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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES

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Yuvraj Sharma*

Abstract

People from all walks of life coexist in modern society, yet they nevertheless have to contend with racism from time to time. People of many colours, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses coexist peacefully in the modern world as we go about our daily lives, studying, working, and having fun. It's unfortunate that some people's lives are negatively impacted by various sorts of prejudice. Even in the world of sports, racism still exists, and black players in particular face barriers to entering the professional ranks of their chosen sports. Most football racism instances are tied to race, accounting for more than half of the overall number of occurrences, according to the study. Faith-based discrimination is the third most common kind of racism, followed by discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender, or a person's physical or mental impairment.

Keywords: *Racism, Sports, Combating Racism, Football, Gender.*

I. Introduction

People from all walks of life coexist in modern society, yet they nevertheless have to contend with racism from time to time. People of many colours, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses coexist peacefully in the modern world as we go about our daily lives, studying, working, and having fun. Racism manifests itself in various forms and has an adverse effect on certain people's life. Now, the term "racism" encompasses a wide range of concepts relating to racial tensions. With its ability to bring people from different backgrounds together through shared passions and experiences, sports serve as a powerful social and

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cultural bridge-builder. Racism can be reduced in sports organisations by emphasising inclusivity, teamwork, and the improvement of both individual and team abilities. In sports, racism can have a significant impact. Unchecked, it can lead to unwarranted, even violent, outbursts of motivation, excitement, and participation.

Speaking of racism and discrimination in Romania, we are not referring to large-scale campaigns or a concerted effort by the entire country. Rather, we are referring to a small number of isolated incidents that have been thoroughly investigated and documented. In other cases, the public is made aware of discriminatory behaviour, such as when the government punishes institutions, organisations, or individuals for racist, xenophobic, or violent incidents. It is therefore appropriate to explore this touchy topic, which can have a significant impact on how we view racism. One of the most common forms of ideology based on racial behaviours is the belief that people can be labelled as either inferior or superior because of their social behaviour or natural abilities. The Holocaust, apartheid regimes in South Africa, slavery, and racial segregation in the United States are all historical examples of institutional racism. Racism was also a feature of the social organisation of many colonial regimes and empires.

Race and ethnicity have a long history of equivalence, both in common use and in older social science literature, despite their current separation in contemporary social research. To use the term "ethnicity" in a way that resembles the conventional meaning of the word "race," i.e., the categorization of people into groups based on characteristics that are thought to be inherent or necessary to each group (for example, a parent or common behaviour). Since racism and racial discrimination are commonly used to express ethnic or cultural distinctions, rather than racial ones, the terms are sometimes interchangeable. There is no distinction between "racial discrimination" and "ethnic discrimination," according to a United Nations treaty on racial discrimination. There is no basis for racial discrimination everywhere, theoretically or in fact, according to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Promotion of Racial Equality.

II. What is Racism?

According to Oxford Dictionary, Racism is: "the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics, abilities, or qualities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior". "Racism is a complicated problem, and a complete solution requires careful

consideration of all its complexities". Governments are responsible for combating racism and other types of prejudice, yet their policies (if in place) take a long time to implement. Many countries have residents from various ethnic groupings, and bigotry and racism are sometimes deeply rooted in society, with resentments based exclusively on ethnicity. and racism are much impregnated in the society with resentments based solely on ethnicity. "The categorization of ethnic groups, especially by officialdom, is not just a matter of social classification practices: it has consequences" that divide people and countries and can escalate to interethnic conflicts.

Linguists generally believe that it originated in English, although there is no consensus on how it entered Latin. According to a new theory, the word "area" is derived from the Arabic word "head, beginning, origin." According to theorists, it was perfectly acceptable to treat races differently because some breeds were regarded to be inferior to others. Linguists generally believe that it originated in English, although there is no consensus on how it entered Latin. A new theory is that it is derived from the Arabic area, which meaning "head, beginning, origin" in the Arabic language.[1] As a general rule, theorists held that some races were superior to others, and therefore they justified the practise of treating them differently[2]. Scientific racism is a term commonly used to describe collaborative efforts to define and accurately describe racial distinctions, despite the fact that there is no true evidence to support these claims.

