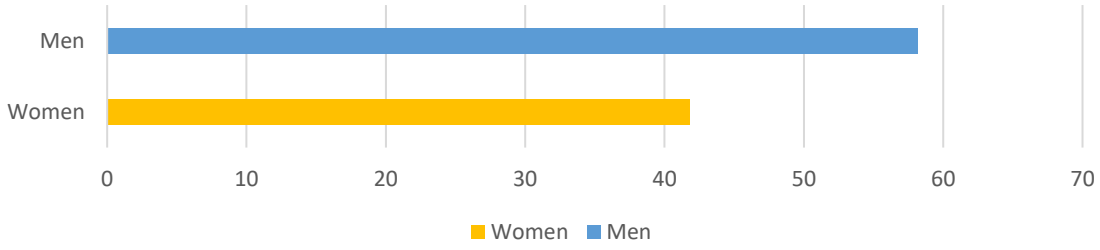
About Figure 3, it is notes that the percentage of women receiving any category of the grant was 35% in 2005; 35%, in 2006; 36%, in 2007; 36%, in 2008; 35%, in 2009; 39%, in 2010; 41%, in 2011; and 40%, in 2012. Figure 4, it is noticed that the number of scholarships destined for athletes born in the South underwent a significant gradual increase; went from 562 scholarships in 2005 to 1,177 in 2012.

As for the Southeast, this region experienced the greatest amplitude of increase, gradually; from 1,596 scholarships in 2005 to 3,038 in 2012. The number of athletes born in the North has also grown substantially, despite a certain stagnation from 2008 to 2010; went from 77 scholarships in 2005 to 219 scholarships in 2012.

For athletes born in the Northeast, the number was relatively stagnant between 2005 and 2006, but expanded significantly afterward; went from 342 scholarships in 2005 to 585 in 2012. The number of athletes born in the Midwest underwent a slow and gradual growth; went from 253 scholarships in 2005 to 385 in 2012. Therefore, overall, growth in the number of athletes receiving scholarships approximately doubled from 2006 to 2007 and increased sharply from 2011 onwards.

In sequence, based on consolidated data on the IE website about the period from 2013 to 2022, it is possible to establish the following graph with the distribution of grants between men and women. Figure 5 shows the percentage of grants by gender.

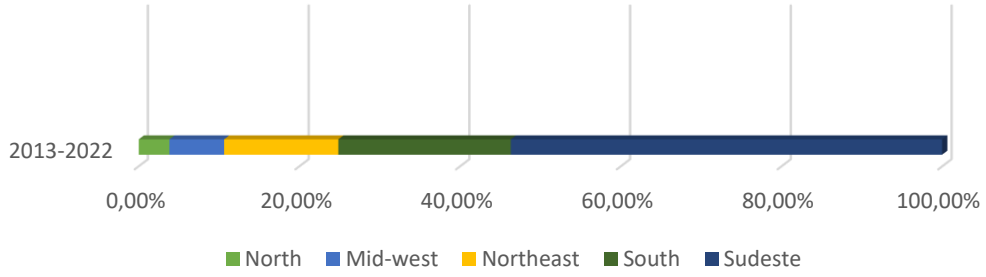
Figure 5. Percentage of grants distributed between women and men (2013-2022).



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

Considering Figure 5, leads to the conclusion that 42% of scholarships were intended for women in the period from 2013 to 2022; and this is above the peak level previously reached in 2010, which was 41%. For comparison purposes, it is urgent to expose Figure 6, which contains the representation of the distribution of scholarships by region of birth, with consolidated data from 2013 to 2022.

Figure 6. Distribution of scholarships by region of birth (2013-2022).

