

Investigation and analysis of the development status of amateur tennis sport in Zhuhai

Changsheng Chen*

Physical Education Center, Zhuhai College of Jilin University, Zhuhai, Guangdong, China

ABSTRACT: This thesis conducted survey on the development status of amateur tennis sport in Zhuhai from 9 aspects: tennis court quantity, characteristic, and region; gender characteristics of tennis lovers; educational situation of tennis lovers; age situation of tennis lovers; vocational income situation of tennis lovers; motivation for tennis lovers to participate in tennis sport; tennis lover's initial learning approaches; frequency and time of tennis lover's participation in tennis; and the amateur tennis competition in Zhuhai. The research methods applied in this thesis include references, questionnaire survey, and mathematical analysis. This thesis made further analysis based on the research results, and proposed related suggestions to boost the development of amateur tennis sport in Zhuhai, aiming at providing reference for Zhuhai to have better tennis development.

Keywords: amateur tennis; development status; Zhuhai; survey and analysis

As one of the earliest special economic zones in China, Zhuhai begins to pay greater attention to health while people are in an age with rapid economic development and sufficient material life. What tennis can bring are not only strong body, but also nature-cultivation and harmonious living. As tennis contains high entertainment, the holding of WTA Elitist Match in Zhuhai will definitely further boost the overall development of tennis in Zhuhai. This thesis conducted survey on the development status of amateur tennis sport in Zhuhai and proposed reasonable countermeasures based on analysis, aiming at providing references for Zhuhai to have better tennis development.

1 RESEARCH OBJECTS AND METHODS

1.1 Research objects

This thesis takes the current development situation of amateur tennis sport in Zhuhai as the research object. It takes the tennis courts in Zhuhai Sport Center, Jinan University, Dajing Mountain Sports Park and Hengqin International Tennis Center, and tennis lovers, management staff and on-site coaches of Yulong Mountain

Villa as the respondents.

1.2 Research methods

This study mainly used document literature references, questionnaire survey, mathematical analysis method, and logical analysis method. Based on the content and target of the study, this thesis designed "Questionnaire for Current Development Situation of Amateur Tennis Sport in Zhuhai". The questionnaire designed questions in single choice, multi choice, and fill-in forms, aiming to investigate the situation of tennis courts in Zhuhai, tennis lover's age, gender, educational background, vocation, income, motivation, initial learning means, frequency and time of playing tennis, and amateur tennis matches.

By interviewing 6 experts (including 1 professor, 3 associate professors, 1 vocational trainer, and 1 amateur trainer), this study conducted validity evaluation on "Questionnaire for Current Development Situation of Amateur Tennis Sport in Zhuhai". After repeated modification based on experts' suggestions, all those 6 experts agreed on the content validity, structure validity, and integral validity of this questionnaire. They agreed this questionnaire can reflect the actual situation of the investigation.

The investigation distributed 150 questionnaires in total, and received 146 back with a recovery rate of

*Corresponding author: 176126460@qq.com

Table 1. Basic condition of tennis sties in Zhuhai

Court characteristic	Quantity	Coverage Rate	Opening Situation
Public welfare court	3	2.8%	Free opening all day long
Service court for profit (including community courts with compensable opening)	46	43%	Compensable opening all day long
School court	45	42.1%	Compensable opening with time limit
Internal courts of communities and institutions	13	12.1%	Exclusive for staff

97%. In order to ensure the authenticity and effectiveness of the questionnaire, reliability analysis was conducted on the results of this questionnaire. The questionnaire used "Retest Method" to run reliability test. 15 days after the questionnaire was filled for the first time, 25 copies of the questionnaire was distributed two 25 original respondents for answering again. The relevant coefficient between these two filling interval is 0.91, referring to significant reliability. SPSS12.0 software was used for statistical analysis on the recovered 146 questionnaire copies.

2 RESEARCH RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

2.1 *Quantity, characteristic, and regions of tennis courts in Zhuhai*

According to field survey, there are 107 parcels of tennis courts all over Zhuhai at present, among which the tennis courts opened to the public free of charge are the 3 parcels in Dajing Mountain Sports Park, only accounting for 2.8%. For Zhuhai, a city that has successively held WTA Super Elitist Match, the government shall invest more in public-welfare tennis court, thus more tennis lovers can use free courts and better promote tennis. There are 45 parcels of tennis courts at school, accounting for 42.1%. Related departments shall further optimize tennis court resources at school. With the precondition that no teaching will be interrupted, the government shall seek for more school courts to provide socialization service. (See Table 1)

It can be seen from Table 2 that the distribution of tennis courts in Zhuhai is not in balance. There are 74 parcels of tennis courts in Xiangzhou, accounting for 69.1%. There are 22 parcels of tennis courts in Jinwan District, including the 12 parcels in campus. All these manifesting that the western part of Zhuhai is lack of tennis courts. The lack of court can seriously restrict tennis development in the area. Related departments shall invest more and establish sport facilities in community sports parks, so as to boost the construction of tennis court and promote the socialization service of campus tennis courts in the west of Zhuhai.

