

Professional paper

SECURITY ISSUES AT SPORTS COMPETITIONS

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Abstract: The organization of sports competitions changes the perspective of sport, improves its quality and moves management capacities. All positive values, socially accepted norms and cultural behavioural forms built throughout the long history of sport should be evaluated at sports competitions. However, various forms of misbehaviour and violence in sport arenas are so present and visible that they pose a serious threat of becoming a constant side effect. All this causes specific risks regarding security issues at competitions and it demands huge responsibility of management when it comes to planning, preparation and organization of competition. The organizers of sports competitions are obliged to do everything in accordance with the law, which provides institutional framework of an organization that includes not only official bodies and state institutions, but sports organizations, private security services and monitoring services as well, which have certain authorizations defined by the law in order to prevent and stop violence and misbehaviour at sports events. This paper highlights security risks in the organization of sports competitions on one hand, and legal and other possibilities and mechanisms for their prevention on the other hand.

Keywords: *sports competition, security issues at sports competitions, contents and measure regarding security issues at sports competitions*

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INTRODUCTION

In social and scientific sense, contemporary sport becomes multidisciplinary, so studying security issues in sport becomes a more delicate task. Taking into consideration numerous security risks that affect sport as one of the most common and most popular social activity more often and more brutally, this task can be operationalized in various ways, with various levels of abstraction, with more or less developed tool for analysis and synthesis, as well as with classical or modern processes.

However, general characteristic of operationalization of study of this type comprises the fact that theoretical observations should be placed on security management level and sports management level, as well as the fact that they cannot be abstracted from the influence of strategy for sports development and legal framework regarding security on the country level, which defines the character of security at sports competitions as the most specific manifestations of sport.

Apart from clear interdisciplinarity of the studied problems, this paper also highlights security component of sports competitions which are manifested by the organization of security and sports system of a country.

PROBLEM SETTING

Sports competitions and sports competitions management

In the broadest sense, sports competitions represent organized manifestations in sport. According to their significance and level, sports competitions can be divided into four main types: (1) international, (2) national, (3) regional and (4) local, which include the least demanding manifestations such as local tournaments, recreational competitions, amateurs' tournaments and leagues, but professional competitions with wide audience that demand a high level of organization as well, such as continental and world championships in the most popular and mass sports, summer and winter Olympics and highly commercialized competitions, such as tennis matches or golf tournaments. Mutual characteristics of bigger and more significant sports competitions are: time limit (the beginning, the end, duration, precise timetable); they demand well equipped and functional sports facilities and infrastructure; they are delicate in organizational sense, so they demand great management capacities; they leave certain heritage on social, economical, cultural and promotional plan.

According to the Law on sport of the Republic of Serbia (Official Gazette, 10/2016), sports competitions are a qualified form of sports activities which vitally includes two elements: (1) a competition must be held in

accordance with previously arranged and known rules which can be applied generally to a specific sport or to a specific sports event, and (2) the aim of every competition participant is either victory or achieving the result which is planned in advance.

The main subjects who participate in a sports competition are the organizers, athletes and spectators, but in order to organize the competition successfully, it is necessary to engage other subjects who indirectly contribute to its preparation and implementation, such as: coaches, instructors, physiotherapists, doctors, referees, delegates, security, and according to the regulations of sports associations, without these subjects a sports competition cannot be held.

A sports competition can be organized only if an organizer has the requirements defined by positive legal regulations in sport regarding: (1) facilities, i.e. space, (2) equipment, (3) professional and other workers.

From the aspect of management, sports managers, professional teams, technical services, responsible security bodies and volunteers participate in the preparation and maintenance of a sports competition. The main assumption for a successful realization of a competition includes consistent and complete implementation of basic management functions - planning, organizing, leading and control. In addition, good communication between all levels of organization and coordination of activities are a primary and essential task of sports events managers.