Biologists and anthropologists are increasingly rejecting a taxonomy of races in favour of more precise and verifiable criteria, such as geography, ethnicity, or endogamy in their definition of races. According to current human genome research, there is minimal evidence that a specific human breed can be used to classify people genetically. In sociology and economics, racial and racial relations are important areas of research. White racism is the subject of much sociological research. Du Bois, the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard, wrote some of the earliest sociological articles on racism. Racism that is more deeply ingrained in societal systems and practises - and hence harder to see and oppose - is more difficult to investigate and confront. Implicit racism, also known as averse racism, may persist even among those who profess equality, despite the fact that it has grown increasingly forbidden in many nations. As a part of implicit knowledge, social psychologists have examined implicit associations and implicit attitudes. Assumptions are made without the subject or themselves being aware of them. These evaluations are generally positive or negative. Individuals' experiences have varied influences on their perceptions

1 Online Etymology Dictionary, 2016

2 (Garner, 2009; The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2013)

of the world. Assumed attitudes don't realise that they're acting on feelings, thoughts, and actions influenced by previous experiences that are favourable or unfavourable to social objects. Regardless of whether or not the individual is aware of it, their thoughts, feelings, and actions have an impact on their behaviour.

As a result, when confronted with beautiful faces of other races and ethnicities, our minds can be influenced by our own ingrained racism. "Blackness is so connected with crime that you are eager to choose these criminal objects,".[3] As a result of such experiences, we may develop a racial bias against other people or even inanimate objects. There is a possibility that racist attitudes and acts can develop from prejudices and concerns that we are unaware of.

III. Racism in Sport

Even in the world of sports, racism still exists, and black players in particular face barriers to entering the professional ranks of their chosen sports. Sports are an integral element of what we refer to as "entertainment," since they are a mainstay of our daily lives. More and more individuals 'consume' sports as viewers or followers of various teams or sports since they are aware of the health benefits of participating in such activities. More and more sportsmen are moving around the world in order to improve their chances of winning trophies because of a growing interest in sports as well as the entertainment value they provide.

Many also believe that the sports world is a model of race relations for the rest of society. Through television and other media coverage, fans see that on the playing field it does not matter whether you are black or white, what matters is your ability". Racism, prejudice, and other racial barriers do not exist in sports. Racism and prejudice are pervasive in society, not just in sports, despite the popular belief that "sports are frequently utilised as paradigms for how an integrated society should look." In USA black players were excluded from professional sports until 1940's and it took them a long time to be accepted as equal employees in sports clubs. It can be said that everything happening in sport mirrors the society and as in the larger society, patterns of race discrimination in sport are rampant. These patterns, including evidence of institutional racism, receive far more attention than any other topic in the area of race relations and sport. The system is a sort of vicious cycle, as black student-athletes are encouraged to focus on athletic success from all sides and are not given proper aid to succeed academically and after the end of their athletic career their

3 Stanford University social scientist Jennifer L. Eberhardt (2004)

chances to be employed as coaches or in management are very slim but the "success of black coaches disputes any notion that they cannot be successful, and the overwhelming number of players who are black shows that there are many candidates.

Athletes are socially isolated because of the enormous effort they put in to train and compete to be the best in the world, and they "do not feel racist attitudes in professional sports," but they believe that "whites generally received preferential treatment in their sport" and "that blacks were far less likely than whites to be allowed into team management after their playing years." Racism has been documented in a variety of sports, including tennis, athletics, basketball, boxing, handball, basketball, volleyball, and football, both in collective and individual sports.

IV. What do we mean when we speak of discrimination in sport?

Differing from one another is a grammatical definition of discrimination. In order to be considered discriminatory, a distinction cannot simply be made between one group and another. Differences become "discriminatory" when they are based on illegal or invalid criteria. Discrimination occurs when people who are in similar situations are treated differently on the basis of at least one characteristic that is illegal. Discrimination, according to sociologists, can be both subjective and internally felt. Feelings of discrimination are more common than the actual practise of discrimination, as a researcher, you need to be aware of both the objectivist and subjectivist aspects of discrimination, no matter where it occurs.

