VIOLENCE AND DEVIANCE IN SPORTS

Abstract

This book chapter offers a multifaceted analysis and proactive management approach, which adds to the continuing conversation about violence and deviance in sports. The goal is to provide direction to stakeholders, sports administrators, and legislators as they create complete plans that put player welfare, moral behavior, and sportsmanship first. The ultimate objective is to foster an athletic environment that supports fair play ideals and aids in the growth of players and the larger sports community.

Keywords: Violence, Deviance, Sports.

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I. INTRODUCTION TO VIOLENCE IN SPORTS

In general, people view sports as a way to encourage physical fitness, skill growth, and healthy competition. Violence, though, has the potential to taint sports' honor and spirit. Acts of physical aggression, verbal abuse, or inappropriate behavior that take place during sporting events are referred to as violence in sports. Although the majority of athletes play sports with an attitude of fairness and respect, violent incidents can occur for a variety of reasons. Some of the variables that contribute to violence in sports include intense competitiveness, interpersonal rivalries, subpar officiating, fan behavior, and societal influences. This phenomenon includes a variety of actions, including physical violence like deliberate harm, fights, or the excessive use of force; verbal abuse like insults and threats; aggressive acts against rivals like intentional fouls or unsportsmanlike behavior; and disturbances brought on by unruly crowds. Both short-term and long-term effects of sports violence can be severe. It can result in injuries, negatively impact athletes' physical and mental health, tarnish reputations, compromise the integrity of the activity, and deter participation. Therefore, combating and reducing sports-related violence is essential for preserving a secure and welcoming environment. Strict rule enforcement and disciplinary actions, educational initiatives that support sportsmanship and conflict resolution, improved officiating and refereeing training, efficient fan management and security measures, assistance for athletes' mental health, and cooperation among stakeholders are all part of the fight against violence in sports. It is feasible to promote a sporting culture that promotes fair play, respect, and the true spirit of sportsmanship by addressing the underlying problems, spreading positive ideals, and placing a priority on the wellbeing of participants.

- 1. Etymology of "Violence": The word "violence" originates from the Latin term "violentia," which can be traced back to the Latin word "vis," meaning "force" or "power." The application of physical force or strength in a way that is aggressive, forceful, or intense was referred to as "violentia". Old French, where the word "violence" was spelt "violence" and had a similar sense of physical force or strength exerted in a violent or aggressive manner, is where the term "violence" first appeared in English. The concept of "violence" has expanded over time to include not only physical aggressiveness but also other damaging or destructive behaviors, such as emotional or psychic injury. The word "violence" has etymological roots that refer to both the idea of aggressive or intense activity as well as the potential harm that such activities may result in. It emphasizes the core concept of using force or power in a manner that goes beyond what is deemed appropriate or peaceful.
- 2. Meaning of Violence: The use of physical force, hostility, or power with the purpose of causing harm, damage, or injury to oneself, another person, or an object is referred to as violence. It involves deeds that injure someone physically, psychologically, or emotionally by violating their rights, safety, or well-being. Physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and structural or systemic forms of violence can all take place, including physical violence (such as hitting, punching, or physical assault), sexual violence (such as rape or sexual assault), emotional or psychological violence (such as bullying, verbal abuse, or intimidation), and institutionalized harm. The idea of violence encompasses not just individual acts of violence but also institutional, cultural, and structural forces that uphold oppression or injury. Power disparities, conflict, societal injustices, discrimination, and different forms of intolerance are some of the things that might cause it. It's crucial to

remember that because violence violates people's rights and well-being, it is typically regarded as immoral and morally wrong. Through laws, legislation, education, and societal norms that encourage non-violence, respect, empathy, and peaceful conflict resolution, society aims to prevent and address violence.

