



CURRENT STATUS OF MASS BEACH SPORTS MOVEMENT IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, VIETNAM

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Abstract:

The public sports movement has been implemented to enhance individual, community, and societal health. This study aims to examine the current status of the public beach sports movement in Kien Giang province. The research employed methods of literature synthesis, surveys, and statistical calculations. The findings indicate that Ha Tien town of Kien Giang province has 7.01% of residents participating in beach sports, 14.10% of households engaged in beach sports, the trainer availability at 0.08%, and 11 annual sports events.

Keywords: current situation, mass beach sports movement, Kien Giang, Vietnam

1. Introduction

The public sports movement is an area receiving increasing social attention, especially from the government of Vietnam. In the Resolution of the 9th National Congress, the government emphasized the need to "*vigorously develop sports activities to enhance physical fitness and foster the national spirit of the Vietnamese people.*" This commitment continued to be reinforced in the documents of the 11th National Congress, which stated, "*It is vital to formulate a national strategy to improve the health and stature of the Vietnamese people by promoting the development of mass sports movement.*"

The 11th Congress thus underscored the Party's perspective on advancing sports to enhance physical fitness, and the cultural as well as spiritual well-being of the people, particularly young Vietnamese generations. Resolution 8 of the 11th Politburo, titled "Strengthening the Party's Leadership to Achieve a Strong Breakthrough in Sports by 2020," was also introduced to achieve such an objective.

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Along with the development of the national sports movement, Kien Giang province has developed its sports spirit very well in recent years. It has achieved encouraging results in sports such as chess, soccer, athletics, tennis, weightlifting, martial arts, and especially beach sports, including beach volleyball, rowing, dragon boating, etc. Kien Giang is a province located in the southwestern border region of Vietnam, bordered by the Gulf of Thailand to the west, Cambodia to the north, and the provinces of An Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Hau Giang, and Can Tho on its remaining sides. The province is endowed with diverse resources, offering significant advantages for economic development and international transportation. Blessed with natural assets such as forests, mountains, islands, and particularly a 200-kilometer coastline, Kien Giang has long been designated by the Party and State as a focal point for economic development, including tourism, trade and services, fisheries, industry, and agriculture.

With the advantage of a 200-kilometer coastline, 143 islands, and favorable natural conditions, Kien Giang is especially well-suited for the development of beach sports such as beach volleyball, jet skiing, dragon boat racing, sailing, and beach running, which attracts numerous tourists and athletes from both within and outside the country. For instance, in May 2016, the province hosted the Kien Giang Open Sailing Race, featuring 27 teams, including 21 Vietnamese teams and 3 international teams from the United States, France, and the Czech Republic. To contribute to the development of the province's sports movement and beach sports in Kien Giang, the writer has decided to explore the topic named *Current status of mass beach sports movement in Kien Giang province, Vietnam*.

2. Research's scope

The study focuses on only the movement of beach sports in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Methods

The study used the following three methods:

- **Document Review Method.** This method aims to systematize the information related to the research field, providing a foundation for the study to design research tools and evaluate research results.
- **Sociological Survey Method.** This method is used to objectively assess the current state of the public beach sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province.
- **Statistical Method.** The statistical method is applied to process collected data using mathematical formulas and values in conjunction with SPSS software version 22.0.

2.2 Participants

- Survey participants on the current state of beach sports: 1854 residents of seven wards in Ha Tien town.
- Survey participants on the sports content, forms, and factors: 1546 residents of seven wards in Ha Tien town.

3. Results

3.1. Criteria for evaluating the mass sea sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province

Five criteria were identified to evaluate the current state of the mass beach sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province, as follows:

- **Criterion 1:** Number of participants in beach sports, and its percentage of the total local population
- **Criterion 2:** Number of households participating in beach sports, and its percentage of the total number of households in the area
- **Criterion 3:** Number of beach sports events and the number of participants, with the average number of participants per event
- **Criterion 4:** Number of sports collaborators and their percentage of the total local population
- **Criterion 5:** Number of facilities available for beach sports in the area

3.2. Evaluation of the current status of the mass beach sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province

The current status of the mass beach sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province, in 2020 was evaluated using the five criteria identified above. Table 1 illustrates the demographic statistics of those participating in beach sports in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province.

Table 1: Demographic composition participating in mass marine sports in 2020 in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province

No. TT	Wards	Number of hamlets	Population (people)	Number of people engaged in beach sports (people)	Percentage (%)	Total households (units)	Number of households engaged in beach sports (units)	Percentage (%)	Beach sports events and tournaments	Participants
1	Dong Ho	5	8662	524	6.05	1287	159	12.35	1	126 (126/event)
2	Binh San	5	9678	696	7.19	1496	175	11.70	2	164 (82/event)
3	Phao Dai	3	8120	556	6.85	1503	165	10.98	1	109 (109/event)
4	To Chau	4	6922	392	5.66	1055	116	11.00	2	188 (94/event)
5	Tien Hai	3	1836	206	11.22	218	84	38.53	2	86 (43/event)
6	My Duc	4	6438	532	8.26	685	162	23.65	2	148 (74/event)
7	Thuan Yen	4	7800	562	7.21	1090	173	15.87	1	96 (96/event)
Total/Average		28	49456	3468	7.01	7334	1034	14.10	11	791 (71.91/event)

As shown in Table 1, Ha Tien town consists of seven wards, and 28 hamlets, with a population of 49,456 residents and 7,334 households. It was also found that 3,468 residents are participating in beach sports, accounting for 7.01%. Particularly, Tien Hai ward has the highest rate at 11.22%, while To Chau ward has the lowest at 5.66%.