V. Race, sex, class and power

Sports events such as the Olympics and Paralympics, where athletes from all over the world compete, seem to foster an inclusive environment where everyone has an equal chance to shine. Of course, this is not so because of the unequal investment in individuals, resources and facilities for personal and professional growth in all countries. As a result, people of all races and ethnicities around the world face unequal opportunities to participate in sports. Despite the wealth of options accessible in most nations, social status remains a significant barrier to participation. Racism and prejudice exacerbate socioeconomic disadvantages, making them even more difficult to overcome. Discrimination against multiple groups has resulted in disadvantage and exclusion for many others, including disabled persons and women and girls. This can lead to a very negative outcome if all of the above qualities are present.

Power plays based on race, class, and sex are prevalent in the decision-making process of leaders, managers, and administrators. People who share these qualities are more likely to face discriminatory consequences and impacts, whether those outcomes and impacts were intended or not. Discrimination, disadvantage, inequity, and exclusion can be eliminated only by addressing the issue of power and who has it when it is exercised. All those in charge of making decisions need to have a firm grasp on racism's definition and repercussions if they are to be able to combat racist stereotypes and labels.[4] The fatal underpinnings of power in the hands of people who possess prejudices, intolerance, and hatred toward people of different racial groups seem to be increasingly difficult to understand at the moment. To avoid biased effects, power can be used more constructively if people are prepared to question their prejudices and biases People of different races, sexes, and socioeconomic backgrounds can nevertheless suffer as a result of their behaviours, which aren't subjected to institutional reform to eliminate discrimination. Organizational structures and practises that lead to systematic institutional discrimination must be the primary focus of attention. People from certain groups are further marginalised and excluded because of the dominant culture and status quo that is reflected in and reinforced by these organisations.

Sport's governing bodies are no different from other organisations. Sporting organisations in the United Kingdom are almost non-existent in terms of the number of people of colour in leadership roles. The absence of women and persons from the lowest socioeconomic strata of our society from positions of power does not entail that there is overt racial discrimination, nor does it mean that only blatant sexism and exclusion are to blame. Moreover, it does not imply that only white people are capable of racism, that only men are capable of sexism, or that only the wealthy are capable of oppressing the poor. Decisions made by people in power, despite their stated pledges to equality and fair treatment, maintain traditions, cultures, policies and practises that are insufficiently radical or resilient to remove or ameliorate the negative impacts of race and sex discrimination.

1. Suarez-Evra case

This is the most publicised and hotly debated case of racial discrimination involving two players in the past decade. On October 15, 2011, during Manchester United's Premier League match against Liverpool, Luis Suarez was accused of making racial slurs directed at Manchester United left back Patrice Evra. Evra allegedly heard Suarez call him "Negro." The English Football Association announced their judgement on December 20: Suarez

4 Jonathan Long and Karl Spracklen, *Challenging Racism in and through Sport: Masculinity, Power and Supremacy, Sport and Challenges to Racism*, https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/bfm%3A978-0-230-30589-2%2F1.pdf/

would be fined £40,000 and suspended for eight games. The full 115-page report was released by the English FA Regulatory Commission on December 31. Its main finding was that the Liverpool player had "hurt the reputation of English football around the world." Although it considered Evra to be a trustworthy witness, it implied that Suarez's testimony was unreliable and contradictory. Suarez's claim that the term "black" was intended to be kind and conciliatory was deemed to be "unsustainable and simply impossible given that the players were involved in an intense disagreement," the report said[5].

2. Dani Alves Case

During a 2013–14 La Liga match, a Villarreal supporter threw a banana towards FC Barcelona right back Dani Alves. The look on Dani's face was priceless. Then, before taking a corner for his team, he ate the banana. Villarreal was fined 12,000 Euros by the Disciplinary Committee of the Spanish Football Association as punishment.

