

THE SKY BECOMING CLOUDY ON THE FUTURE OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

András Nemes (Dr.)

*Prof. Hungarian University of Sports Science, Hungary**

I. Introduction

This year, we are abuzz with sporting events around the world. From mid-June to mid-July, the European Football Championships, and then the Summer Olympic games in Paris from twenty-six of July to eleven of August. It will officially be the thirty-third Summer Olympics, but in fact - if you exclude the Games cancelled due to the World Wars - only the third in modern times.

On 6 July 2015, the Hungarian Parliament voted by a large majority to back Budapest's bid to host the 2024 Olympics. Two years later an ad-hoc association called Momentum (which later became an opposition political party) started a petition against the planned Olympics. There was no referendum, but in view of two hundred and sixty-six signatures against, Budapest withdrew from the bid.

Yet it is not bitterness, nor the dissatisfaction, that tells me that clouds are becoming on the sky on the future of the Olympic movement.

Keywords: *Mr. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Olympic chart, Ode of Sport, attacks against sport values, (traditional and unconventional attacks), sports law cases, political correctness;*

II. Methods

It was the critical analysis not only the Olympic Games, but also the world sporting events globally and the analysis of case studies that led me to write this paper. I was assisted by observation, various empirical methods and the study of sports literature

III. Mainpart

It was a hypothesis, namely that there are threats, that destroy the purity of competitive sport. I divided them as traditional & unconventional attacks, as follows:

* references of the author: Hungarian University of Sports Science, 1123 Budapest, Hungary, Alkotás u. 44, instructor of Lex Sportiva, Hungarian Society of Sports Law, vicepresident of International Association of Sports Law, Athens, Greece, E-mail: office@drnemes.hu

- 1) traditional attacks on sporting values (doping, cheating, such as the so-called match-fixing),
- 2) unconventional attacks, like the over-politization of sport (almost all sport federation and association leaders are politicians in my country: in Hungary),
- 3) unconventional attacks, like the supremacy of money power over sporting values,
- 4) unconventional attacks, like the inequality of opportunity, precisely through gender hacking,
- 5) unconventional attacks, like the positive and negative discriminations,
- 6) unconventional attacks, like the hurt of requirement of political neutrality,
- 7) unconventional attacks, like the prohibition of political exclusions & “the magic last one”: the almighty requirements of political correctness

1. The traditional attacks

The first group I taught my students at university as the four "ing" ending attacks, like **doping**, drugs and methods were present in antiquity, but they were inspired by the products of the 20th century and not by the noble ambitions of sport, but by the challenges of technology.

Mr. Baron Coubertin had already condemned cheating in his Ode to Sport, but new forms of **cheating** emerged as amateurism was eclipsed at the Olympics and the pressure on athletes from sponsors became more prevalent.

Match-fixing is a form of cheating that goes hand in hand with gambling: there is no problem as long as it is just trying to predict sports results, such as TOTO, bingo, betting mix, etc. The trouble starts when results manipulation, mafia-style cheating appears: **illegal sports betting**, including tax fraud.

2. The unconventional (non-traditional) attack: over-politization of elitsport

We can see the fruit of our modern age: first of all the over-politization of the elit (or top-) sport. To increase the prestige of elite sport, political and financial power is beginning to penetrate through management.

3. The unconventional attack: the proliferation of money power

I think, that very high risk of being influenced by money power, so the Proliferation of money power. There is a big rivalry between sports equipment manufacturers. They try to win certain sports for themselves. World championships that are highly watched on television are subject to a great deal of economic influence because of the advertising revenue (the backing powers that have so far only tried to influence world economy (Bilderberg group, Black Rock, etc.).

4. The unconventional attack: violations of requirement of inequality

Today, the requirement of equal opportunities has been transformed into inequality. I was wondering what Mr Coubertin would say about the madness of our times: same-sex marriage, the use of mind-altering drugs, homosexuality. Would Mr. Coubertin prefer athletes who are biologically male because they have XY chromosomes but consider themselves female? Would he have mentioned beauty in his poem?

