CRITERIA FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF SAFETY IN SPORTS

Zoran Mašić52, Marko Begović53

Abstract: Safety management in sports is an extremely important process, which, in addition to looking at the development and reach within sports, also requires continuous monitoring of current situation and changes in society. This mainly refers to those that can have undesirable effects on certain segments of sport or sport as a whole. It is evident that there are numerous classifications of safety in sports according to the criteria of observation. Thus, in accordance with the segment of management in sports, we talk about the safety of sports organizations, facilities and events. In relation to the structure of the theory of sport, the safety of the performers of the sport, the safety during the process in the sport and the conditions of the realization of the sport are recognized. However, it is necessary to emphasize the "basic" division of safety in sports in relation to the origin of risk. According to this criterion, the elementary, one could say the essential division of safety in sports, recognizes unwanted events whose causes are related to specific sports engagement, and "external" ones, for which sports represent a favorable environment for achieving non-sporting goals.

Keywords: Sport, safety, management in sport, theory of sport.

Introduction

In accordance with the development of modern sports, safety in sports is gaining importance. Multiple demands placed on athletes in terms of the quality of their performance are accompanied by legal regulations for organizers of sports events – which emphasizes the safety of all sports actors. From modern sports facilities, which are the place where sports events take place or the hardware of sports activities, maximum comfort and safety are required at the same time. It is necessary to

52 PhD, Full professor, Faculty of Sports, University "Union-Nikola Tesla", Belgrade, zoran.masic@fzs.edu.rs, https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7892-9387
53 PhD, Marko Begović, Faculty of Business Administration and Social Sciences “Molde University College”, Norway, marko.begovic@himolde.no; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5768-2717

www.smbconference.edu.rs
emphasize that safety in sports does not begin, nor does it end, with the beginning of the process in sports (training or competition), rather, like progress in sports, it requires permanent engagement.

It is known that looking at a certain problem from several sides enables a better understanding of its essence and finding more effective ways of solving it. This can also be applied in the area related to risk as an essential source of security problems. Bearing in mind that security, as an extremely broad concept in the literature, is defined in various ways, primarily in relation to the object of observation (physical or legal entity), that is, territorially viewed (a specific object, city, region, country, continent or globally at the level of Earth), in order to better clarify this matter, it is advisable to consider it from several aspects. Knowing the security structure, as well as predicting the entire spectrum of (possible) risks, and their timely prevention, affects the reduction or elimination of unwanted consequences.

Just as the good networking of a territory enables its good connectivity and progress, so a good knowledge of safety in sports and its assessment through multiple criteria enables the minimization of risks, i.e. increases safety in sports. In connection with the above, this paper presents several classifications of safety in sports according to different criteria, but also for the purpose of understanding the complexity of safety in sports.

**Definition, problems and classification of safety in sport**

Prior to defining safety in sport, it is necessary to point out that the most common classification of sport includes three main segments: elite (competitive) sport, school sport (including university) and recreational sport (sport for everyone). Although there are differences between the mentioned sports segments in the acceptable intensity of effort, the technology that is applied, as well as the number of people who like watching them and result ranges, in each of them there are certain risks as well as unwanted events.

Safety in sports could be defined as the absence of threats to the health and life of sports performers, members of the security services and, more generally, the entire population, as well as the elimination of the risk of damage or loss of property, the cause of which is, basically, sports activity (Mašić, 2006.). The main protagonists of the continuous process of security in sports are the performers of sports, experts in sports (health, technical, economic, legal and other professions) and police officers. In the objective sense, security means the absence of threats to acquired values, and in the subjective sense, the absence of fear that those values will be threatened (Wolfers, 1962). Safety in sport means the safety of all resources in sport, globally and individually. Bearing in mind that resources in sport represent everything that ensures (or limits) the realization of the
process and the achievement of goals in the system of sport and its subsystems, including the performers of sport, it is apparent that each of the resources in sport is an object of security action, i.e. a protected form. In this sense, it is necessary to state that the physical and health safety of sports actors means the elimination or control of all factors that can negatively affect their physical integrity or health.