- **3.** Levels of Violence in Sports: According to some experts, there are four distinct levels of aggression and violence towards other athletes in sports, each of which grows.
 - **Brutal Physical Contact:** This kind of violence refers to intense physical encounters that take place within the rules of the game but involve physical force and hostile behavior. It includes actions that go beyond what is acceptable play, such as strong tackles, crashes, and aggressive physical contact.
 - **Borderline Violence:** This term describes actions that err on the side of what is permitted under the rules of a sport. These behaviors could comprise excessive force, roughhousing, or deliberate aggressiveness that tests the bounds of fair competition but doesn't go so far as to constitute criminal activity.
 - **Semi-Criminal Violence:** This category of activities includes those that cross over into illegal territory and involve intentional acts of aggressiveness, harm to rivals, or violation of rules. These behaviors do not rise to the level of criminal behavior, but they may result in penalties or disciplinary actions in a sporting setting.
 - **Criminal Violence:** This category of violence includes acts that are not only against the law but also go against the spirit of the game. This covers behaviors including physical attacks, intentional violence, and activities that result in serious harm both on and off the playing field.
- **4. Factors Responsible for Violence in Sports:** Violence in sports can be attributed to a number of things. Understanding these elements can assist create prevention and response tactics as well as insights into the underlying causes of violence. The following are some major causes of sports violence:
 - A high-pressure environment where athletes and teams are eager to win at any costs might result from sports' intense competition and competitive character. The chance of violence may increase as a result of this intense competition, which may also cause elevated emotions and aggressive behavior.
 - **Personal Animosities and Long-Standing Rivalries:** These factors can foster hatred and raise the possibility of violence both on and off the pitch. During competitions, interpersonal tensions, disputes, or grudges between participants might turn violent.
 - **Poor Officiating and Rule Enforcement:** Violent incidents may arise as a result of inconsistent or ineffective officiating or rule enforcement. Players may become irate, angry, and more likely to commit violent crimes if they believe that referees are being unjust, biased, or uncontrollable.

- Fan Behavior and Crowd Dynamics: Fans' antics, like as binge drinking, boisterous cheering, and provocative gestures, might affect how athletes behave on the pitch. When crowd dynamics turn combative or hostile, tensions can rise, and violence may result.
- Cultural and sociological Effects: External cultural and societal influences can
 affect how people behave and think about sports. Violence in sports can be attributed
 to a variety of factors, including social standards, media representations of aggression,
 the acceptance of violence in specific situations, and the glorification of aggressive
 behavior.
- A Lack of Respect and Good Sportsmanship: Violence is more likely to occur when there is a lack of sportsmanship, respect for the other team, referees, and the laws of the game. Unsportsmanlike behavior and violent behavior can result when players and teams put victory before fair play and respect.
- **Pressure and Tension:** Athletes may experience stress and frustration due to the pressure to perform well, succeed, and satisfy high expectations. When there is tremendous competition or a sense of injustice, this added pressure, along with emotional and psychological variables, may cause violent outbursts.
- Inadequate Conflict Resolution Techniques: Some athletes might not have the necessary techniques and methods for controlling their emotions, managing their anger, and resolving conflicts. They may turn to violence as an unacceptable response to these situations if they lack the skills to deal with conflicts and frustrations.

Promoting sportsmanship, enforcing strict rules and penalties, improving officiating, controlling crowd behavior, fostering positive coaching and mentorship, offering conflict resolution training, and fostering a culture of respect and fair play within sports organizations and communities are just a few of the many different ways to address violence in sports.

5. How Should Violence in Sports be handled?

An all-encompassing strategy involving athletes, coaches, referees, administrators, and fans is needed to address violence in sports. Here are some tactics for dealing with and avoiding sports-related violence:

- Education and Awareness: Encourage educational and awareness initiatives that place a strong emphasis on the principles of sportsmanship, respect, and fair play. Encourage participants, coaches, and spectators to recognize the negative effects of violence and the value of preserving a healthy and secure athletic environment.
- Strict Rule Enforcement and Punitive Measures: Implement and uphold unambiguous rules and guidelines that expressly forbid violence in sports. Create effective sanctions, such as fines, suspensions, or lifelong bans, to discourage and punish players who behave violently. Coaches, officials, and athletes must receive training. Offer thorough training courses that emphasize communication skills, anger

management, conflict resolution, and non-violent approaches to resolving difficult circumstances. Make sure coaches and officials have the necessary training to handle disputes and maintain order during competitions.