The Baron wasn't only a teacher but also a historian. I wonder what the historian Coubertin would say if he could attend prestigious political forums where seemingly intelligent people discuss nonsense such as whether men should have the right to have children for huge sums of money. In my presentation at the IASL Athens Symposium, I highlighted just a few examples from several sport branches, so I have analysed suspicious cases in five randomly selected sports. These stories made the world press at the time, and I will not go into the details here, which in my view constitute gender fraud (as I mean it: genderhacking)

4.a) Athletics

In my presentation I was just very brief about the well-known Caster Semenya-case:

Caster Semenya is in fact a woman, but that has not stopped her from marrying Violet Raseboya. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that the 32-year-old athlete, who refused to submit to the new rules, had been "repeatedly discriminated against".

Caster Semenya, although supposedly a woman, was interestingly able to have a child. The existence of the child his wife gave birth to suggests that the athlete who is so successful in women's numbers is biologically male or politically correct words: "assigned male at birth". The federation has already indicated that it will not change the ominous regulation but is urging the Swiss government to take the case to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights for a final decision.

4.b) Cycling: Austin Killips-case

I could mention the case of Austin Killips against the International Cycling Union (UCI) (The athlete in question is known to be transgender). He won stage 5 of the Tour of GILA in the USA. He won the gold medal in June 2023 and after his (her) winning, the UCI banned her from competing in women's category in cycling. The UCI stated that it is unfair and against equal chances for a transgender cyclist to participate in women's category in cycling. The decision was based upon equal treatment in sport and the final decision helps keeping traditional values of sport in order.

4.c) Weightlifting: Laurel Hubbard-case

In 2021, a weightlifter from New Zealand, Laurel Hubbard, was the most outspoken personality at the Tokyo summer olympic games. He in the women's +eighty-seven-kilogram weightlifting category, will take to the podium. She was originally born male, but had surgery to become female, becoming the first transgender athlete in the Olympic history - since the International Olympic Committee gave her permission to compete.

4.d) Chess

Even found a case in the sport of chess. In 2023, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) decided that only chess players with the XX chromosome could compete in women's chess tournaments. Well how simple is the formula?!

4.e) Swimming

As a Hungarian, I am proud that the International Swimming Federation (FINA), at its extraordinary congress in Budapest on 20 June 2022, attended by International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, proposed the creation of a new category for transgender athletes in competitive sport, including mass and amateur sport, after months of scientific, legal and social preparation. The proposal, made at the FINA Forum, is of major importance for the integrity of competitive sport, as the possibility of gender reassignment can become a breeding ground for fraud.

5. The unconventional attack: violations of requirement of discriminations

Unfortunately, there is discrimination in sport today. I have also used a paper by Prof. Klaus Vieweg and his co-author to support my argument. The phenomenon is obvious: the atypical wants to exchange its place with the typical. The deviant with the normal.

Fortunately, there was some refreshing exceptions when the athlete admits he cheated and apologizes. A typical example is the case of Glenique Frank - a transgender runner - who, while competing in the women's category of the London Marathon 2023, beat more than 14,000 women, admitted she was not a woman; and offered to return the medal "she" had received for her performance.

6. The unconventional attack: violations of requirement of political neutrality

In the frame of political neutrality and political correctness, we cannot imagine why sportsmen and women from countries involved in today's war conflicts at any level and under any title are not subject to similar discrimination.

Well, we know that this would get us nowhere, because then we would have to name certain connections, and that would no longer be the task of Olympism.

If we are really thinking in terms of pure Olympic ideals (*citius, altius, for-*

tius), the IOC cannot go down the dead end of current politics. Let us not let the IOC take over the role of the United Nations!

7. The unconventional attack, like the prohibition of political exclusions

The International Olympic Committee has made recommendations concerning Russian and Belarusian athletes. The IOC recommends to international federations and major international sports federations that athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports should only be allowed to compete in the Olympic Games and other international sporting events as individual athletes with neutral status. Russian and Belarusian team members who actively support the military and national security agencies are also ineligible (of course, they must also comply with anti-doping requirements, which are a general requirement for all athletes). For the time being, the IOC has promised to make a decision on participation in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris in due course.