Sport is a significant phenomenon and an unavoidable segment of modern society. Therefore, in addition to unwanted events induced by the activity itself (such as injuries, accidents), it is unfortunately not immune to various illegal ways of achieving victory (doping, "fixing" results), damage to sports and other infrastructure, as well as corrupt practices (illegalities in player transfers or unlawful taking of property). According to managerial vocabulary, certain resources may be improperly used, damaged or illegally taken. Therefore, safety in sports is one of the "hardest disciplines" in sports today. Some of the mentioned phenomena can be "controlled" by knowledge and professional work within the sport itself.

However, suppressing those others – for whom sport is "just an excuse", an occasion or a tool, requires significant engagement and organization outside of sport. It can be said that sport has quite successfully overcome numerous financial and energy crises. However, the health crisis, i.e. the Covid-Sars 19 pandemic, temporarily had a significant impact on the previous way of implementing sports, starting with the impossibility to have regular leagues, through the "removal" of the audience from the stands, to the postponement of the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Therefore, the issue of safety in sports is extremely relevant, because in it, as an important segment of social activity, the risks and deviations of the modern world are manifested. A special issue is the influence of politics on sports. The above refers to one of the goals of this work, which is to indicate the complexity of safety in sports.

**Classification of safety in sport**

Safety in sports is a unique matter that has continuity and regularity of events, especially periodicity and causality, but for the sake of a more successful overview and focus on certain groups of problems, that is, risks and their solution, a conditional partiality approach is used. In this sense, several classifications of safety in sports can be established according to different criteria.

1. According to the basic segments of sports management, we can talk about the safety of sports organizations, facilities and events. With the management of sports organizations, sub-classification is evident in relation to their two basic functions: sports and business, each of which has several segments.
All three segments of management in sports have unique safety goals: to eliminate or minimize threats, that is, to avoid or reduce damage as much as possible. However, each of the three mentioned subsystems of management in sports has its own specific requirements, and therefore their security tasks differ to some extent, and accordingly they apply appropriate security procedures.

Within this classification, it is necessary to emphasize the scope and complexity of the management of sports events, considering the importance and characteristics of the competition itself, the number of spectators, ..., up to the complete atmosphere. The above generates a large number of factors that can result in unwanted events. The complexity of the management of sports events is also indicated by the fact that in the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events was adopted. Due to the importance, as well as the frequency of violence in sports, it is necessary to point out that this includes every word or action of an athlete, coach, judge, parent, spectator or other participant in a sporting event that causes injury to those involved in the sporting event (Kostić, 2008.). Violence can exist between athletes, there can be violence towards referees, between coaches and athletes, parental violence and fan violence (Otašević 2015).

Contemporary research most often identifies the following forms of violence: open physical violence, in order to threaten the moral and physical integrity of others; violence aimed at things, at the demolition, breaking of objects that belong to "those others" or have a certain symbolic meaning; covert violence that is not manifested directly, but indirectly, through some form of violation of the moral integrity of another person; verbal or symbolic violence that manifests itself in words: threats, curses, gestures (not verbal communication) or other symbols that manifest violent forms of behavior, or that incites violence in another way (Otašević 2015). The same author indicates that the most frequent victims of violence at sports events, according to statistics, are: members of fan groups (from the opposing group and due to the provoked usage of police powers); police officers in charge of maintaining public order; "other" citizens and their property.

2. In relation to the structure of the theory of sport (Mašić, 2006), the safety of all sports participants and performers is considered, during the process in sports (training and competition), taking into account the possible violation or abuse of the conditions for the realization of sports, which are regulated by the Law on Sports, by-laws, as well as sports rules. The causes of risks during training and competition can be classified into two large groups: the first consists of risks arising from the structure and characteristics of the activity itself, and the second those arising from the g, that is, the quality of organizing and implementing training and competition.
Unfortunately, an unwanted event can happen during sports activities – both training and competition, but also outside of them: in the athlete's home, daily activities, traffic, ...

Risks for athletes are therefore constantly present, in different places, at different times, due to different causes. Due to the scope of the matter, for the sake of example, only possible "sources" of adverse events during training are listed here: health condition of the athlete (hidden defects, previous injuries, "incomplete" rehabilitation, pressure of premature involvement in the training process; inappropriate physical strain; inadequate methodical procedure, his complete or partial absence; incomplete concentration of the training participants; insufficient knowledge of the training participants; excessive ambitions of the training participants; application of illegal methods and procedures; incomplete "warming up" or fatigue; specifics of a particular sport, inappropriate, faulty or poorly adjusted devices, props and equipment; unsatisfactory conditions for training: temperature, humidity, surface, number of participants; influence of "third parties" or "force majeure" ...