Security risks at sports competitions

Starting from its basis and mere significance, security can be defined both as a function and as organization or state, but each of these three elements is a special unit (Military encyclopedia, 1978). Modern society is faced with numerous security risks which need to be taken care of in the area of security management and sports management. The following items fall into the category of main security issues of modern society, with more or less similar order: (1) international terrorism, especially its 'nuclear' component; (2) environmental protectional; (3) sustainable usage of energy resources; (4) finding the modality of control of experiments regarding genetic modifications of the living world; and (5) limiting classical and organized crime to 'reasonable measures'.

Depending on geopolitical and strategic position of the countries they come from, i.e. ideological and political choice of analysts, the additional issues are also the problems of unequal demographic development, breaking civil rights, including the rights of minority groups to difference, as well as potential escalations of religious and racial confrontations from a certain national to a wider regional area.

If we take away the issues of environment and control of experiments of genetic modifications and we add violence and misbehaviour, we will gain

a list of contemporary security issues which, directly or indirectly, affect sport development as well, i.e. the organization of sports events.

Terrorism

Terrorism is considered to be a planned usage of illegal violence or threats by illegal violence in order to instill fear. The goal of terrorism is to force or intimidate the authorities or wide audience in order to achieve the goals with political, religious or ideological background. As a contemporary phenomenon, terrorism has become the main danger to world peace and national, state and regional security (Ilić, 2004, 77). Great sports competitions and sports facilities can also be a target of terrorism attacks, so security management of the highest level is expected from the organizers of competitions.

The reasons for terrorism should be studied in the main tactics of terrorist acts, finding the so-called 'easy targets', places and facilities which naturally do not have constant presence of specialized antiterrorist units and which, at the same time, gather a great number of people. Even though there were no greater terrorist attacks at sports competitions so far (apart from the Olympics in Munich in 1972), extremely comprehensive security measures are needed, combined with antiterrorist means and methods, which is concluded after the information that, for instance, the budget for security management at the Olympics in London in 2012 was 600 million pounds. According to the data from the French institute for policy studies, the percentage of terrorism in the overall political violence in the world was 18% in 1968, 46% in 1973, and today it is undoubtedly a dominant form of more than just political violence. According to the same resource, more than 11.600 terrorist attacks in the world were conducted in the period from 1973 to 2003 (Talijan, 2004).

Criminality as a factor of endangering security

Criminality is one of the up-to-date issues in all modern states, especially due to the fact that it is constantly on the increase. Due to its social danger and damage, but to its ability to quickly adjust to political, economic and technological circumstances as well, all societies tend to suppress it by constant search for more adequate and efficient methods and means.

From the aspect of security as a factor of sports competitions management, there are two types of criminality, based on real danger, prevalence and potential existence in sports in general: (1) organized crime and (2) hooliganism, i.e. violence and misbehaviour.

Organized crime comprises various unallowed acts, starting from simple pickpocketing, criminal acts, up to the murders of top state officials. Since organized crime is always present when there is great money at stake, especially with fast cash flow, it is reasonable why we connect it with sport, i.e. its infrastructure, athletes' transfers, sports betting sites etc. In this way,

crime appears as a hidden source of endangering security, which makes it even more dangerous (Bošković, Banović, 2002).

Violence and misbehaviour

We can say that criminal acts of violence and misdemeanours are the most characteristic security risks at sports competitions. Various forms of misbehaviour and violence in sport arenas are so present and widespread that they threaten to become a constant side effect. It can be regarded as if it is so widespread that it has already created a wrong belief that it goes with sport, that it is its natural follower, or even that it is somehow desirable (Gužvica, 2011, 183).

According to Law on the prevention of violence and misbehaviour ('Official Gazette RS', 67/2003), the following items are considered as violence and misbehaviour: (1) physical attack on the participants at a sports event; (2) physical confrontations between participants at sports events; (3) throwing objects that can endanger life, physical integrity or property in sports fields or among spectators; (4) provoking hatred or bigotry which can lead to participants' physical confrontation; (5) damaging sports facilities, equipment, tools or installations in the sports facility where a sports event is organized; (6) causing disorder when entering or leaving sports facilities or inside sports facilities, disruption of sports events or endangering security of participants or other people at sports events; (7) unauthorized entrance into sports field; (8) unauthorized entrance into the staff area at the sports facilities where sports events are held; (9) bringing or consumption of alcohol and other narcotics in sports facilities; (10) usage or bringing pyrotechnics and other objects and means to endanger security of participants at sports events or to interrupt sports events; and (11) unauthorized entrance into the sports arena which is reserved for opponents' supporters.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Security at sports competitions