The IOC has confirmed that a decision on participation in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris will be taken in due course.

In February 2022, the Olympic Committee took strong action against the Russian and Belarusian governments, which resulted in the banning of Russian and Belarusian athletes from international sporting competitions. Just as Russian and Belarusian athletes will be banned from the Beijing Paralympics.

In the year 2023 a statement issued by the 11th Summit of the Olympic Movement in 2023 proposed the return of Russian and Belarusian individual athletes to the neutral scene, saying that the previous sanctions would remain in force and that the world sports federations would have the discretion to accept or reject the proposal.

What kind of history has led to this?

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Olympic Committee announces that it will boycott the Paris Olympics if the IOC allows Russian and Belarusian athletes to return. About 30 governments agree to this because the governments (sports ministers) are under political pressure. But this is against the rules of the Olympic Charter.

It is very interesting that political pressure is being exerted in relation to the Olympic Charter. Thomas Bach stressed that it is regrettable that some governments are criticised and that governments do not want to respect the will of the majority of the Olympic movement, the autonomy of all stakeholders and of sport.

However, it must be seen that it is not up to governments to decide which athletes take part in which competitions, as such interference would mean the end of world sport.

The international federations have made their decisions on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes. The International Fencing Federation has approved the return of Russian and Belarusian fencers until the start of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The International Judo Federation will also allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as individual neutral athletes, but the International Canoe Federation (ICF) has decided to grant this gesture only if the athletes' countries do not support the war against Ukraine.

The International Triathlon Federation World Championships approved the IOC's recommendation to allow international Russian and Belarusian athletes to return as individual athletes in aquatic competitions:

The World Athletics Federation has decided that Russian and Belarusian athletes will not be allowed to compete in competitions, except as individual athletes, if they have committed doping violations.

In tennis sport, Russian and Belarusian tennis players can only compete in the Olympics as individuals. All athletes who have supported military events are not allowed to participate in the Olympics. Sanctions against those responsible for the war remain in place. For the organisers, the IOC recommends that they show solidarity with Ukrainian athletes. The recommendation is strange because there are 70 ongoing armed conflicts in the world today. It is also known that the United States has fought 27 wars in recent decades, all of them ended in defeat, not in victory. Interestingly, no one here thinks of solidarity, American athletes are not banned from their national identity.

If I were not a sports lawyer, I would probably have an opinion on one side or the other, but at the same time, it must be seen that these restrictions are contrary to the ideal of the Olympic movement.

The 11th Summit also rejected the governments' measures by a resolution, as an interference in the autonomy of sports organisations. The integrity of sports competitions must be guaranteed

And finally: the almighty requirements of political correctness

There is a generation of old conservative professors, researchers who have nothing to lose, are allowed to express such concerns and to name the phenomena that threaten sport. I'm glad you listened, because nowadays it's a big deal that we can talk about these dangers at all. The final argument is usually political correctness, which shuts our mouths.

IV. Conclusions

The Olympics feature athletes and non-political entities (private individuals, athletes, not empires) It sends out a bad message that ideas that were intended to bring about a peaceful comparison of sporting qualities are being undermined by a succession of basic political goals. There are currently several wars of all sizes in the world (It is bad enough that modern man is unable to achieve a ceasefire at least for the duration of the Olympics).

If we were to achieve this again, we would only have to aim for the Olympics every day, so that we live in peace and people do not kill each other. We should distinguish the

- valuable from the worthless,
- typical from atypical,
- normal from abnormal,

In my study I listed only a few counterexamples to the violation of the most important principles of Coubertin. And thus, the question must be asked: could baron Coubertin speak at all, or could he just mumble to himself because of today's all-powerful political correctness? Overall, one should wonder if political correctness – although with benevolent intentions – may ruin the Olympic movement. We hope not!

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