

UDK 796.093.1:316.624.3(497.7)

Short scientific article

GOOD MANNERS IN SPORT AND SPORTS CULTURE- PREREQUISITE FOR COMBATING SPORTS VIOLENCE¹

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Abstract: Sports as a game, as someone's professional orientation, as a manner of proper and desired spending of leisure time, is a phenomenon which primarily involves positive social discourse. Unfortunately, the reality shows that in recent years the sporting events have become an arena for violence and aggressive behaviour, both on part of the direct actors – sportsmen and referees – and on part of the supporter's groups. In order to overcome this situation and to stop the violence on the sports grounds, the research studies that have been regularly conducted suggest that one of the most desirable and effective way of preventing sports violence is to strengthen the sports culture and the good manners in sport. The point of real sport lovers is by spreading the sports culture and the good manners in sport to practice all norms and values that shall contribute towards overcoming the negative social phenomena during sporting events.

Keywords: sporting events, violence, aggression, good manners in sport, sports culture

¹ Paper presented at International Scientific Conference *Facing Social Traumas: A Challenge for Sociological Research*, Faculty of Philosophy, within Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Skopje 23-24 April, 2015.

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I. Introduction

The Republic of Macedonia in the last 10 years has seen a rise of violence in sport; therefore, there are real reasons for concern among the general public for the increased number of cases of violence at sporting events. On average, over the year, people spend 25%-30% of their free time in the spirit of sporting events – as passive or active stakeholders, and accordingly, there is a good reason for the public's concern about the ever-increasing violence in sport.

Any lover of sports play, any well-wisher, and any active or passive sports figure is undoubtedly concerned about the ever-increasing instances of violence during sporting events. Despite the attempts for a fair play and honesty in the sports play, the violent acts are an unavoidable décor of almost any event related to sport, carried out primarily by the supporters-fans of the sports clubs, but also quite frequently by the direct participants of the game. What many of the sporting events organizers are alluding to is that the hooligans threw out the real sports lovers from the sports field.

What has been happening to us in the last ten years is a series of turbulences which have affected Macedonian sport and sporting events, whereby they have eventually lost their charm and in some way have become arenas of gladiatorial fights. We could rightly argue that since the achievement of our country's independence until today, sport has undergone a series of transformations; however, in sports competitions, we have not achieved any progress; on the contrary, there have been periods of stagnation, and in certain segments, regress in the sports game. The issues of highest importance which are related to sports culture and sports events refer to the search of answers how to find an appropriate mechanism to overcome the adverse and the negative sports deviations, of which the leading issues are violence, aggression, and hooliganism, and on the other hand – how to establish an appropriate moral code and value discourse which would return sport on the pedestal as one of the most significant social phenomena. In the process of finding answers to the modern dilemmas arising in our society, what emerges is the need for action in terms of spreading values, norms and morals in sport, which would at the same time morally educate the sports figures and stakeholders, as well as serve as a particular barrier to the negative and deviant phenomena in sport. By analyzing and exploring, especially the part of the scientific elite which deals with issues related to deviations in sport, as one of the solutions for preventing violence in sport, proposes sports culture, and above all, sportsmanship. Namely, the goal of sportsmanship is to spread positive sports spirit, moral education and instruction in sports activities, and to contribute to the establishment of sports culture. Indeed, this is an excellent way to upgrade all sports stakeholders in terms of culture and sports, which in itself would mean more good, positive and desirable sporting behavior and less violence in sports.

II. Definition and characteristics of violence and violence in sport

The twentieth century is a century which will be remembered by violence in all spheres of human life, ranging from violence in the family, education, sports events, to violence which has resulted in mass destruction. Regarding the understanding of violence, generally speaking, it is expressed by an unorganized and uncontrolled use of force which is not permitted by law. It is a social disease both of the medieval and the modern technical world, which suggests that violent behavior is not just a product of the modern era.

There are different definitions of violence offered by renowned authors dealing with this issue. In defining violence, Bačić primarily emphasizes the application of mental and physical strength, regardless of whether those actions are aimed at forcing the victim to do something, or there is no such intention, but it always needs to be violence of greater intensity. According to him, the very notion of violence includes physical violence against a person t.e. application of physical force against the physical integrity of another, an attack which harms or threatens the life or body, severe harassment of physical nature. Violence can also be of psychological nature, severe psychological harassment, causing permanent and strong sense of personal insecurity, anxiety (Bačić, 1977). Kambovski, in turn, emphasizes that violent behavior or violence represents a special form of criminality and it is part of classic criminality as a most varied group of several types of crime with the same or similar crime-relevant features (Kambovski, 1997). According to the report of the World Health Organization, violence is a complex problem which is associated with the way of thinking and behaving, defined by a number of factors within the family and community, as well as factors which can certainly go beyond state borders, and according to the report, violence is defined as an intentional use of physical force or power, a threat or specific harm, against oneself, against another person, group or community, whose consequence or likely result is an injury, death, psychological damage, prevention of development or any kind of loss.