- **Better Officiating and Rule Enforcement:** To reduce the likelihood of violence, improve the caliber and reliability of officiating. To keep the playing field level, this entails consistent training for officials, clear expectations communication, and just rule application.
- **Security and Crowd Control:** Put in place efficient security measures at athletic events to stop and control fan violence. This can involve more security personnel, surveillance technology, alcohol-responsible regulations, and procedures to identify and deal with disruptive people.
- Athlete Support and Mental Health Resources: Make mental health resources, counseling services, and support networks available to athletes. Establish a setting that fosters athlete wellbeing, deals with pressure and stress, and encourages good coping methods.
- **Positive Role Modeling:** Encourage role models in sports such as players, coaches, and influential people. To encourage others and set a good example, promote, and recognize acts of sportsmanship, fair play, and respect.
- Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement: Encourage cooperation between sporting organizations, executives, coaches, referees, athletes, parents, and other stakeholders in the community. Create a culture that rejects violence and supports a secure and inclusive athletic environment by engaging in open discussion, exchanging best practices, and cooperating.
- **Promotion of Inclusive and Varied Participation:** Promote inclusivity and equal opportunity for all through encouraging involvement from a variety of backgrounds and demographics. Sports should embrace diversity and foster an atmosphere where everyone is respected and welcomed.
- Continuous Evaluation and Improvement: Examine the success of plans and initiatives to stop sports-related violence on a regular basis. To ensure continual improvement, make the appropriate adjustments in light of feedback, research, and changing best practices.

By putting these tactics into practice, it is possible to foster a culture of sportsmanship, respect, and non-violence, enhancing the positive qualities of sports while preventing and treating violence.

II. INTRODUCTION TO DEVIANCE IN SPORTS

In the context of sports, deviation refers to conduct that goes beyond the generally accepted norms, regulations, or expectations. It entails behavior that is viewed as socially, morally, or ethically wrong in the context of sports. Sports-related deviant behavior can take

many different shapes and manifest itself at numerous levels, including those of athletes, coaches, authorities, and even spectators.

Deviance in sports is a broad topic with several facets that can refer to a variety of actions and behaviors. Here are some instances of sports deviance:

- **Rule Violations:** This refers to violations of the established rules and laws regulating a specific sport, whether they are intentional or unintentional. It can involve conduct like penalties, illegal maneuvers, or the use of illegal substances.
- Unsportsmanlike Conduct: This category covers actions that are thought to be against the values of fair play, respect, and sportsmanship. The use of insults, taunts, exaggerated jubilation, rude gestures, and purposeful injury to rivals are examples of this.
- **Doping and Cheating:** Doping is the use of methods or substances that enhance performance in order to obtain an unfair edge over competitors. There are several ways to cheat, including match-fixing, tampering with equipment, and willfully disobeying the rules in order to obtain an unfair advantage.
- **Aggression and Violence:** Deviant behavior includes an aggressive and violent action that cross the line between what is appropriate for the sport and what is not. This might involve intentional fouls that endanger the participants' safety and wellbeing as well as physical assault, verbal abuse, extreme antagonism, and other forms of hostility.

Numerous factors, including fierce competition, the need to succeed, financial incentives, societal expectations, individual personalities, and the competitive character of sports itself, can have an impact on the causes of deviation in sports. Additionally, in some sports or athletic cultures, aberrant behaviors can arise and be accepted due to cultural, societal, and economic causes.

Deviant behaviors are addressed and discouraged within the sports community. This entails putting in place stringent guidelines and rules, testing athletes frequently for doping, enforcing penalties and disciplinary measures for breaking the laws, encouraging sportsmanship and fair play, and offering programs to raise awareness of ethical behavior in sports.

Maintaining the integrity and credibility of sports requires an understanding of deviance. Sports organizations can aim to provide a fair, safe, and inclusive environment for all participants while respecting the fundamental principles of sportsmanship, respect, and fair competition by recognizing and resolving aberrant behaviors.

1. Etymology of "Deviance": The word "deviance" has its origins in the Latin term "deviare," which means "to turn aside" or "to stray from the path." The Latin prefix "de-" signifies "away" or "off," and "via" means "road" or "way." Over time, the term "deviare" evolved into the Old French word "devier," which carried the sense of "to depart" or "to deviate from the right course."

The term "deviance" first used in the area of sociology and social sciences in the late 19th century to refer to behaviors, activities, or practices that differ from the accepted standards or expectations of a certain community or social group. It evolved into a theory that is used to examine actions that deviate from what is deemed appropriate or typical in a given cultural or social setting.

Understanding the reasons behind, effects of, and social ramifications of actions that defy or violate societal standards are the main goals of the study of deviance. It looks at the mechanisms of social control and punishment connected to deviation, how specific behaviors or practices come to be classified as deviant, and how others perceive and react to deviant behavior.

