

SECURITY MANAGEMENT AT SPORTING EVENTS

Damir Ahmić¹, Alija Biberović², Nihad Selimović¹, Dževad Džibrić², Alen Kapidžić²

¹ Faculty of Education, University of Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina

² Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Abstract

Security at sporting events is a very important segment of a sporting event which places a great responsibility and obligation on the organizer, and it is also useful for the regularity of sporting events. The preventive aspect of the taken security measures certainly plays an important role, especially in terms of the maximum commitment and professionalism of the persons engaged in securing a football game. By analyzing security of the completed football games of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Premier League at the city stadium in Srebrenik, it was found that there were two cases when incidents occurred. In both cases, the incidental situations were caused by drunken adult persons. Based on the present analysis we can come to the conclusion that security at a sporting event, when it comes to YFC "Gradina" Srebrenik for the season 2012/13 is not directly related to the total number of visitors of the event (local and visiting spectators) but to the total number of spectators, both local and visiting, is certainly an important factor that has its indirect impact on security at sporting events.

Key words: Prevention, security, sporting events, Bosnia and Herzegovina Premier League

Introduction

Management of sporting events, such as Premier League football games, is a complex process based on the engagement and coordination of a large number of participants in different activities. In fact, one of the most important issues for individuals responsible for management, or managers, is security at sporting events. Managers as individuals who plan, predict, organize, coordinate and control sporting events should ensure the optimal security requirements for the smooth running of a sporting event, i.e., holding football games, where the athletes/football players would be able to express their sporting potential as much as possible. All those events that from a security aspect interfere with the athletes and their effort to achieve their full potential or prevent them in this endeavor question the regularity of the competition/game. Safety of all participants in sporting events is the number one factor in the realization of the idea of sports as an activity where the human need for play, leisure and entertainment, or a way of achieving accomplishments, is realized in a healthy, effective and safe way (Nešić, (2007).

We certainly have to mention the role and responsibility of the organizer when it comes to security at a sporting event. “In the execution of events, event organizers seek to eliminate or minimize any activity or event that could harm participants, workers or the viewers” (Biberović, 2009).

When it comes to security at the games that are held at the federal level of competition of the SA/FA of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as security at any other sporting event, it is regulated by legislation set out in the Sports Act of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Canton Sports Act, Public Assembly Acts, Regulations of Safety at Sporting Events and the like.

In fact, the Sports Act of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Article 50 talks about the compliance of legislation with the European Convention on the suppression of violence and misconduct of spectators at sporting events, particularly at football games. Article 56

of the same Act talks about combating violence and misconduct of spectators at sporting events.

The Sports Act of Tuzla Canton in Article 76 talks about the obligations of the organizers of sporting events, stating that the organizer must ensure the safety of all participants and viewers of sporting events as well as the necessary medical care.

The Public Assembly Act of Tuzla Canton in Article 20 talks about the insurance of order and peace in the course of a public gathering, or a sporting event, as well as the obligation of the organizer when it comes safety.

In addition to the above legal regulation, safety at sporting events is regulated by various laws, Regulations of professional sports organizations, codes of conduct, etc., all with the aim of a sporting event passing in a safe and secure manner for all participants.

Previous research

Hadžikadunić, A., Kozić, V., and Hadžikadunić, M. (2006) in their scientific paper *Functions of fair play in modern sports*, talk about the principles of fair play and process the factors that influence the behavior of athletes and spectators. They point out that people who have had aggressive conflict resolution models during childhood will resolve their conflicts in the same manner. The authors further suggest that the family dynamics have a huge impact on establishing mechanisms with which an individual resolves different emotional situations: tension, dissatisfaction, experiencing feelings of failure, experiencing success and so on. At the end they conclude that the basis of good behavior of athletes primarily originates from home and then from the trainer, friends and teammates.

Kostadinović, I. (2006) in the scientific paper *Law and the fans* talks about the importance of passing as well as implementing proper legislation that will lead to the suppression of violence in sporting arenas. As an example the author states the impact of legislation on violent behavior of spectators in England, France, Switzerland, Croatia and other countries, where severe penalties prevent and stop vandal behaviour by spectators.