Violence in sport is not a phenomenon specific to the new age; on the contrary, a number of examples show the existence of violence in antiquity. As an example, Atanasovski lists the heroic feats of Theseus and Heracles, then Plutarch's views on violence, the gladiatorial fights in the arenas, all directly or indirectly manifest violence during sporting events (Anastasovski, 1988). When it comes to violence in sport, it is argued that in the entire history of sport and sporting events, it has been shown that the increase of violent behavior has influenced the increase of the non-sportful moments such as chauvinism, nationalism, racism, and intolerance. What is particularly significant, and is associated with violence in sport are the reasons for violent behavior during sporting events, of which the most significant are: the overall social situation, moral erosion of the sports stakeholders, denial of tolerance, the weakening of

family values, acceptance of violence as something nondeviant, the rise of nationalism, chauvinism, racism, and ethnocentrism. Moreover, experts and scholars of sport pinpoint as additional reasons the behavior of the very fans or supporters of the team, behavior which incites provocation, then refereeing decisions, the behavior of the players on the very field, the final score of the match, as well as idolatry in sport.

What is also distinctive in regard to violence in sport are the types of violence in sport. The most common violent acts at sports fields are grouped into the following categories:

- verbal violence (athletes among each other, an athlete with an administrator of justice, an athlete with an official, fan groups)
- physical violence (athletes among each other, an athlete with an administrator of justice, an athlete with an official, fan groups)
- vandalism and hooliganism (fan groups).

III. Specifics of sports culture and sportsmanship

Sports culture has the primordial role to give rise to positive sports momentum and lifestyle of athletes, in accordance with the contemporary social trends, in a way which encourages the processes of good interaction and good communication. It is also an important segment of intercultural communication. Sports culture represents people's attitudes to sport, initiates their desire to support it, to participate in it directly or indirectly, loyalty to the club, knowledge and recognition of sports institutions, ways of representing individual and collective interests, a way of establishing an activist attitude of the athlete toward sport, toward the club, and the whole society. Sports culture also includes the standards and rules which regulate the relationships among individuals and groups in sport, as well as the behavior of each active stakeholder in a match or event. Sports culture, in the humanistic spirit, connects people, cultivates the life of athletes and their areas of existence. In order to highlight the importance of sports culture in sport, it should be delineated what sports culture actually means:

- building and developing the spirit of collectivism
- building and developing desirable values
- building and developing desirable ideals and moral norms
- building and developing positive models of imitation and identification
- accepting the other in sport
- building and strengthening the spirit of sport

A separate and essential part of sports culture is sportsmanship, which expresses the urgent need of culture to impose patterns of behavior within which the positive, desired and beautiful will be approved and directed, and the bad, undesirable and negative in sport will be condemned.

IV. Sportsmanship and sports culture as a prerequisite for overcoming violence in sport

Part of the scientific elite which deals with issues related to violence in sport highlights the significance of sports culture and sportsmanship in preventing violent behavior at sporting events. They specifically indicate the basic tenets which sports culture and sportsmanship are based on, implying that the acceptance of those rules which are part of sports culture and the establishing of values which are incorporated in sportsmanship would contribute to building a value discourse on the part of the stakeholders in sport which would be a pillar for correct and desired behavior, as well as a buffer against violence.

Sports culture includes the ways of properly organizing and directing the active and passive time of athletes, and it greatly contributes to the alleviation of the egotistical drive and brutal aggression. Sports culture develops cultural pluralism, which involves communication and cooperation among different groups and sports clubs, which is, undoubtedly, a prerequisite for the development of tolerance as one of the core value principles of sportsmanship. Sports culture largely entails building and developing the spirit of collectivism, which is an essential segment of collective sport, as well as developing ideologies and philosophies of life which would mean living in harmony with the right and desirable human values, needs, norms, aspirations and ideals. Sports culture teaches us how to accept, coordinate and direct the habits and the specifics imposed by contemporaneity in order to live in harmony with diversity, accepting the other and the different in sport, developing sports spirit in accordance with the postulates of sports culture because this is the only way for an athlete to achieve self-realization more easily and comprehensively and to live in harmony with the contemporary requirements and contemporary life trends and challenges.