The concept of "deviance" is fundamental to the study of sociology, and it has evolved from its initial definition to include a wide range of actions and ways of thinking that are deemed to be against the grain or contrary to societal norms. It offers a framework for investigating and comprehending the intricate dynamics of human behavior and interpersonal relationships, illuminating the diversity of experiences and viewpoints within various social contexts.

2. Meaning of Deviance: Deviance is defined as conduct, action, or practice that departs from the norms, regulations, or expectations that are generally acceptable in a given social setting. It entails behaviors that are viewed as unusual, inappropriate, or unethical on a social, moral, or ethical level. Due to the differences in norms and expectations among distinct social contexts, deviation can vary throughout societies, cultures, and historical times.

Deviance can manifest in a variety of ways, including actions that go against societal norms, morals, or laws. It may involve behaviors that go against accepted norms, traditions, or moral principles. Determining what is aberrant can be arbitrary and depend on historical, social, and cultural contexts.

- **3.** Levels of Deviance in Sports: Deviance can take place on multiple levels and in many different shapes. The following three levels of deviation can be seen in the realm of sports:
 - **Individual Deviance:** In the context of sports, this term refers to abnormal conduct by certain players, coaches, or officials. Cheating, doping, unsportsmanlike behavior, violence, and other rule infractions are examples of this. Individual deviation can have negative effects on the individual, the integrity of the sport, and other participants' experiences.
 - **Team or Organizational Deviance:** Deviant behaviors that are shown by entire sports teams, organizations, or institutions are referred to as team or organizational deviance. This can involve actions like match-fixing, bribery, systematic cheating, or cultivating an environment that accepts or promotes abnormal behavior. The integrity and fairness of tournaments, as well as the reputation of the participating sports organizations, can be significantly impacted by team or organizational deviation.

• Societal Deviance within Sports: Societal deviance within sports refers to abnormal conduct or practices that go beyond the confines of sports and are indicative of larger societal problems. This can include problems that are widespread in the sports sector, such as discrimination, harassment, violence, or corruption. It is important to address systemic problems that have an impact on the sporting world since societal deviation in sports frequently reflects more significant society concerns.

It's crucial to remember that sports deviance ranges from minor violations to serious breaches. Deviant behaviors can range in intensity and impact, and how they are handled depends on a number of things, including society values, the particular sport, governing organizations, and cultural norms.

A multifaceted strategy is needed to address deviance in sports, including the creation and enforcement of laws and regulations, education and awareness campaigns, ethical training, punitive measures, and the promotion of a culture of honesty, justice, and respect among athletes. Reduced aberrant behavior, preservation of the sport's integrity, and creation of a welcoming environment for all players are the objectives.

- **4. Factors Responsible for Deviance in Sports:** Deviance in sports is defined as conduct that deviates from the norms, regulations, and moral principles that are anticipated within the sporting community. Deviant behavior in sports can be caused by a number of different things. Among the crucial elements are:
 - Competition and Pressure: The intense competition and pressure to perform at a high level can cause athletes to engage in deviant behavior, such as cheating, using performance-enhancing drugs, or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner in an effort to gain an advantage.
 - **Desire for Success and Recognition:** Athletes may be motivated by their desire for achievement, notoriety, and financial gain. Some people may then resort to drastic means, such as breaking the law, to further their objectives.
 - Lack of Moral and Ethical Development: Some athletes might not have gotten adequate moral and ethical instruction, which causes them to lack awareness of the value of sportsmanship and fair play.
 - **Inadequate Role Models:** In the athletic world, people might be influenced by the actions of well-known athletes and coaches. If they act in a deviant manner with little to no repercussions, it may promote a culture of tolerance for deviation.
 - **Peer Pressure:** Athletes may give in to peer pressure, particularly if they think that acting inappropriately is required to blend in or be accepted by their team or the athletic community.
 - Media and Public Expectations: Sports are relentlessly covered by the media, and sponsors and fans have high standards, which can put athletes under a lot of pressure and lead to odd behavior.

- **Inadequate Enforcement of the Rules:** Sports with lax or ineffectively implemented rules and regulations may foster an atmosphere where misconduct is more likely to occur without concern about repercussions.
- **Financial Incentives:** The temptation to cheat or take part in unlawful actions in order to increase one's financial gain can be high in sports that provide significant cash benefits, such as professional leagues.
- Social and Cultural Factors: Social conventions and cultural values can have an
 impact on how athletes behave. Within certain cultural circumstances, deviation might
 occasionally be accepted or even applauded.
- **Personal Problems and Psychological Factors:** Athletes, who are struggling with personal concerns including mental health problems, stress, or emotional difficulties may be more likely to use deviant behavior as a coping strategy.