Nešić, M.(2007) in his book *Management of sporting events* talks about the measures that the organizer of a sporting event needs to undertake to forestall risks, including:

- Warning about the risks inherent in a sporting competition,
- Bans, which unlike warnings relate to the prevention of intimate relationship with a high-risk area or a source of risk,
- Giving notice. Warnings and bans are not in all cases sufficient to create a responsible attitude towards risk for certain individuals or groups,
- Lightning of the sports facility

Mišković, S. (2010), in the paper *Implementation of security management in sports management* states that the primary function of security management is to assess the real and potential security threats, challenges and risks.

Parčina, I. (2010). in her paper *Violence at sporting events* deals with the causes of the escalation of violence in the stadiums and identifies ways to overcome them. The author points out that violence at sporting events cannot be observed outside the context of social violence, stating that aggression occurs as a result of prevention of satisfying existential needs due to frustration. According to this hypothesis, people who go to sporting events with the aim of provoking riots have an expectation that everyone else who is present also wishes to participate in riots. The author points out that the problem of violence in sports cannot be resolved by one law or a campaign, but instead with the coordination of all social institutions.

Subject, problem and objective of the paper

The subject of this paper presents the analysis of security at sporting events and the state of security at 15 football games in Premier League in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as organized by the Youth Football Club "Gradina" Srebrenik, during the 2012/2013 competition year.

The problem of the paper is that through certain security segments at 15 completed games we arrive at the desired result with

regard to the subject of this paper through assessing the Premier League in Bosnia and Herzegovina as organized by YFC "Gradina" Srebrenik, during the 2012/2013 competition year.

The aim of the paper is to determine the causes that lead to endangering safety at sporting events/football games and which measures need be taken, both by the organizers and by police officers, in order to for the sporting event to pass without incidents, with the maximum safety of all participants in the sporting event. In fact, the results obtained from the analysis of the undertaken security measures should indicate whether the planned security measures are adequate estimates and if not, which measures need to be taken in order to avoid endangering the safety of participants in sporting events in the future.

Tasks of the paper

Tasks of the paper include conducting the security analysis of 15 football games in Premier League in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as organized by the YFC "Gradina" Srebrenik, during the 2012/2013 competition year, as well as determining the causes that led to endangering the safety of participants at sporting events. After the analysis and establishing of the causes of endangering the safety of participants at sporting events, measures and actions need to be planned to avoid the recorded omissions so that at future sporting events there is no endangering of the safety of any of the participants in sporting events.

Research sample

In this study we used data collected on implementation of security measures at sporting events and football games in the Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized by the YFC "Gradina" Srebrenik, for the 2012/2013 competition year. The collection was done at the Youth Football Club "Gradina" Srebrenik and at the Srebrenik Police Station.

Research methodology

The basic method used in the study was the bibliographic descriptive method, which ensured the following:

- collection, processing and presentation of data;
- analysis and synthesis of the collected data;
- diagnosis of the situation;
- comparative analysis of the obtained information on the implementation of the security effects;
- techniques for sorting and displaying data.

Sampling the variables

The selection of variables was done in accordance with the problem and the aim which are imposed in this study on the basis of which we have come to the relevant indicators.

Measures and actions that begin with an assessment of the number of expected spectators, both home and visiting, depending on the importance of the game, and the characteristics and intentions of the visiting spectators, which are analyzed on the basis of past actions of spectators, lead to risk assessment of the game, and security measures are subsequently planned in accordance with the level of risk.

Planning security measures covers the hiring of a sufficient number of stewards, insurance managers which distribute and coordinate the work of stewards, agencies for protection of people and property, and a sufficient number of police officers.

Statistical data processing

After the collection of data, in this paper we used descriptive statistics, such as graphical methods, in order to describe and summarize the data and present them in a graphical form.