3. In addition to the aforementioned classifications of safety in sports, it is necessary to point out the classification of safety in sports in relation to the origin of risk. According to this criterion, it could be said that the essential classification of safety in sport is determined, which recognizes and classifies unwanted events into those whose causes are related to specific sports engagement, and those "external", for which sport represents a favorable environment for the achievement of non-sporting goals, primarily illegal acquisition of significant financial benefits.

An example of unfavorable events whose causes are related to specific sports engagement are possible "sources" of adverse events/situations during the competition: health condition of the athlete; insufficient preparation for a given performance; incomplete concentration of competition participants; inadequate knowledge and experience of competition participants; excessive expectations from competitors; incomplete recovery after injury or illness; application of illegal methods and procedures; incomplete "warming up" or fatigue; specifics of a particular sport; inappropriate, defective or poorly adjusted devices, props and equipment; irregular conditions for the competition: temperature, level of UV radiation, humidity, surface, number and heterogeneity of participants; inadequate trial; criminal act; terrorist act...

The list of undesirable - "external" events for which sport represents a favorable environment for achieving non-sporting goals is long. Here are some procedures and actions that are used to desire/obtain certain positions or significant financial resources in an illegal way: corruption, fixing results, violation of transfer rules, improper management of sports organizations, black funds. All of the aforementioned illegal actions can negatively affect the regularity of certain competitions, fair relations...
in sports, loss of trust in sports organizations, and have a serious negative impact on the integrity of sports, that is, they undermine the sports system. In addition to the significant social role and positive image of sport, the probable cause for the aforementioned illegal actions, apart from one of the bad sides of human nature, is that sport has evolved significantly, especially in the "economic" sense, that is, from a primarily amateur activity into professional waters.

Conclusion

Numerous classifications can primarily enable a better understanding of safety in sports, but at the same time point to its complexity. Therefore, the paper presents several classifications of safety in sports. The first, taking into account the basic segments of management in sports, indicates the safety of sports organizations, facilities and events. The second, in accordance with the structure of the theory of sport, classifies safety in relation to the participant or performer of sport, processes in sport and the conditions of realization of sport. The third also points to the classification of safety in sport according to the origin of risk, and recognizes unwanted events whose causes are related to specific sports engagement and "external" ones, for which sport represents a favorable environment for the achievement of non-sporting goals, primarily the illegal acquisition of significant financial benefits. It was also emphasized that each of the resources in sport is a subject of security action, i.e. a protected form.

Violence in sports represents a very significant and visible form of violation of safety in sports and as such it deserves special attention. In this sense, the Law on Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events was adopted. However, it is necessary to emphasize that there are also a large number of less evident or exposed illegal procedures and actions that are very harmful to sports, such as: corruption, fixing results, violation of transfer rules, improper management of sports organizations, black funds. Therefore, continuous attention in this area is necessary because risks are constantly present, and unwanted events are possible during sports activities, as well as "outside them".

In order to successfully overcome the risks in sports it is necessary to have a realistic perception of the problem and analysis of its peculiarities (source/s, intensity, etc.), a many-sided view of the event (from the point of view of each of the sports participants and performers, organizers of sports activities and security personnel, ...), as well as appropriate resources (professional, financial, technological, ...). Adequate behavior and "constant vigilance" are also necessary!
Along with state bodies, sports organizations, sports performers, and experts in sports have a key role in implementing security measures and promoting awareness of security in sports. Only through a comprehensive approach and the cooperation of all relevant factors can an environment be created that maximally protects athletes, as well as all other players in sports, and enables them to enjoy sports with as little risk as possible, while preserving the spirit of sports.

References


www.smbconference.edu.rs
17. Zakon o sportu, Sl. glasnik RS, br. 10/2016, Beograd
18. Zakon o sprečavanju nasilja i nedoličnog ponašanja na sportskim priredbama, Sl. Glasnik RS, br.67/2003, Beograd