In the broadest sense, sports management implies organizational acts and managing sports organizations in order to achieve organizational goals, with rational usage of available organization resources. Security management in sport refers to the implementation of knowledge regarding security management with the aim of establishing, leading and improving: (1) sports organizations and (2) sports competitions and manifestations.

Legal regulation

The source of international law which settles the area of fight against violence and misbehaviour at sports events is *European convention on*

spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events and in particular at football matches which was introduced in Strasbourg on 19th August 1985.

The convention of the Council of Europe will be obliged to prescribe certain criminal acts and misdemeanours to member states and thus create mechanisms to legally protect sport and sports competitions. Security measures predicted in European convention include: providing the usage of adequate means of public order against disorder; efficient separation of groups of opposing supporters; providing the separation of supporters by strict control of tickets sale; exclusion or prohibition from entering the competition and sports facilities; equipping sports facilities with an efficient public address system and enabling its full usage; prohibition of bringing alcohol into sports facilities; control and prohibition of bringing certain items that can be used in acts of violence.

The Republic of Serbia ratified this European convention in 1990 (Official Gazette SFRJ - Appendix: International contracts, 9/1990), and it introduced *Law on the prevention of violence and misbehaviour at sports events* in 2003 (with additional changes and amendments), which is in accordance with the existing international legal standards and which gives the opportunity to the state and to the authorities to adequately react against the acts of violence at sports events (Official Gazette RS, 67/2003, 90/2007 and 111/2009). By this Law, measures for preventing violence and misbehaviour at sports events are defined, as well as the obligations of organizers (sports association, sport council, sport organization - clubs, other legal or physical entity that constantly or occasionally deals with the organization of sports events) and authorizations of the authorities regarding taking these measures. The government decided to form *National council for fight against violence and misbehaviour of spectators at sports events* based on the Law on sport, as a strategic body for the prevention of violence in sport. The task of the Council, whose chairperson is Prime Minister, is to coordinate the activities regarding the prevention of violence and misbehaviour of spectators at sports events and fulfilling international obligations in this area (Official Gazette RS, 65/2011, 100/2012).

The organizers of sports competitions are obliged to harmonize their acts with the law, which sets institutional framework which encompasses not only bodies and organizations of state administration, but sports organizations, private security services and monitoring services as well, which are given certain authorizations by the law in order to prevent violence and misbehaviour at sports events.

After the Law, *Decision about educating Action team for development and implementation of strategy and action plan for fight against violence and misbehaviour of spectators at sports events* was created (Official Gazette RS, 27/2013, 28/2013 - correction and 29/2013) and *National strategy for fight*

against violence and misbehaviour at sports events for the period from 2013 till 2018 was adopted as a strategic document which defines main principles and security policy regarding fight against violence and misbehaviour at sports competitions (Official Gazette RS, 63/2013).

National strategy represents a platform for establishing efficient social mechanisms for the prevention of violence and misbehaviour at sports competitions, with defined strategic areas and goals, roles and responsibilities of social entities and action plan for the implementation of given goals and tasks. Furthermore, the strategy has created additional conditions for efficient participation of Serbia in the European and world concept of the prevention of violence at sports competitions.

Strategic areas and goals are defined in accordance with international recommendations and with the analysis of state in Serbia, and they are achieved through six balanced types of fight against violence and misbehaviour at sports competitions: establishing normative framework; developing multisector collaboration; increasing the capacity of state administration and sports organizations; improving infrastructure and management of sports facilities; preventing violence and misbehaviour, and cooperation and communication with the media and media associations regarding the prevention of violence and misbehaviour at sports competitions.