Table 2. Regional situation of tennis courts in Zhuhai

Court region	Quantity	Percentage
Xiangzhou	74	69.1%
Jinwan	22	20.6%
Doumen	11	10.3

2.2 *Gender characteristics of tennis lovers*

Among the 146 tennis lovers who took the survey, there were 113 male players and 33 female players, respectively accounting for 77% and 23%. It shows that tennis is more popular among males.

2.3 *Educational situation of tennis lovers*

The survey results show that tennis lovers in Zhuhai normally have high educational background. Those with bachelor degrees or graduating from junior colleges covered a percentage of 57% while those with master degrees or above covered a percentage of 24%. Tennis lovers with high school degree or below covered a percentage of 19%.

2.4 *Age situation of tennis lovers*

As shown in Table 3, tennis lovers in Zhuhai are mainly between 21 to 40 years old. There are 84 tennis lovers belong to this range, covering a percentage of 57.6%. There are 26 tennis lovers between 41 to 60 years old, covering a percentage of 22.6%. The distribution of age can basically reflect the basic situation of tennis sport in Zhuhai. There are few players below 20 years old, showing that we shall pay more attention about tennis publicity among teenagers.

Table 3. Age distribution of tennis lovers

	Below 20	21-40	41-60	Over 61
Population	17	84	33	12
Percentage	11.6%	57.6%	22.6%	8.2%

2.5 *Vocational and income situation of tennis lovers*

As shown in Table 4, tennis lovers in Zhuhai can be divided into civil servant, enterprise and public institution employee, teacher, private company employee, student, privately or individually-owned business, and other vocations. The vocational situation can reflect tennis lovers' income situation to a certain degree. As a sport requires for high consumption, tennis needs certain income as support. Most tennis lovers have monthly income higher than 4,000RMB as shown in Table 5. High-income level with monthly salary between 6,000RMB to 8,000RMB constitutes the major part of tennis lovers, generally showing tennis tends to be more suitable for high-income level.

Table 4. Vocational situation of tennis lovers

	Civil servant	Teacher	Enterprise and public institution employee	Private company employee	Privately or individually-owned business	Student	Others
Population	36	22	28	21	13	16	10
Proportion	24.5%	15.1%	19.2%	14.4%	8.9%	11%	6.9%

Table 5. Income situation of tennis lovers

Monthly income (RMB)	<4000	4000-5999	6000-8000	>8000
Population	13	38	69	26
Proportion	6.9%	26%	47.3%	17.8%

Remarks: Parents' incomes were input when the respondents were students

Table 6. Motivation for tennis lovers to participate in tennis sport

	Body building	Improve tennis skill	Become professional player	Enrich life	Expand social relations	Participate in amateur competition	Others
Frequency of occurrence	125	107	14	93	69	57	28

Table 7. Tennis lover's initial learning approaches

	Learning while studying at school	Self-learning through imitation	Guidance from relatives and friends	Learning through training
Population	27	58	37	24
Percentage	18.5%	39.7%	25.3%	16.5%

2.6 Motivation for tennis lovers to participate in tennis sport

The motivation for participation in tennis can decide tennis lover's duration in this sport. Among those tennis lovers who took the survey, most people play tennis for a stronger body. The motivation with the second highest frequency is to improve technical skills while that with the third highest frequency is to enrich life. The results can show tennis lover's main motivation is to build a stronger body. Improving technical skills, enriching life, and expanding social circle can be the main development directions.

2.7 Tennis lover's initial learning approaches

As shown in Table 7, tennis lover's initial learning way is to imitate and learn by self, friends and relatives. This phenomenon corresponds with the internet information era we are in. To a certain extent, related tennis skill explanation and practice video guidance can help master related tactics.

2.8 Frequency and time of tennis lover's participation in tennis sport

Average weekly participation can reflect a rough frequency about how many times a tennis love plays tennis. The survey results show that 87% respondents play tennis once a week and 68% respondents play tennis twice a week or more. The participation duration can reflect amount of exercise. According to the survey results, 91% tennis lovers play tennis over than

60mins every time while 65% tennis lovers play tennis for more than 120mins every time. The survey can show that in normal condition, tennis lovers usually play tennis once a week and more than 60mins each time in a fast-paced life and with uncertainty from time, work and family.

2.9 Situation of amateur tennis competition in Zhuhai

With the successive holding of WTA Super Elitist Match in Zhuhai, tennis is in development. With the guidance from Zhuhai Tennis Association and Huafa Sports Company, there're many amateur tennis matches in Zhuhai, including tennis matches organized by governmental departments and tennis matches for related public institutions. Moreover, tennis matches open to the public are in multiple forms now, such as the weekly match held in Hengqin International Tennis Center, Double Point Race organized by Zhuhai tennis group, and "Ticai Cup" Tennis Group Match. More opportunities for matches can bring a platform for amateur tennis lovers to have better communication and more improvement on tennis.