Sportsmanship aims at instructing athletes, sports clubs and all sports workers to overcome the prejudices and stereotypes, to respect diversity, control emotions, increase their tolerance to frustration, establish sports connection, cooperation and solidarity, assistance, conflict resolution, mutual understanding, as well as accepting and fostering peaceful and non-violent lifestyle. The rules, values and principles of sportsmanship will allow athletes and sports figures to raise their moral consciousness and embrace victories and defeats in sport as part of life.

Sportsmanship directs the individual to be active in sport, which, in turn, provides enlightenment, it develops the potentials of the talented and the gifted, and shapes them in line with the positive and correct, allows the expression of human needs, desires, hidden passions and inner feelings, and also assists the ennoblement and refinement of man. Sportsmanship includes the tenets pertaining to the contemporary and perfect way of sports living, maintaining physical and

mental fitness, care for physical and mental health, as well as values and activities related to competitions of individuals and collectivities which would be based on developing competitive spirit and encouraging collectivism. Sportsmanship favors and recommends respecting values which emphasize the development of sports spirit, climbing on the pedestal on the part of anyone who deserves it, marginalization and disappearance of irregularities, erasing stigmatization and discrimination, developing a sportfully healthy youth, as well as fight against aberration, violence and aggression in sport.

V. Conclusion

Today, in the contemporary environment in which we live, the real condition of sport, sports culture and sports morals and values is far from desirable and positive image. The problems which afflict society, especially in terms of erosion of moral values and value vacuum, have not avoided the area of sport, which is also burdened and troubled by negative phenomena which have been accidentally or deliberately established in it. Of the deviations which exist in sport, undoubtedly, the leading one is violence, which is present during sporting events in every possible form, ranging from verbal, through psychological, to physical violence. Therefore, there is a need to find mechanisms which, on the one hand, will emphasize the positive moral principles in sport, and on the other hand, will prevent and stop violence in sport.

In regard to sport and its role in society, it is argued that sport and the principles which govern it, primarily in ideological terms, should be aimed at producing positive aspects of sports game, an incentive for developing competitive and fighting spirit, as well as strengthening of the collective spirit and collective values, and creating and developing relationship to oneself, to one's teammates, sports officials, sports opponents and supporters of sport.

Our society needs to follow the continuity of modern societies, which have a serious approach to sport as an area of society in which besides the game, the fun which it offers, what also comes to the fore is the manifestation of specific elements of their cultures. Other recommended actions which should be taken are imposing and establishing moral norms, rules and values in sport which would aim to develop sports culture, give rise to the positive and desirable causes, and effects of any sporting match, and, of course, to develop rules and values which would contribute to a proper mutual communication on the part of the direct actors in the sports game, acting in accordance with the good, desired and positive, and to have positive sports doctrines as the basis of each of their interaction. In a word, to develop and establish genuine and comprehensive sportsmanship.

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ДОБРО ОДНЕСУВАЊЕ ВО СПОРТСКАТА КУЛТУРА – ПРЕДУСЛОВ ЗА БОРБА ПРОТИВ СПОРТСКОТО НАСИЛСТВО

Татјана СТОЈАНОСКА ИВАНОВА
Иван АНАСТАСОВСКИ
Ана ФРИЦХАНД
Лена ДАМОВСКА

Анстракт: Спортот како игра, како нечија професионална ориентација, како начин на соодветно и посакувано минување на слободното време, е феномен што пред сè вклучува позитивен општествен дискурс. Тоа значи дека во спортот, целта е да се игра, да се социјализира, да се научат колективните правила, борбениот дух и да се развие натпреварувачки дух, па затоа спортските настани главно се фокусираат на исполнување на овие цели. За жал, реалноста покажува дека во последниве години спортските настани станаа арена за насилство и агресивно однесување, и од страна на директните актери – спортистите и судиите – и од страна на навивачките групи. За да се надмине оваа ситуација и да се запре насилството на спортските терени, истражувањата што редовно се спроведуваат укажуваат на тоа дека еден од најпосакуваните и најнефективните начини да се спречи спортско насилство е да се зајакне спортската култура и доброто однесување во спортот. Спортската култура и доброто однесување во спортот имаат за цел да ги истакнат вредности и норми во спортот, вклучувајќи позитивен став, вредност, доблест, почитување и толеранција. Целта на вистинските љубители на спортот е, со ширење на спортска култура и добро однесување во спортот, да ги практикуваат сите норми и вредности што ќе придонесат до надминување на негативните општествени феномени за време на спортските настани.

Клучни зборови: спортски настани, насилство, агресија, добро однесување во спортот, спортска култура