3. Kalidou Koulibaly Case

On the 26th of December, 2018, during a series A match between Napoli and Inter, Inter fans chanted racist slurs at Napoli centre back Kalidou Koulibaly. Consequently, the Disciplinary Tribunal of Serie A ordered Inter to play its next two home games without fans present as a form of punishment.

4. Moise Kean Case

However, a case was regarded a scandal, and it included a player for Juventus named Moise Kean during a 2018–19 SERIE A match against Cagliari. The youthful forward was the focus of racist taunts from the crowd. Cagliari, however, was spared punishment by the Serie A Disciplinary Tribunal because it was determined that such shouts occurred infrequently. As a result, many groups that aim to end racial prejudice were outraged by this decision.

These cases illustrate the wide range of fines imposed across Europe, which vary according to national laws and levels of tolerance for racism[6].

5 Mahmood Hussain Law Firm, *Discrimination In Football: Its Most Famous Cases, The Evolution Of Its Regulations, And Its Remedies*, February 6, 2020, https://www.legal500.com/developments/thought-leadership/discrimination-in-football-its-most-famous-casesthe-evolution-of-its-regulationsand-its-remedies/

6 *Discrimination in Football: Its Most Famous Cases, The Evolution of Its Regulations, And Its Remedies, Legal* 500, August 20, 2022. https://www.legal500.com/developments/thought-leadership/discrimination-in-football-its-most-famous-casesthe-evolution-of-its-regulationsand-its-remedies/,

5. FIFA

In Article 4 of the FIFA statutes, it is stated that "discrimination against a country, private person, or group of people on the basis of race, skin colour, ethnic, national, or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion, or any other opinion, wealth, birth, or any other status, sexual orientation, or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion."

This Code applies to all FIFA-organized matches and competitions," states Article 2 of the 2017 FIFA Disciplinary Code. Any player who "offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory, or denigratory words or actions regarding race, colour, language, religion, or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches," as stated in Article 58.1.a) of the 2017 FIFA Disciplinary Code. Additionally, a punishment of at least CHF 20,000 and a ban from all stadium appearances will be imposed. A minimum fine of CHF 30,000 shall be imposed if the offender is a public servant.

The 2017 FIFA Disciplinary Code states, "Where fans of a side infringe par. 1 a) at a match, a punishment of at least CHF 30,000 shall be levied on the association or club concerned, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable supervision."

When France played Russia in a friendly in March 2018, Russia played host and the French players Ousmane Dembele, and Paul Pogba were the targets of racist chants and comments from the Russian crowd. In accordance with Articles 2, 58.1.a), and 58.2.a) of the 2017 Edition of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has decided to punish the Russian Football Federation CHF 30,000.

VI. The World of Sport: Between Inclusion and Exclusion

A contradiction exists in sports. It is widely practised and is open to everyone, regardless of their cultural background or gender identity. Because of this, it might be considered a place where there is no discrimination. Competition in sports can also be seen as a means of differentiating participants by classifying them according to their degree of skill. It may appear that discrimination is taking place by excluding people because of their "less excellent" athletic abilities, but this exclusion is not based on any of these social factors. As if discrimination weren't enough of an issue, all age groupings, weight divisions, and rankings are constructed with the goal of ensuring "the greatest individual wins, regardless of skin colour." Due to the fact that distinct competitions for men and women are "natural," differences between the sexes are recognised and differentiation is permitted.

When it comes to democratic cultures that believe that individuals are fundamentally equal, performance is a legitimate benchmark to use. For participants of all cultures and national origins, sport provides a level playing field that is "in essence" level (fair) and the best possible opportunity for integration on the field. According to Pierre de Coubertin, the contemporary Olympics' humanist sporting tradition's founder, athletes from all over the world participate under the same laws and ethical guidelines in a single "sporting community" while adhering to the same set of rules and regulations. As a result, all players leave their personal identities and associations in the changing room and emerge on the sports field or in the gym in a neutral role.

