Racism in sports: A brief review

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Abstract: In today's society people from different backgrounds are living together but due to different reasons sometimes they have to deal with racism. We are living now in a very diverse society where people of all races, colours and backgrounds are working, studying and enjoying life together. Unfortunately sometimes different forms of racism appear and have a negative impact in some people lives. Sport is not immune to racism and especially black athletes are subject to discrimination in access to professional sports. It is highlighted that most cases of football racism cases are related to race (668), more than 50% of the total number of cases. The next type of racism is faith-bearing (235), followed by sexual orientation (217), gender (107), and disability (43).

Introduction

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We are living now in a very diverse society where people of all races, colours and backgrounds are working, studying and enjoying life together. Unfortunately, sometimes different forms of racism appear and have a negative impact in some people lives. Now racism describes virtually anything having to do with racial conflict (Bowser, 2017)

Sport attracts people of all races and lifestyles and offers an opportunity to build social and cultural bridges based on common interests (Ilieş and Bulz, 2017).

Successful sports clubs break down racism by focusing on inclusion, teamwork, and developing individual and team skills. Racism can have a strong impact on people's involvement in sports. It can affect motivation, joy, participation levels and, if not verified, can lead to inappropriate, potentially dangerous or violent behavior (Whitman, 2017).

When talking about racism and discrimination in Romania we are not talking about ample campaigns or an action of the whole society, we are not talking about documented, analyzed and debated cases on a large scale. From time to time public information about discriminatory actions, generally when authorities sanction institutions, organizations or public figures for racist, xenophobic or violent events. Therefore, I think it is appropriate to also discuss this sensitive subject, which can change our attitude towards the phenomenon of racism.

Ideology based on racist practices often involves the idea that people can be divided into distinct groups that are different due to their social behavior and innate capacities and the idea that they can be classified as inferior or superior. Historical examples of institutional racism include the Holocaust, apartheid regimes in South Africa, and slavery and segregation in the United States. Racism was also an aspect of the social organization of many colonial states and empires.

While the concepts of race and ethnicity are considered to be separated in contemporary social science, the two terms have a long history of equivalence both in popular use and in older social science literature. "Ethnicity" is often used in a sense close to that traditionally attributed to "race": the division of human groups based on qualities that are supposed to be essential or innate to the group (for example, a parent or common behavior). Racism and racial discrimination are therefore often used to describe discrimination on an ethnic or cultural basis, regardless of whether these differences are described as racial. According to a United Nations convention on racial discrimination, there is no distinction between the terms "racial discrimination" and "ethnic discrimination". The UN Convention further concludes that superiority based on racial differentiation is scientifically false, morally, unjustly and dangerously socially condemned, and there is no justification for racial discrimination, anywhere, theoretically or in practice (Newman, 2012).

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" (Oxford Dictionaries, 2012).

"Racism is a complicated problem, and a complete solution requires careful consideration of all its complexities" (Moore, 2007). Governments have the responsibility to tackle racism and all other forms of discrimination but their policies (if in place) are relatively slow to be implemented. Many countries are comprised of citizens from different ethnic groups and sometimes discrimination 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" (Aspinal, 2007) that divide people and countries and can escalate to interethnic conflicts.

Generally speaking, linguists agree that it comes from English, but there is no such agreement on how it entered the Latin languages. A recent proposal is that it is derived from the Arabic area, which means "head, beginning, origin". Generally, theorists considered that some breeds were inferior to others, and therefore believed that differential treatment of races was fully justified.

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These early theories have led to pseudo-scientific research assumptions; collective efforts to properly define and properly formulate racial differences are generally termed scientific racism, although this term is a wrong name due to the lack of any real science that supports the claims.