It's crucial to remember that not all athletes' exhibit improper conduct and a number of sports organizations and regulatory bodies actively try to encourage fair play, sportsmanship, and moral behavior among players. The development of stronger prevention tactics and the promotion of a more positive athletic environment can both benefit from knowledge of the elements that contribute to deviance in sports.

5. How to Deal With Deviance in Sports?

An all-encompassing strategy with many different facets is needed to deal with sports-related deviance. The following tactics and measures can be used to deal with improper conduct in the sporting environment:

- Clear and Enforced Rules: Establish thorough, well-defined rules and regulations that spell out what constitutes appropriate conduct and what violations will result in penalties. Make sure that all players, coaches, officials, and other stakeholders in the sporting community are informed of and understand these rules.
- **Knowledge and Awareness:** Implement instructional initiatives that advance integrity in sports, ethics, and good sportsmanship. To educate players, coaches, and officials about the effects of unethical behavior and the value of respecting ethical standards, provide training and workshops.
- Strong Leadership and Role Modeling: Encourage good leadership in sports organizations, teams, and clubs to set the example for righteous conduct and uphold the principles of fairness, respect, and sportsmanship. A culture that discourages deviation should be fostered by leaders who should act as examples.
- **Support Systems:** Create support networks for athletes, coaches, and officials to address the underlying causes of deviation, such as stress, pressure, or personal problems. To encourage personal growth and well-being, make available services for mental health, counselling, and mentoring.

- Sanctions and Disciplinary Measures: Implement the proper sanctions and disciplinary measures for inappropriate behavior. Depending on the seriousness and frequency of the deviant activities, this may involve fines, suspensions, disqualifications, or other punishments. Consistently enforcing penalties sends a clear message that rebellious behavior won't be allowed.
- Collaboration and Partnerships: To collaboratively confront deviance, encourage cooperation amongst sports organizations, governing bodies, athletes, coaches, officials, and other stakeholders. The creation of a united strategy for addressing deviant behaviors can be facilitated by sharing best practices, exchanging information, and working together on initiatives.
- Transparency and Accountability: Create open procedures for handling grievances, inquiries, and punishments relating to aberrant behaviors. Make sure people may report incidents of transgression without worrying about being punished. Encourage a culture of openness and accountability among athletes by holding them accountable for their activities.
- **Support from Governing Bodies:** To effectively implement policies and activities that address deviance, seek support from national and international governing bodies of sports. Work together with these groups to uphold ethical standards, enforce them, and offer tools and advice on how to cope with atypical behavior.

It takes a team effort and a dedication to respecting the principles of fairness, respect, and honesty to address deviance in sports. Sports organizations can foster ethical behavior, protect participants' safety, and uphold the integrity and prestige of the activity by putting these strategies into practice.

III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, sports violence and deviance are complicated concerns that have the potential to tarnish the fairness, competitive spirit, and integrity of the sporting world. Instances of violence and deviance can have major repercussions for athletes, fans, and the larger sports community, despite the fact that athletics can be a platform for personal development, teamwork, and healthy competition. Physical altercations, verbal abuse, and aggressive actions that risk players' safety can all be considered forms of violence in sports. Deviance in sports refers to actions that question the notions of fair play, such as doping, cheating, and other actions that stray from established norms. Intense competition, financial constraints, societal expectations, individual personalities, and cultural influences are only a few of the many causes of violence and deviance in sports. To successfully treat and stop such behaviors, it is crucial to comprehend these fundamental causes. Various tactics and strategies can be used to combat violence and deviance in sports. These include establishing clear rules and regulations, offering education and awareness campaigns, encouraging positive leadership and role modeling, putting in place support networks for athletes, enforcing sanctions, encouraging cooperation among stakeholders, and placing a focus on transparency and accountability. Sports organizations may establish an atmosphere that encourages fair play, sportsmanship, and the wellbeing of participants by proactively addressing violence and deviance in sports. In addition to upholding the principles and

integrity of sports, this fosters a healthy, welcoming athletic culture that is advantageous to competitors, spectators, and the larger community. At the end of the day, sustaining the positive qualities of sports and providing a safe, joyful, and meaningful experience for everyone involved depends on our combined efforts to avoid and minimize violence and deviance in sports.

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