Reality checks reveal that these ethical rules are routinely violated. Sport's paradox is highlighted when some groups of competitors and spectators are subjected to injustice, racism, and prejudice, either because they are members of those groups or because they are thought to be. In addition, because competitive sport is dependent on physical performance, it also distinguishes athletes with disabilities from the rest of the population. The International Paralympic Committee (rather than the International Olympic Committee) organises the Paralympics, which bring together athletes with disabilities from all around the world. The athletes in question have a wide range of disabilities, including physical and visual limitations (amputees, people without sight, cerebral palsy sufferers, wheelchair athletes and athletes with other disabilities). This demonstrates that society's principles and intentions are not always followed. There are many examples in everyday practise and in the conduct of sports institutions that show sport is still affected by identity affirmations and specific discrimination (sexual, ethnic, and/or based on physical appearance or sexual orientation) in spite of a certain political concept of sport's universality.

VII. Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination in the Field of Sport

Enact and enforce anti-discrimination legislation that ensures equal access to sport for all people and punishes discriminatory behaviour -:

Consider implementing suitable and effective legal and regulatory measures, such as enacting adequate anti-discrimination laws to prevent discrimination in sport and implementing integration programmes to increase access to sport for children from minority backgrounds.

Hold sports federations and clubs responsible for discriminatory behaviour on the field of play.

Build coalitions against racism in sport -:

1. Consider adopting a national framework agreement that lays out the roles and obligations of each participant.
2. Invite local authorities to organise sports-related outreach programmes that will bring people from diverse backgrounds together to interact.
3. Invite sports federations and sports clubs to take steps to recruit fans from different minority backgrounds to sports events.
4. It is imperative that athletes and coaches are reminded to refrain from any form of racist behaviour at all times.
5. Promote the adoption of anti-racism charters by supporters' organisations.
6. Sponsors and the advertising industry should be urged to avoid portraying minority athletes in a stereotypical manner.
7. Create a good practise award for eliminating racism and racial prejudice in sports so that best practises can be shared.

Train the police to identify and deal with racist incidents in sport -:

1. Make a formal request to your local government that they equip your police department with the necessary training to deal with occurrences of racism both inside and outside of sporting venues.
2. Request that the police and the security staff of athletic event organisers work together to combat racism.

Raise awareness of racism and racial discrimination in sport -:

1. Build massive anti-racism initiatives in sports that include all relevant players and are supported by major charitable foundations.
2. To combat racism and racial prejudice in sport, provide funds for social, educational, and informational initiatives by non-profit organisations.
3. Encouraging the media to cover occurrences of racism at sporting events and to publicise the punishments meted out to those involved.

VIII. Case studies

"India is full of racial and communal issues," says former football captain Baichung Bhutia. He concedes his teammates and he have been racially abused on and off the field multiple times, but that did not have an impact on them because footballers are mentally strong. "A lot of them are not even aware that a racial slur is being hurled at them. Most of these players come from humble backgrounds and have struggled their way to the top. The challenges that these guys have gone through since their childhood are more than just the abuse that is directed towards them or their folks. However, that does not mean this should happen. Strict action must be taken against players and spectators who do this," says the Arjuna Awardee and Padma Shri, who became the first Indian footballer to play over 100 games for the country.

A bronze-winner at the 2011 World Championships, shuttler Jwala Gutta remembers derisive comments being made about her appearance and skin tone, but she wasn't aware why she was targeted. "Racism exists in general. When I was young, I was name-called, but I never took it seriously… I never understood that it was racism. I want to believe it was not meant to hurt me. I always drew attention because I was tall, and South India, where I grew up, is obsessed with fair skin," she says. When she was called 'chinki' (of Chinese inheritance), she thought it was "factual", she adds, because she probably looked like that or it was said in jest. "I didn't pay attention because I was busy playing. I didn't get the purpose [of these jibes]. We are Indians after all." It was only in her late-20s that the Arjuna Awardee realised there was more to it than meets the eye.

I. Former South Sydney National Rugby League captain Bryan Fletcher allegedly went on a racist rant against Parramatta player Dean Widders, an Indigenous Australian, at a 2005 game.