Organizers of sports competitions are obliged to take certain security measures in case the circumstances show that there is a risk or fear of violence or misbehaviour of spectators, i.e. that there are serious cases of endangering security of people or property. In order to prepare and safely organize sports competitions, it is crucial to know security elements of measures taken by indirect organizers of a competition which refer to: *preventive measures; general measures at sports competitions; specific measures taken at high risk sports competitions and measures taken by the authorities.*

Preventive measures are taken when planning all types of sports competitions in accordance with sports rules and general legal norms. Their task is to prevent potential risks, and when it comes to the aspect of violence and misbehaviour, to stop them before they happen. They refer to informing spectators and encouraging spectators to act in a cultural and fair way during a competition.

General security measures refer to informing the authorities about a sports competition; compulsory education of appropriate monitoring services which cooperate with state institutions regarding order and security, i.e. the police; the development of the plan of preventive actions regarding security and safety and providing the presence of suitable services in accordance with the type of competition and the venue. It implies a suitable number of medical teams, fire-protection security, electro-distribution service, technical service, inspection and utility providers.

Specific measures imply additional activities of organizers: informing the authorities about the circumstances of high risk at least 48 hours before the beginning of a competition; naming a responsible entity for managing preventive measures; having direct cooperation with the representatives from Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to act in accordance with commands that refer to public order at sports competitions; establishing direct cooperation with the representatives of supporters' clubs; providing the separation of guest supporters; cooperation with sports organizations which participate at competitions, their supporters, and keeping track of the identity of people who buy tickets; defining special entrances and exits and parts of the arena for guest supporters if their organized arrival is expected.

Measures taken by the authorities come from legal jurisdiction. In accordance with its authorizations, during high risk sports competitions, the body in charge within Ministry of Internal Affairs can: order groups of guest supporters to move in certain direction when arriving at and leaving the venue; order the organizers to remove perceived flaws at the venue; forbid the entrance to the venue to an individual whose behaviour can show violence; inspect sports facilities before each event; forbid the sales of alcohol at entrance gates, close to the venue or in the surrounding area up to three hours before and after a sports competition.

Sports events security planning

Security planning implies the evaluation of security state regarding the dangers at the venue and security measures with the aim of its protection. In practice, usually three types of plans are developed: (1) permanent, (2) specific and (3) emergency situation plans. *Permanent plans* are made for all secured venues and they are defined by the authorities (security services) for the so-called normal situations. *Specific plans* are made for specific security situations, such as sports competitions and similar events. *Emergency situation plans* include fire, floods, earthquakes, attacks at sports facilities etc.

The most important part of every security plan is the evaluation of security, which can affect planning and taking measures in every specific situation. It has to be up to date all the time and it has to offer real situation regarding security of the secured facility or people at all times.

Even though the evaluation depends on the significance and type of the secured facility, several mutual elements can be highlighted, such as: (1) having specific details or knowledge which can show the possibilities of direct or indirect security issues; (2) political and security situation in the country, especially in the area of the secured facility; (3) crime rate in the country, i.e. in the area of the secured facility (most usual forms of endangering security of facilities); (4) the analysis of previous attacks at the secured facility, i.e. the analysis of crime acts of certain groups; (5) the evaluation of the level

of potential material damage, i.e. potential human victims in the case of endangering security of the secured facility; (6) the evaluation of the level of endangering the venue and its surroundings by dangerous substances; (7) danger from fire or explosions, i.e. arson; (8) location, size, appearance and age of the construction of the secured facility and the quality of installations; and (9) cooperation with regional bodies of Ministry of Internal Affairs etc.

Each sports competition security plan has to be in accordance with the law and legal regulations, and priority measures and activities include the obligation of organizers to form adequate monitoring services, or to hire legal entity or an entrepreneur for the purpose of physical security and order at a sports event.