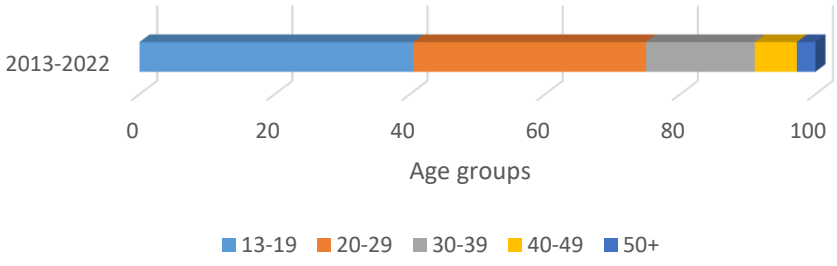


Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

Figure 6 complements the information for the period from 2005 to 2012, with the following distribution of grants by region of birth: North, 4%; Midwest, 7%; Northeast, 14%; South, 21%; and Southeast, 54%. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and population are some of the factors that influence these numbers; in the richer regions, the infrastructure, including for the practice of sports, is better in general; more populous regions leave a greater number of athletes; and the combination of these two factors is certainly decisive.

However, it is not just economic parameters that guide state spending and the establishment of funding sources; but also the political criteria that correspond to the correlation of forces that constitute society and, thus, historically meet the aspirations of the ruling class (Teixeira et al., 2017a apud Athayde, 2013). Figure 7 shows the data on the distribution of scholarships by age group, from 2013 to 2022

Figure 7. Distribution of grants by age group (2013-2022).



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

Figure 7 leads to the following figures for the period from 2013 to 2022: for the age group from 13 to 19 years old, 41% of scholarships were allocated; for the range of 20 to 29, 34%; for 30 to 39, 16%; for from 40 to 49, 6%; for athletes from 50 years of age, 3%.

Therefore, it is clear that the majority of scholarships go to the age group ranging from 13 to 29 years old, with a total of 75%; and this

is in line with the concept of the work by Camargo et al (2017) on the period from 2005 to 2016, in which athletes aged from 19 to 25 were benefited by a greater number of scholarships.

Table 3 presents Brazil's results in the four Olympic Games covered by the program.

Table 3. Number of medals, athletes, PBA athletes and disciplines by Olympics (2008-2020).

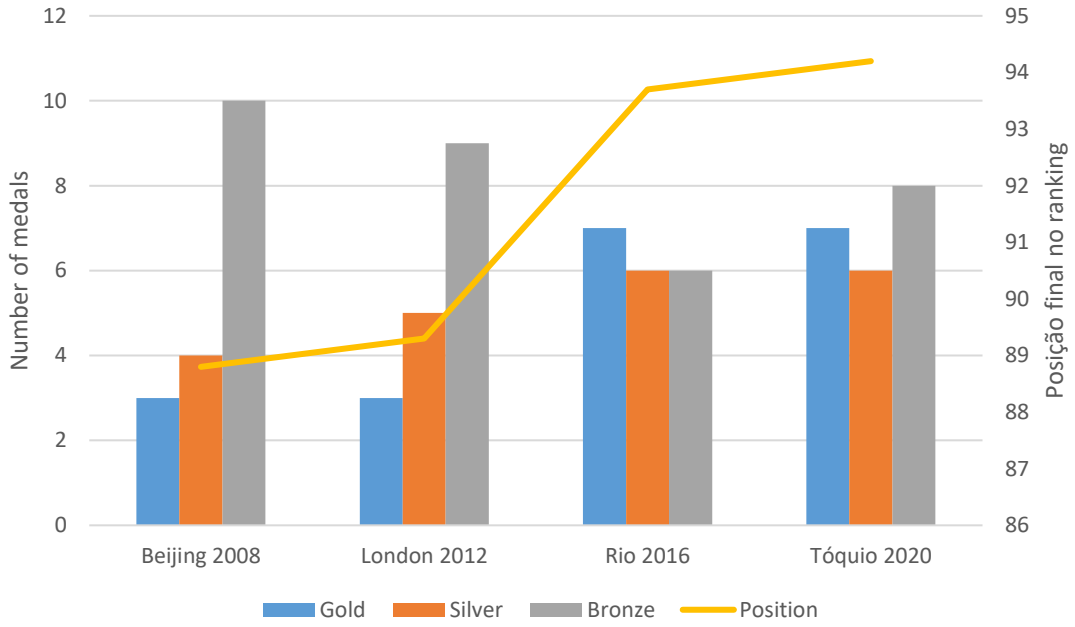
	Number of medals	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Final Position	Number of athletes (men and women)	Number of athletes benefiting from the PBA (men/women) % total (% men/% women	Modalities
2008 Pequim	17	3	4	10	23rd of 204	277 (145 men/132 women	* Unavailable information	31
2012 Londres	17	3	5	9	22nd of 204	257 (135 men/122 women)	* Unavailable information	32
2016 Rio	19	7	6	6	13th of 206	465 (256 men/ 209 women)	* Unavailable information	28
2020 Tóquio	21	7	6	8	12th of 206	302 (162 men/140 women)	241 (119 men/122 women) 80% (49% men/51% women)	35

Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

As noted when analyzing Table 3, the number of athletes from Brazilian delegations who benefited from the PBA at the 2008 Beijing Games, 2012 London Games and 2016 Rio Games is not available for consultation. Only the number of athletes in the Brazilian delegation benefiting from the PBA at the Tokyo 2020 Games is available.

For purposes of greater precision, it is also essential to represent these data through Figure 8, containing the number of medals, gold, silver and bronze; in addition to the position in the final ranking, according to the respective Olympic Games.

Figure 8. Number of medals and final position by Olympics.



Source: Sports Itelligence (2022).

As can be seen, after a comparatively slightly lower level of performance in the 2008 Beijing Games, in the 2012 London Olympics Brazil improved only slightly perceptibly, to follow in the Olympics hosted in its territory, in Rio de January, sharply raise your medal results; despite this evolution, it still achieved slightly better results at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, held in 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Conclusion

The present work sought to analyze possible results and challenges of the Bolsa-Atleta Program (PBA), which aims to contribute financially to the dedication of Brazilian athletes. Through documentary research and descriptive statistics, the performances of the Brazilian Olympic delegations are analyzed after the implementation of the program, in the Olympic Games of Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 and, all or more constant, compared with the performances of the games Olympic events before the program, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004.

The first concept worth mentioning refers to the change in the main goal of the PBA, which went from a program focused on the development of Olympic and Paralympic athletes, through Law No. the top of sports development, to focus on high-performance athletes, through Law No. 12,395/2011 (Athletes' Law), to the detriment of the sports base and its development process.

The new objective, based on the Athletes' Law, was to direct Brazil to the group of the greatest Olympic powers, by extinguishing the previous focus of incentives for training athletes. According to Camargo et al. (2017), the early success and improvement of athletes covered by elementary age categories do not guarantee the continuation of the athlete in high-performance sports; therefore, it is necessary to ask whether it would not be essential to unravel this aspect, by establishing, in a more concrete and impactful way, laws, devices and programs aimed at the training purpose of athletes in Brazil.

With this, it could be efficient to have a harmonic system that would benefit not only ready-made athletes, as currently happens, but would support athletes in their trajectories of climbing the different categories of the PBA, from the formative beginning. In this sense, it would be crucial for there to be a symbiosis between the PBA and a preponderant public policy program that is also focused on the training aspect of athletes. It is essential to highlight that until the implementation of the PBA, the financial resources were destined for these sports entities and not directly for the athletes.

The findings of the work are in line with those of Rodrigues (2016), that the resources reach the athletes directly, despite certain obstacles. As for the results of the last four Olympics, covered by the PBA, the trend has been one of increasing success, in step with the expansion of the program's coverage; Brazil broke its record at the 2016 Rio Games, and then again broke its record at the 2020 Tokyo Games, held in 2021.

In addition, such findings corroborate those of Corrêa (2016) and Corrêa (2014) that the objective of the program should be to promote the sports pyramid, with the base being wider than the top, instead of a geometric figure with a narrow base and therefore weakened to the point of not being able to stand upright. Brazil is making progress toward its goal of becoming an Olympic power; however, there is still much room for evolution.

Our results are useful for the scientific literature that investigates sports financing through public policies by bringing empirical evidence of the Bolsa-Atleta Program, for sports policymakers and for the general population that is increasingly concerned with the efficient use of funds of public resources. As a suggestion for future research,

an analysis based on panel data econometric models that could control the effects of variables external to the program on the performance of Brazilian Olympic delegations could be listed, something that in our work we assume to be constant.

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