II. Also, in 2005, Australian Rugby Union player Justin Harrison was accused of verbally abusing his opposition teams' player with racist remarks.

III. Fans of Chelsea Football club were accused of racism after a video[7] emerged of Chelsea fans singing racist chants and refusing to let a black man on a train ahead of the Champions League clash against Paris St. Germain in March 2015.

IV. In January 2013, Kevin Prince Boateng, a player from Ghana for AC Milan, walked off the pitch with teammates after alleged racist chants and 'monkey'

7 Guardian Wires, *Chelsea fans prevent black man boarding Paris metro train*|, August 20, 2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBeeZVd6urI,

gestures by supporters of the opposing team.

V. French footballer Nicolas Anelka of West Bromwich Albion made a hand gesture, called the quenelle, while celebrating a goal in 2013. The gesture is perceived by some to be anti-Semitic. He has since said it was meant as anti-establishment, not anti-Semitic.

VI. Australian Rules Football star Adam Goodes, an indigenous Australian, who is alleged[8] to have ended up taking time off from competition to consider retirement following being booed whenever he got the ball. Goodes returned to practice on Aug. 4, alleviating some fans' fears that he may have quit over the booing.

VII. The NBA recently found itself at the centre stage of the racism in sports controversy. Then-Clippers owner Donald Sterling was recorded on tape making racist remarks against African Americans to his mistress, V. Stiviano. According to a tape released by TMZ, Sterling is heard scolding Stiviano for bringing African Americans to the game and posting photographs with her posing with them. In his latest lawsuit, Sterling has accused ex-girlfriend Sriviano and TMZ of violating his privacy and causing damage on a "scale of unparalleled and unprecedented magnitude," according to a report published by Associated Press.

VIII. An ad published featuring the Spanish Basketball team during the Beijing Olympics featured the Spanish team members in their Olympic gear making slit-eye gestures. The ad, which had photographs of both the men's and women's teams, took up a full page in Marca, the country's daily sports newspaper.

IX. Conclusion

Racism is unavoidable; it occurs on a daily basis and in all places. The prevalence of this problem is one of the most important challenges in several industries. Racism in sports is on the rise, and it's a serious problem. Sports and fitness Many sports leagues claim they are imposing policies that will make their leagues and games free of racism. The Barclay's Premiership, the Major League Baseball, cricket, and the NBA are all examples of this (National Basketball Association). Some players believe the leagues, sports organisations, and associations are exacerbating the problem by going overboard in their efforts to handle it. It's evident that sports leagues and organisations feel obligated to act because the image

8 AFL racism row*: Goodes backed by #IstandwithAdam campaign, BBC News, 1 Aug 2015, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-33745663*

of role models and powerful individuals they want to project to a young population is not one they want to project to the public. Some episodes of rising have gone unnoticed because to a lack of interest, but others have had a long-term impact on a sport's future actions/ competitions and regulation. Racism in football is all too widespread because it is the world's most popular and widely watched sport. The anti-racism movement Kick It Out in England is one of the first of its sort in the world. The Football Association (FA), the Association of Professional Football Players (PFA), the Premier League, and the Football League together fund a non-profit that seeks to promote equity and inclusion in all aspects of education and the community (EFL). At the international level, we have strong relationships to FIFA, UEFA, and the European Racism Network (FARE). According to "Kick It Out," the number of racial events reported in the 2014/2015, 2015/2016, and 2016/2017 seasons has risen season after season as a result of the documented incidents. The 2015/2016 season saw an increase of 15 incidents, while the 2016/2017 season saw an increase of 61, both of which were higher than previous seasons. In total, 1270 incidents have been registered in English football during the last three seasons. It's also worth noting that, as technology has advanced, problems may now be reported swiftly and easily. To report a case of "Kick It Out," you can call the free phone number "Kick It Out," which is available in England on iPhone and Android cell phones, as well as online at the organization's website. Because of the lack of information accessible at the time, a lack of technology in the past may have contributed to a failure to act against racist perpetrators (clubs, officials, players or supporters).