Results and discussion

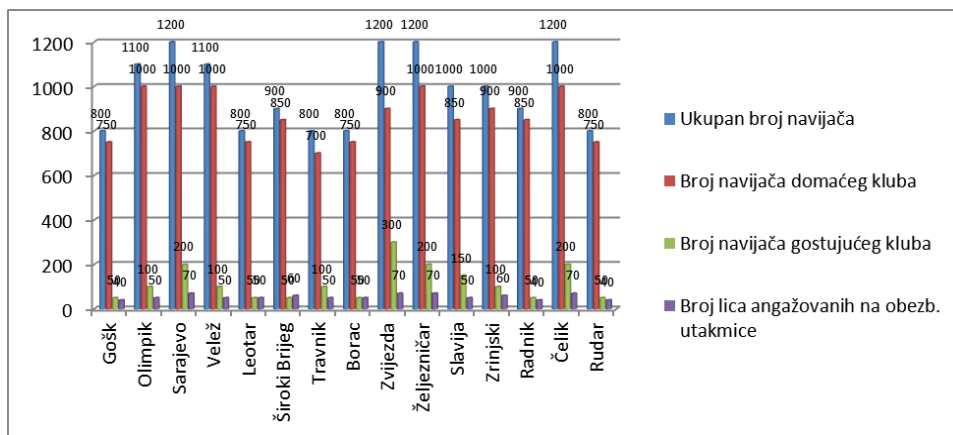
After collecting these data, the organizer of a sporting event, i.e., YFC "Gradina" Srebrenik, drafted a plan of providing security at a football game, where in the first part there is talk about the content of the plan, then the responsibility of the organizer when it comes to the safety of participants in the sporting event, the implementation of security measures strategy, measures relating to the spectators, cooperation with security services, i.e., with the police, monitorial services (stewards) and agencies for the protection of people and property. The following step taken by the organizer of a sporting event is reporting the sporting event/game to the relevant police station.

By analyzing security of the completed football games in the Premier League in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized by the YFC "Gradina", Srebrenik, it has been established that there are two cases when incidents occurred. In both cases the incidental situations were caused by drunken persons, in one case at the entrance to the stadium and in the other case in the area intended for the accommodation of visiting spectators. Namely, in the first case the person tried to bring in an object suitable for causing injuries, and when the object was seized there was abusive behavior (threats and curses), and in the other case the officials were verbally insulted (referees and the delegate). We need to mention that the recorded incidents did not lead to the consequence of endangering safety at a sporting event, nor were any of the participants of the sporting event injured, and there was also no material damage.

Table 1 *An overview of the number of completed games with details on attendance*

No.	The visiting team/football game with FC "Gradina"	Total number of spectators	The number of home club spectators	The number of visiting club spectators	The number of individuals working on securing the game	The number of recorded incidents at a game
1.	Gošk	800	750	50	40	0
2.	Olimpik	1100	1000	100	50	1
3.	Sarajevo	1200	1000	200	70	0
4.	Velež	1100	1000	100	50	0
5.	Leotar	800	750	50	50	0
6.	Široki Brijeg	900	850	50	60	0
7.	Travnik	800	700	100	50	0
8.	Borac	800	750	50	50	0
9.	Zvijezda	1200	900	300	70	0
10.	Željezničar	1200	1000	200	70	1
11.	Slavija	1000	850	150	50	0
12.	Zrinjski	1000	900	100	60	0
13.	Radnik	900	850	50	40	0
14.	Čelik	1200	1000	200	70	0
15.	Rudar	800	750	50	40	0

Graph 1 The graphical representation-the number of completed games with details on attendance



Graph 2 The graphical representation-the number of spectators at the completed games