When performing their tasks, monitoring services are due to: (1) forbid entrance to the venue to people who are under the influence of alcohol or other narcotics or whose behaviour shows that they are prone to violent behaviour; (2) separate guest supporters by showing them to special entrances and exits of the sports facilities and to special parts of the facility; (3) prevent spectators from entering sports facilities; (4) prevent bringing or selling alcohol in sports facilities; (5) prevent bringing objects that can be used in violent acts (pyrotechnics, bottles, sticks etc), i.e. objects that can interrupt the flow of sports activity (mirrors, laser pointers, sound systems of higher intensity, banners or marks that trigger racial, religious, national or other bigotry and hatred, i.e. whose content is offensive or rude etc; (6) warn, i.e. remove spectators due to misbehaviour which can cause violence at a sports event or interrupt it.

When organizing high risk sports competitions, Ministry of Interior Affairs can order taking all necessary measures for the prevention of violence and misbehaviour of spectators, especially to: (1) order groups of guest supporters to move in certain directions when arriving at and leaving the facility; (2) order organizers of sports event to remove perceived flaws of the sport facility or of the organization; and (3) forbid entrance to the sports event or remove people whose behaviour shows indications of violence.

Organizers can sign a contract with the Republic of Serbia regarding performing certain tasks of securing sports events and conducting certain measures for the prevention of violence and misbehaviour of spectators, which do not fall under regular tasks of keeping public order.

Security measures plan

Security measures plan represents an integral part of the security plan and it is intended for detailed development of measures that need to be taken: (1) operational and preventive security measures (following potential executors); (2) physical security measures (inner and outer security); (3) preventive and technical protection measures (including firefighting); (4) sanitary, technical, biological and chemistry protection measures, and (5) health

protection measures. When it comes to high risk sports competition, apart from the above-mentioned measures, security measures plan needs to develop preventive and repressive measures against terrorism, to establish optimal relationship between them and to form specific tasks (Ilić, 2007, 105-110).

Security staff have to be informed about security plan - which is an official secret - and about the estimations of security situation and security measures plan in order to be able to perform their tasks and duties accordingly. Security measures plan has to include: (1) estimation of security situation, (2) physical security measures, (3) preventive and technical protection measures, (4) sanitary, technical, biological and chemical security measures, (5) schemes of the secured facilities, (6) defense plan for the so-called crisis situations etc. (Rađenović, 2003).

People in charge of security tasks have to fulfill some legal requirements, and those are: (1) to be the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, (2) to be adults, (3) not to be criminally charged, (4) not to have been convicted, (5) to be healthy and capable of physical security, (6) to be trained for physical or technical security, and (7) to fulfill the requirements defined by regulations about weapons ownership and ammunition (Bošković, 2001).

In order to register and control access and entrance of all people in the secured facility, i.e. entrance of certain people into the restricted area, special documents, security documents, are used.

Security documents are created, kept and distributed under special security regime. Special attention is paid to the development of security documents, starting from its ideal solution, its creation, up to its implementation. It is a general rule that these documents are made in special printing offices which provide a certain level of security. Each security document is numbered, and then chemically protected due to control issues (in order not to be falsified). A special paper is used for the development of these documents, and other measures against counterfeit are also taken.

From their development in the printing office till distribution to users, security documents are kept under special security regime in order to prevent any kind of abuse (falsifying, unauthorized ownership etc).

The users of security documents are obliged to keep them and use them in a defined way, in accordance with the defined security regime, to show them if requested so by an official, and to report the loss of these documents to security service at once.

CONCLUSION

Sports competitions, especially large ones, are followed by numerous security risks, starting from terrorist acts up to various forms of misbehaviour

and violence. It depends on the state of overall security issues in every country how they will appear and how they will be suppressed. From formal and legal aspect, sport is not directly in charge of security issues. However, sport or sports competitions as its most specific forms cannot persist and be developed if sports entities - sports organizations, organizers and participants at sports events - are not actively involved in all phases of preparation for the prevention and suppression of sources of endangering the security of our country. Due to all unwanted happenings at sports events, sports management has to form a tight connection with security management. This especially refers to high risk competitions. Therefore, appropriate preventive, general and specific measures are defined, both on international and on national level. Conducting these measures successfully and appropriately mostly depends on the ability of sports managers, especially sports competitions managers and sports facilities managers.

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