

# Current trends in sports in the UAE

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## Abstract

The development of sports on the world stage in the modern world has its own characteristics. Significant development of sports culture in general can be seen in the United Arab Emirates, in particular in Dubai. The global interest of the audience at the local and international levels is visible. Sport has literally changed the landscape of Dubai and created new landmarks, new opportunities on a global scale. Dubai is a city of action, and there is a huge variety of events that sports fans can participate in every week of the year. The UAE is interested in creating training centers throughout the country and investing resources in the construction of many modern sports facilities, as they realize the importance of these events for the development of the nation as a whole. The far-sighted approach of key stakeholders in the region is already yielding the first results, which are expressed in an increase in interest in sports events among the population, as well as an increase in representation among women athletes both at the national and global levels. The main organization for the development of physical culture and sports in the UAE is the Dubai Sports Council. Main trends: growing interest in sports, supporters of sports in Dubai, the future of sports culture in Dubai, facts and figures about sports in Dubai on the example of Dubai Pulse and other events, the emergence of more new sports, sandboarding, the introduction of additional sports federations in Dubai, additional committees.

**Keywords:** *sports, sports facilities, Dubai Sports Council, main sports trends, sports development.*

**Introduction.** Since the formation of the United Arab Emirates in 1971 as a separate State, the Government of the country has been paying special attention to the sports sphere, namely its growth and the level of attractiveness among the population.

Before the opening of the Emirates Golf Club in 1988, it was considered impossible that there could ever be a grass golf course in a deserted city, but now we see the Emirates Golf Club, which hosts many champions. Dubai has now become synonymous with golf. There are currently 11 grass courses in Dubai, more are in development, and the Emirate is the center of the Race to Dubai European Tour, a seasonal competition to determine the No. 1 player in golf, which takes place in 48 tournaments in 31 countries and culminates in an 8 million USD DP World Tour [1].

World-famous world-class architectural structures:

- Championship at the Jumeirah Golf Estates Golf Club;
- Meydan Racetrack with a capacity of 60,000 people, where prestigious world-class competitions are held;
- Dubai World Cup;
- Dubai International Stadium, headquarters of the International Cricket Council;
- The world-famous Sevens Stadium, where the Dubai Rugby Sevens Championship takes place
- all these iconic objects have not only shaped the visual image of Dubai, but also firmly occupied a place on the world sports map as a destination where you can watch the best athletes of the world in action.[1]

**Methods and organization of research.** The study used theoretical and empirical methods, the



study and analysis of sources and literature on the subject under study, the main directions of sports development were identified. In conclusion, the analysis of the data obtained is given.

**Results and their discussion.** The main organization for the development of physical culture and sports in the UAE is the Dubai Sports Council.

The Dubai Sports Council (DSC) was officially launched on November 30, 2005 in accordance with the decree of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The DSC logo, which is an assembly of interconnected circles in continuous motion in free space, conveys the following four basic principles of DSC:

- Legacy and legacy
- Excellence and creativity
- Dedication and commitment
- Loyalty and affiliation

The purpose of the DSC: Providing a modern sports environment suitable for promoting the health and happiness of society, and successfully anticipating future trends in sports to lay the foundations for success in the international arena in the coming years, thereby enhancing Dubai's global reputation.

Strategic objectives of the DSC:

- Encourage physical activity in society and reach out to all segments of society in Dubai.
- Development of technical results and improvement of competence in sports institutions.
- Increasing the contribution of the sports sector to the Dubai economy.
- Actively promoting the future of the sports movement around the world.
- Involvement of the private sector as an active partner in the development of sports in Dubai.
- Support and development of certain sports.
- Promoting institutional activities based on efficiency, effectiveness and transparency.[1]

In 2013, Dubai was named the second best city in the world for organizing events and sporting events, as it hosts the world's leading sports and artistic events, marked by the Dubai World Cup (horse racing competitions), the richest horse racing day in the world with a prize fund of \$ 30 million, the Dubai Classic Golf Championship in the desert, Dubai Tennis Championship, Dubai Tour Cycling Race, Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup, Swimming and Diving World Cup, Dubai Marathon, Dubai International Sports Conference and many other events.[1]

Dubai consists of six football clubs: "Al-Nasr", "Al-Shabab", "Al-Ahli", "Al-Wasl", "Dubai" and "Hatta", as well as 3 specialized clubs: "Dubai International Maritime Club", "Dubai Chess Club" and "Dubai Club for the Disabled".[1]

Dubai Chess and Culture Club

History, information Dubai Chess and Culture Club was established in 1979 as a part of the UAE Chess Federation and was officially recognized as an independent entity in 1981, and moved to its permanent headquarters in Al Mamzar in 1999.[1]

In just five years since it was established, the club was already able to host the sport's premier global team competition, the World Chess Olympiad in 1986. Following the chess Olympics, the club continued to progress steadily as a force to reckon within the regional and global chess scene, hosting and organizing various international competitions such as the World Rapid & Blitz Championship, the Asian Cities Championships, various Arab individual and team championships, Dubai Open Chess Tournament, Dubai Juniors Chess Championship, Credit Swiss Chess Masters Tournament and Fide Active Chess Grand Prix among others.

With a strong focus on proper training and development, the club has guided and nurtured various players who have emerged champions in local and international competitions. Its players serve as the "backbone" of the UAE National Team, achieving outstanding successes and recognition both at the local and international levels. The club has produced some of the UAE's top chess players, including Taleb Mousa, the first Emirati Grand Master, and Saeed Ahmed Saeed, the UAE's first world champion in chess and first International Master,[2] whose exploits in the early 1980s earned him the moniker the "Arab computer".