Today, most biologists, anthropologists and sociologists reject a taxonomy (science of classification of living organisms) of races in favor of more specific and / or verifiable criteria, such as geography, ethnicity, or endogamy (Patrinos, 2004). history. Until now, there is little evidence in human genome research, indicating that the breed can be defined to be useful in determining a genetic classification of humans. Racial and racial relations are notable fields of study in sociology and economics. Much of the sociological literature focuses on white racism. Some of the earliest sociological papers on racism were written by the sociologist W. E. B. Du Bois, the first African American to obtain a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University. Du Bois wrote: "The 20th century issue is the issue of the color line" (Du Bois, 1903; Turda, 2005). Wellman, 1993 defines racism as "sanctioned cultural beliefs, which, irrespective of the intentions involved, defend the advantages of others because of the subordinate position of racial minorities. More (more hidden and less detectable) forms of racism - which can be considered embedded in social processes and structures - are more difficult to explore and challenge. It has been suggested that while in many countries explicit racism has become more and more taboo, even among those who display attitudes of equality, an implicit or aversive racism is still maintained subconsciously. This process has been extensively studied in social psychology as implicit associations and implicit attitudes, a component of implicit knowledge (Turda, 2005). Implied attitudes are assessments that occur without conscious awareness of an object of attitude or self. These assessments are generally favorable or unfavorable. They come from different influences in individual experience (Devos, 2008). Implied attitudes do not consciously identify (or incorrectly identify) traces of previous experience that mediate sentiment, thought, or action that is favorable or unfavorable to social objects (Greenwald and Banaji,

1995). These thoughts, feelings or actions have an influence on the behavior on which the individual cannot be conscious (Gawronski and Payne, 2010).

Consequently, subconscious racism can influence the visual processing and the way our mind works when exposed to sublime faces of different colors. In crime thinking, for example, social psychologist Jennifer L. Eberhardt (2004) at Stanford University claims that "blackness is so associated with crime that you are ready to choose these criminal objects." Such exposures influence our minds and can cause subconscious racism in our behavior towards other people or even objects. Thus, racist thoughts and actions can arise from stereotypes and fears we do not know (Belenko and Spohn, 2014).

Forms of racism

There are four forms of racism and according to (Moore, 2007): "First, racism is a form of dominance in which one racial group enjoys control over the outcomes of another racial group. Second, the beliefs that sustain and rationalize group dominance presume the superiority of the in-group and the inferiority of the out-group. Third, racism is a multilevel phenomenon that is expressed by individuals (micro level), is critically influenced by institutions (meso level), and deeply embedded in the entire culture (macro level). Fourth, racism contributes directly and indirectly to persistent racial inequality".

At the individual level "racism has three components: stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination" (Moore, 2007) and is based on one's attitudes, feelings and perceptions. As individuals we are influenced in our behaviours by society, educational and historical background and the environment we are living in. The most common way of dealing with individual racism is through education strategies where people are learning about other groups, their cultures, problems and challenges and the fact that racism is wrong. "Symbolic racism is a new expression of prejudice that has developed in the United States based on the belief that blacks violate key American values, particularly the idea of individualism, the belief in working hard to get ahead in life" (Moore, 2008).

Racism in Sport

Sport is not immune to racism and especially black athletes are subject to discrimination in access to professional sports. Sports are one of the main attractions of everyday life and are an integrated part of what we call entertainment. People are aware of the health benefits of sports and are directly involved in sport activities but even more people are 'sport consumers' as spectators or followers of different sports and teams. Due to the increased demand for sports and their entertainment value athletes of all colours and backgrounds are moving between teams, clubs and countries with the purpose of improving their quality and chances of winning trophies.

"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" (Anderson, 1996).

Sport is considered an avenue where racism, discrimination and racial barriers do not exist. This is a false representation and reality shows that racism and discrimination is very much present in sport as it is in the society as a whole contrary to the view that "sports are often used as a paradigm of how an integrated society should look" (Anderson, 1996).

"In USA black players were excluded from professional sports until 1940's" (Kahn, 1991) 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" (Washington and Karen, 2001; Dovidio and Gaertner, 2004).

"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 (Anderson, 1996) and after the end of their athletic career their 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" (Anderson, 1996).

Athletes are somehow isolated in the society due to the huge effort they put in training and competitions to be the top in the world and "they do not feel racist attitudes in professional sports; however, at the same time they think that "whites generally received favoured treatment in their sport" and "that blacks were far less likely than whites to be allowed into team management after their playing years" (Anderson, 1996).

There have been cases of racism in various sporting disciplines, both in collective sports and in individual sports, including tennis, athletics, basketball, boxing, handball, basketball, volleyball and football.