Additionally, among 7,334 households in Ha Tien town, there are 1,034 households engaged in beach sports, representing 14.10%. Tien Hai ward has the highest household participation rate at 38.53%, while Phao Dai ward has the lowest at 10.98%.

In terms of annual beach sports events, Ha Tien town has hosted 11 sports events/tournaments with a total of 791 participants, an average of 71.91 people per event.

Table 2: Coaching and the facility for beach sports in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province, in 2020

TT	Wards	Number of sports trainers	The ratio of the available trainers to the total population in the area	Facility
1.	Dong Ho	6	0.07	5 volleyball courts, 5 soccer courts, 30 volleyball balls, 30 soccer balls
2.	Binh San	8	0.08	6 volleyball courts, 5 soccer courts, 30 volleyball balls, 20 soccer balls
3.	Phao Dai	5	0.06	3 volleyball courts, 3 soccer courts, 20 volleyball balls, 15 soccer balls
4.	To Chau	5	0.07	4 volleyball courts, 4 soccer courts, 20 volleyball balls, 20 soccer balls
5.	Tien Hai	4	0.22	3 volleyball courts, 3 soccer courts, 20 volleyball balls, 15 soccer balls
6.	My Duc	5	0.08	4 volleyball courts, 4 soccer courts, 20 volleyball balls, 20 soccer balls
7.	Thuan Yen	4	0.05	4 volleyball courts, 4 soccer courts, 20 volleyball balls, 20 soccer balls
Total/Average		42	0.08	

Table 2 shows that there are 42 coaches, representing 0.08% of the total population. Tien Hai Commune has the highest coach-to-population ratio at 0.22%, while Thuan Yen Commune has the lowest at 0.05%.

In terms of facilities, Binh San ward leads with 6 volleyball courts and 5 soccer courts. Tien Hai Commune and Phao Dai ward have the fewest facilities, each with 3 volleyball courts and 3 soccer courts. Balls are adequately supplied to each ward.

3.3. Current status of sports content and form of mass beach sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province

To assess the current content forms of the public beach sports movement in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province, the study delivered questionnaires to 1,854 residents across seven wards in Ha Tien town. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Statistics on the beach sports content in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province (n = 1854)

Sports	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Soccer	154	8.31	0	0.00	154	8.31
Volleyball	288	15.53	216	11.65	504	27.18
Basketball	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Shuttlecock-Kicking	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Swimming	284	15.32	400	21.57	684	36.89
Martial Arts	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Handball	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Running	180	9.71	72	3.88	252	13.59
Walking	15	0.81	245	13.21	260	14.02
Others	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	921	50	933	50	1854	100.00

Table 3 indicates that the most favorable beach sport is swimming, with 684 participants accounting for 36.89% (284 males representing 15.32% and 400 females representing 21.57%). Other sports, such as volleyball, engage 504 participants, accounting for 27.18% (288 males representing 15.53% and 216 females representing 11.65%), while walking attracts 260 participants, making up 14.02% (15 males at 0.81% and 245 females at 13.21%). Additionally, running has 252 participants, representing 13.59% (180 males at 9.71% and 72 females at 3.88%), and soccer involves 154 male participants, making up 8.31%. However, the remaining sports, including basketball, handball, martial arts, and shuttlecock-kicking have very few participants.

The statistics on the forms of beach sports and the participation among the residents of Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Statistics on the forms of mass beach sports training in Ha Tien town, Kien Giang province

No.	Forms	Male		Female		Total		
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
1	Training forms	Group	189	10.19	142	7.66	331	17.85
		Self-practice	732	39.48	791	42.66	1523	82.15
		Sports clubs	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
2	Practicing forms	With a trainer/coach	270	14.56	227	12.24	497	26.81
		Without a trainer/coach	651	35.11	706	38.08	1357	73.19
		Both	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3	Duration	Less than 30 minutes	15	0.81	157	8.47	172	9.28
		30 minutes – 1 hour	349	18.82	230	12.41	579	31.23
		1 hour - 2 hours	454	24.49	389	20.98	843	45.47
		More than 2 hours	103	5.56	157	8.47	260	14.02
4	Sessions per week	1 – 2 sessions	111	5.99	143	7.71	254	13.70
		3 – 4 sessions	641	34.57	705	38.03	1346	72.60
		More than 4 sessions	169	9.12	85	4.58	254	13.70
5	Time	Morning	493	26.59	505	27.24	998	53.83
		Noon	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
		Afternoon	317	17.10	315	16.99	632	34.09
		In spare time	111	5.99	113	6.09	224	12.08

Table 4 shows that the majority of beach sports activities in Kien Giang province are self-directed (82.15%) and undertaken without an instructor (73.19%). The most common duration for these activities is between 30 minutes and 2 hours (76.7%), with the frequency of at least three times per week (86.3%), typically in the morning and afternoon sessions (87.92%).

4. Conclusion

Ha Tien Town in Kien Giang Province has a total of 3,468 residents participating in beach sports, accounting for 7.01% of the population. There are 1,034 households engaged in beach sports, representing 14.10% of households. Each year, Ha Tien Town organizes two big competitions and 11 sports events, with 791 participants and an average of 71.91 people per event. The town has 42 sports trainers, constituting 0.08% of the population. In terms of facilities, volleyball and soccer courts are the primary sports venues in the area.

The most popular activities among participants include swimming, volleyball, walking, running, and soccer. The prevalent form of exercise is self-practice between 30 minutes and 2 hours, typically without an instructor. The residents play sports at least three times per week, primarily in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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1. <http://hatien.kiengiang.gov.vn>

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