Al Wasl club

Al Wasl club was established in 1960 and it is considered one of the most popular clubs in United Arab Emirates. Al Wasl won the League Champions 7 times in (1981-1982), (1982-1983), (1984-1985), (1987-1988), (1991-1992), (1996-1997), (2006-2007) and the President's Cup two times 1987 and 2007, and one time winning both FA cup 1995 and GCC Club Cup Champions in 2010.

Home ground of Al Wasl is Zabeel Stadium and the main colors are yellow and black. Nickname: The Cheetahs. Home Ground: Zabeel Stadium (8411 capacity).

Location: Dubai.[1]

### Shabab Al Arabi Club

We are Shabab Al Ahli-Dubai FC, on 15th May 2017

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid, Vice President & Prime Minister of the UAE & ruler of Dubai, decreed the merging of Al Shabab Al Arabi Club, Al Ahli Club & Dubai Club into one entity called " Shabab Al Ahli Dubai FC". The Club was Founded: 1958 " 59 years ago as AL AHLI club".

In September 2017, The Professional League Committee "PLC" agreed to grant Shabab Al Ahli-Dubai FC the right to place two stars over the club's logo on the jersey the team will wear in this season's matches after the adoption of the three tournaments achieved by Al Shabab Al Arabi Club to add to the seven championships achieved by Al Ahli Club to become the number of championships that achieved by Shabab Al Ahli-Dubai FC to 10.[1]

### Al Nasr Club

Al Nasr Club was founded in 1945 on a plot of land belonging to Mohammed Ali Zainal in Al Ghubaiba, on the hand of young men who had an ambitious vision to create a football team. Three years later, the decision to form a team was officially released reflecting an important and far sighted vision to found a great club that we know and see now. Ever since then, football was founded in U.A.E. on the hand of a few young ambitious men from Dubai. The club was and still is creating the legacy of sport in U.A.E. history. From that time onward, football was created and then began to be known in what is now known as U.A.E ,Al Nasr Club has ever since been the supplier of U.A.E. athletes in many sports.[1]

Dubai International Marine Club Establishing DIMC was a translation of the late His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum's vision. In 5th of May, 1988 the Dubai International Marine Club established to achieve the following objectives:

Ø The promotion of the United Arab Emirates and the Emirate of Dubai as a tourist enjoying many advantages, especially picturesque coasts.

Ø To do a historic role impressively towards the preservation of cultural heritage, as the lives of the people of UAE in the past largely been associated with the sea, which was a safe haven and a source of good and livelihood.

Saeed Harib initially appointed as Executive Director of the club to oversee all development plans and actively promote the club, which evolved from year to year significantly. Dubai International Marine Club world-renowned with the beginning of the nineties

when it became the first Arab and African club that obtain international membership of the Union International Motonautique (UIM).

In 1994 the late His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, issued a decree formally the Dubai International Marine Club, the government agency responsible for marine sports announced at the level of the Emirate of Dubai. His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum appointed in 2003 as a president of the club. On 6th of November 2014, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai issued a decree to appoint Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum as president of the club. On 8th of September 2016, the club's board of directors was restructured headed by Ahmed Saeed bin Meshar and the membership of Ali Nasser Belhabalah as vice chairman and the members Huraiz Al Murr bin Huraiz, Mohammed Abdullah Harib, Jamal Zaal bin Krishan, Adnan Ali Alabbar and Sultan Ibrahim Haddad.[1]

### Dubai Club for People of Determination

The club was established and announced in 1992 and in addition to sports activities, the club develops programs, activities, training courses and studies. The club included a special section for girls in 2002. Some of the Club achievements:

- World Disabled Championship – Australia 1994
- GCC Weight Lifting Championship – Bahrain 25-31/8/1995
- Gulf Weight Lifting Championship – Kuwait 28-31/8/1995
- Gulf Ping Pong Championship – KSA 11-18/10/1996
- Europe Open Weight Lifting Championship – Slovakia July 2003
- Birmingham Track & Field Championship – August 2003
- World Weight Lifting Championship – Kuala Lumpur August 2003
- Gulf Track & Field Championship – Sharjah October 2003
- Olympic Youth Games – Athens September 2004
- GCC Girls Championship – Sharjah April 2005
- France International Weight Lifting Championship – June 2005
- Asia Weight Lifting Championship – Malaysia July 2005
- Czech International Track & Field Championship – July 2005



- Germany International Track & Field Championship – August 2005
- Europe Open Track & Field Championship – August 2005
- GCC Weight Lifting Championship – KSA December 2005
- GCC Track & Field Championship for Boys & Girls – Dubai March 2006
- World Track & Field Championship – Netherlands September 2006
- World Pacific Games – Malaysia November 2006
- 5th Regional Games for Special Olympiad (Zayed Session) November 2006[1]

**Conclusion.** Thus, summing up, we can say that the history of the formation and development of sports in the United Arab Emirates differs not only from many countries of the world, but above all from the Arab states. So, many types of sports activities are determined by the location of the UAE and national characteristics. Main trends:

- Growing interest in sports.
- Supporters of sports in Dubai.
- The future of sports culture in Dubai.
  - Facts and figures about sports in Dubai on the example of Dubai Pulse and other events.
  - Sandboarding.
  - The introduction of additional sports federations in Dubai, additional committees.
  - The emergence of more new sports.

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