Elite sports stadium requirements
- views from Danish municipalities

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Background

Definitions

Elite clubs

• Football
  - Top division for men and women + second division for men

• Handball
  - Top division for men and women

• Ice hockey
  - Top division for men
Background

The Danish context

Ownership season 2012/13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Football</th>
<th>Handball</th>
<th>Ice hockey</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of stadiums</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned by the municipalities</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partly owned</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned by the club</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Since year 2000 Danish municipalities have invested **2 billion DKK** (approx. $366 million) in facilities mostly aimed for elite sport (Wøllekær 2010)
Background

The requirements from the Danish FA

• Requirements since 2003/04

  - 60 stadium requirements to be able to participate in the top division of which 51 are compulsory

• A majority of the stadiums used by clubs in the top division and second division have been newly built or renovated/major renovated since 2003/04
# Background

## Stadium requirements from the Scandinavian FAs for participation in top division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Denmark</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>Norway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of clubs</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum no. of individual seats</strong></td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standing area</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Maximum 20 % of the stadiums capacity</td>
<td>Maximum 40 % of the stadiums capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum capacity</strong></td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>At least the average from last season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heating under the pitch</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Floodlight</strong></td>
<td>1,000 LUX in average, but 1,400 LUX is recommended</td>
<td>1,200 LUX</td>
<td>1,200 LUX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background

Consequences from the Danish FA if you as club do not meet the requirements

• The club do not receive the license and cannot play in the league to which they are qualified

• Possibility to get a dispensation

• The dispensation is only valid for one season

• Can be renewed if the club can prove that there are concrete plans to fulfill the requirements
Method

• Questionnaires
  - All municipalities (n=98) (response rate 55 %)
  - Municipalities with elite clubs (n=41) (response rate 69 %)

• Desk research
  - Stadium requirements
  - Statistics (attendance, stadium capacity, etc.)

• Interviews
  - Municipalities
  - Federations
Results

Elite sport is of great importance in the municipality, and it is therefore an important policy priority to provide good facilities for elite sports (%) (n=54 & n=34)
**Results**

**Investments in facilities targeted elite sports is a responsibility for the municipality (%) (n=54 & n=34)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>All Municipalities</th>
<th>Municipalities with elite club(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To a great extent</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To some extent</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither nor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a small extent</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

To what extent should federations and clubs do financial contributions in relation to building and renovating facilities targeted elite sport on the basis of their requirements? (%)(n=34)
Results

Investments in facilities targeted elite sport since 2007 (US$) (n=28)
Results

Has the municipality since 2007 experienced a pressure from the Danish FA or the local elite football(s) clubs to provide facilities? (%) (n=54)
Results

Has the municipality since 2007 chosen to invest in facilities to meet the requirements from the federation(s) or club(s)? (n=54)

- Yes: 58%
- No: 42%
Results

Manual for the top division (Superligaen)

7.3 Benefits for the clubs

7.3.2 A stadium, that within all areas are of top quality, will attract more spectators and thereby financial resources to the owner of the stadium and/or the club. It will make it possible to finance upcoming stadium facilities and also serves as a major source of income for the club. Finally, numerous spectators at a stadium will contribute to a game can be held in a great atmosphere.
Results

Average top division 2003/04-2012/13

Average per club 2003/04-2012/13
Results

Capacity utilisation 2012/13 (%)

- Denmark: 42%
- Sweden: 52%
- Norway: 66%
- Holland: 86%
Conclusions

- The Danish municipalities own a majority of the elite sport facilities
- Major investments by the municipalities
- The municipalities wish to have elite clubs
- Requirements from the Danish FA
- Pressure from the FA and the clubs
- The requirements are too harsh in relation to the actual need
- Taxpayers money could be better spent
That’s all...Questions?

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Background

The International debate

• World Stadium Index (2012)

  - Stadium requirements from international federations (FIFA, UEFA)
  
  - Municipalities_regions are paying for the construction and maintenance costs
  
  - Several stadiums are underutilised
  
  - External and not local needs
Introduction

• Background
• Method
• Results
• Conclusions
Background

The Swedish debate

• Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
  - A critical approach to the requirements from the national federations
  - The requirements could result in cut downs in the social welfare
  - Funding policy

• Swedish federations
  - Requirements are not targeted towards the municipalities but towards the clubs
  - Do not recognize the concerns from the municipalities
  - Investments in facilities is a political decision