Scope

We propose a brief analysis of racism cases in English football, information obtained from specialist articles and from the Organization's Kick it Out reports, with reference to Premier League, English Football League (EFL), Women's Super League și non-English leagues, starting with the 2014-2015 competitive season and ending with the 2016-2017 season.

Discussions

Race cases have not been unsanctioned, for example: Luis Suarez, has been suspended 8 stages and fined £ 40,000 for racist remarks to Patrice Evra; Ilie Năstase is suspended from any official role in the ITF (International Tennis Federation), Team or Individual ITF awards until December 31, 2020, because he offended a British journalist, but also the player Johanna Konta and Britain's captain, Anne Keothavong;

Giorgos Katidis suspended at the national team of Greece and from the club for the Nazi-style salute[1].

The sportive discipline with most of the racism cases encountered is football. This is reinforced by the establishment of "Kick It Out" in England, which signals / informs the institutions responsible for racial cases in football to take the necessary measures / sanctions.

According to the Kick It Out Organization, in the 2014/2015 English football season, 393 incidents were reported, covering professional and local football as well as incidences of discriminatory abuse that appeared on social media. 225 cases related to race, 35 cases related to gender, 15 related to disability, 68 related to the faith and 50 cases related to sexual orientation were encountered.

In the next competitive season 2015/2016 there were 408 incidents. There were 216 cases related to race, 28 cases related to gender, 12 related to disability, 84 related to the faith and 68 cases related to sexual orientation.

In the competitive season 2016/2017 there were 469 cases. Those related to the race were 227, 44 cases related to gender, 16 related to disability, 83 related to the faith and 99 cases related to sexual orientation.

It is highlighted that most cases of football racism cases are related to race (668), more than 50% of the total number of cases. The next type of racism is faith-bearing (235), followed by sexual orientation (217), gender (107), and disability (43) (figure 1).
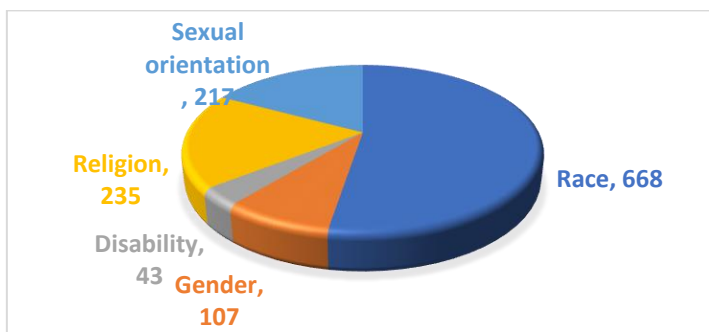

Figure 1. Total cases of racism in fotball, 2016/2017 season

Conclusions

Over time, there have been reports of rasings in most sports (tennis, golf, boxing, basketball, volleyball, handball, athletics and football), due to lack of interest, some cases have been overlooked, but there are incidents that have marked the sport in question, which has been reflected in the future actions / competitions and the regulation.

Football being the most popular and publicized sport in the world, racist cases are equally very common. In the fight against racism in sports, comes the Kick It Out in England. This organization wants equality and inclusion of football

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[1] *(https://www.rt.com/news/nazi-salute-ban-football-396/)*

in all sectors of education and community to challenge discrimination, encourage inclusive practices and promote positive change, the organization is funded by the Football Association (FA), the Association of Professional Football Players (PFA), the Premier League and Football League (EFL). At international level, Kick It Out has close links with FIFA, the European Football Union (UEFA) and the European Racism Network in Europe (FARE).

According to this "Kick It Out" organization, following the incidents reported during the 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons, there is a season-to-season increase in the number of racial cases encountered in football. In the 2015/2016 season, 15 incidents were reported in addition to the 2014/2015 season, and in the 2016/2017 season there were 61 incidents in addition to the 2015/2016 season. In these three seasons the total number of cases in English football was 1270.

It is also worth mentioning that technology has evolved over the last few years, and incidents can be very easy to report. To signal a case of "Kick It Out", you can use the free phone line, "Kick It Out" available on iPhone and Android devices in England and online on the organization's website.

Probably in the past, racism has often happened, but the lack of technology has meant that these cases have not been omitted and so have been overlooked without taking action against the aggressors (clubs, officials, players or supporters).

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