3 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

3.1 Conclusions

There are 107 courts for tennis in Zhuhai for now. Although the quantity is not a few, courts which can provide long-term opening for the public cover a percentage lower than 50%. Moreover, there're few pub-

lic welfare tennis courts with reasonable court distribution. Most tennis courts locate in Xiangzhou. The age distribution of tennis lovers in Zhuhai is slightly out of balance. Most tennis lovers are between 21 years old and 40 years old. To be specific, female tennis lovers are much less than male ones. In general, tennis lovers have good educational background with stable jobs and high income. Tennis lovers participating in tennis sport mainly aim to build body, improve tactics, and enrich life. Initial way for a tennis lover to learn how to play tennis is to imitate through self-learning or obtaining guidance from relatives and friends. Most tennis lovers play tennis once a week and more than 1 hour for each time.

3.2 *Suggestions on promoting development of amateur tennis in Zhuhai*

3.2.1 *Promote advertising of tennis tournament and expand population of tennis player*

With continuous holding of WTA Super Elitist Match in Zhuhai, tennis has become one of the visiting cards of this city. With further improvement on the facilities of Hengqin International Tennis Center, we believe more high-level international matches will choose Zhuhai. It is suggested governmental departments strengthen their publicity and promote the popularization of tennis by seizing the opportunity of holding high-level tennis matches, so as to create broad tennis culture paying special attention to students in primary and middle schools, females, and aged tennis lovers.

3.2.2 *Accelerate construction of public welfare court and balance court distribution*

Among the 107 tennis courts existing in Zhuhai, only the 3 parcels in the sport park of Dajing Mountain are of public welfare property; all the others are opened with charge or exclusive for internal use. As consumption level of tennis is high, court cost constitutes a major part of tennis consumption. Therefore, the government shall put more investment, especially in Jinwan District and Doumen District. Thus, the distribution of the tennis courts in Zhuhai can be in balance and more tennis lovers can enjoy the welfare brought by the economic development in Zhuhai.

3.2.3 *Guide the socialization service provided by tennis courts in schools*

There are 45 parcels of tennis courts inside campuses in Zhuhai, covering a percentage of 42.1% in all tennis courts of the whole city, among which tennis courts in universities and colleges constitute a major part. With so many choices for campus tennis courts, people can enjoy very few opened to the public. According to our current investigation, only the tennis court in Zhuhai campus of Jinan University is opened to the public. With the precondition that no teaching or student's outdoor sport activities will be influenced, campus

tennis courts, especially those in universities and colleges, shall be opened to the public with certain charge, so as to improve the use ratio and avoid wasting resources. Related governmental departments shall strengthen their guidance, promotion and exploration on the opening hours and forms of tennis court, in order to well organize campus tennis courts and provide better socialization service.

3.2.4 *Organize public welfare children's tennis training*

According to the results of tennis court investigation, there are only 4 primary schools and middle schools in Zhuhai with standard tennis courts. The lack of tennis court makes it really difficult to develop tennis sport among primary schools and middle schools and thus restricts the development of tennis in campus to a great extent. Related governmental departments shall take full use of the advantages of courts and teachers in universities, sport colleges, and Hengqin International Tennis Center of Zhuhai by organizing public-welfare tennis training classes for teenagers during summer and winter vacations according to the distribution of universities and colleges. More children and teenagers can benefit from these opportunities and cultivate their interests. Thus, the population of tennis players will be increased.

3.2.5 *Vigorously conduct short tennis campus activities*

Short tennis is in rapid development phase among global tennis sports. It is a tennis sport developed to fit children's physical and psychological development based on tennis philosophy. It has all the connotation of tennis sport and is suitable for children above 5 years old. It is an effective way and means to provide initial tennis training for children at all ages above 5 and is fit for their physical and psychological characteristics. Due to campus planning and construction problems, it is hard to build a tennis court in an established primary school or middle school. As short tennis has lower requirements for court, it can be played on plain yard such as basketball yard. Therefore, we should vigorously conduct short tennis activities and provide more chances for children at school to play tennis.

3.2.6 *Greater policy support from governmental department for amateur tennis match*

Amateur tennis match is now a platform for tennis lovers to communicate, learn and improve. It has boosted the development of tennis. In recent years, Zhuhai has successively held many amateur matches, including the officially organized Xiangzhou Tennis Open Tournament and amateur tennis matches organized by companies or individuals. Therefore, governmental departments shall provide more support in policy with proper financial funding. Moreover, pub-

licity power from news and TV shall be enhanced, so as to create tennis atmosphere. In combination of the successive holding of WTA Super Elitist Match in Zhuhai, tennis sport can become a name card for “Romantic Zhuhai”.

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