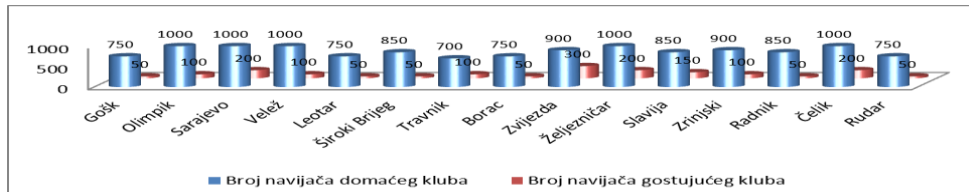
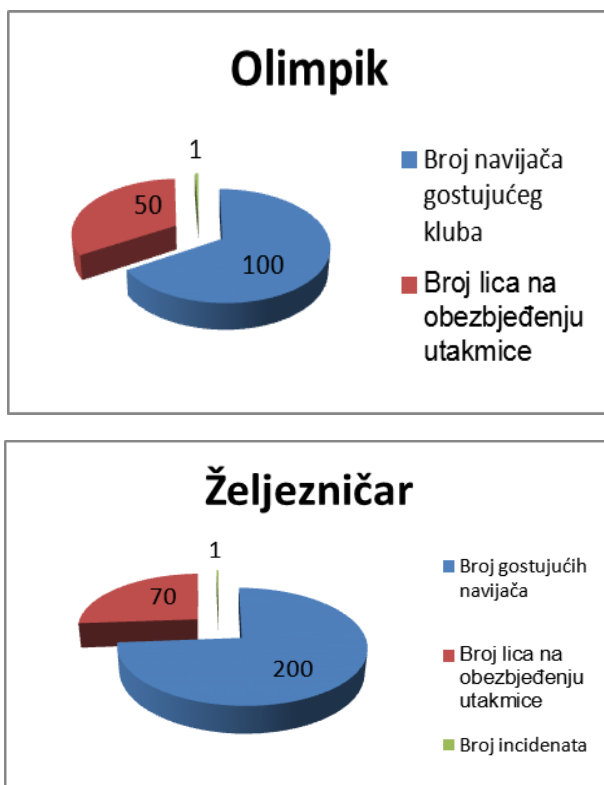


Table 2 Data on recorded incidents

Number	Football match	Total number of spectators	Number of individuals who caused the incident	Home spectator	Visiting spectator
1.	„Gradina“ - „Olimpik“	1100	1	0	1
3	„Gradaina“ - „Željezničar“	1200	1	1	0

Graph 3 *The graphical representation of the number of visiting spectators with the number of persons engaged for security purposes as well as the number of incidents*



Violent behavior of spectators with organizational elements did not occur.

Based on the conducted analysis it has been determined that the cause of incidental situations is unprofessional work by the monitorial services. In fact, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the security at sporting events, drunken persons are prohibited from entering the place of a sporting event, and it is also forbidden to bring in items which could inflict injury. However, members of the monitorial services, who are located at the

stadium entrances and search the persons, did not prevent entry of drunken persons nor did they carry out detailed checks in order to quickly find and take the items suitable for causing bodily harm.

In conjunction with the results of the analysis, we can conclude that we need greater commitment and professionalism from monitorial services, which are responsible for controlling the entry of persons on the premises where the sporting event is held, i.e., they should not allow the entry of drunken parties and should carry out thorough checks of persons entering the space intended for the spectators, so that they don't bring in items suitable for causing bodily harm.

Security at sporting events is one of the most important issues for the management of sports organizations and sets before them a very serious and difficult task. In fact, one of the basic rules of organizing sporting competitions is to ensure optimal conditions for the smooth expression of the maximum sporting potential of the performers, i.e., athletes. (Nešić, 2007).

Conclusion

As mentioned earlier, security at sporting events is a very important segment of a sporting event, which places a great responsibility and obligation on the organizer, and it is also useful for the regularity of the sporting event. Please note that athletes can express their full sporting potential only when they are guaranteed maximum safety.

By analyzing security of the completed football games in the Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the city stadium in Srebrenik, it has been found that there are two cases when incidents occurred. In both cases, the incidental situations were caused by drunken adult persons, in one case at the entrance to the stadium and in the other case in the area intended for the accommodation of the visiting spectators. One of the persons was a visiting spectator and the other a home spectator. Namely, in the first case the person tried to bring in an item suitable for causing injuries, and when the item was seized there was abusive behavior (threats and curses), and in the

other case the officials were verbally insulted (referees and the delegate).

Based on the present analysis we can come to the conclusion that security at a sporting event, when it comes to FC "Gradina" Srebrenik during the season 2012/13 is not directly related to the total number of visitors to the event (local and visiting spectators) but instead the total number of spectators, both local and visiting, is certainly an important factor that has its indirect impact on security at sporting events.

The preventive aspect of the taken security measures certainly plays an important role, especially in terms of the maximum commitment and professionalism of the persons engaged in securing a football game, and in this regard eliminating omissions in the work of the monitorial services (banning drunken persons from the event venue, no prohibited items at the event venue and so on) can also be indirectly linked to security at a sporting event.

In the end we can say that the problem of security management at sporting events should be approached with the utmost professionalism, technically and responsibly, otherwise the consequences could be huge, both in terms of injuring participants in sporting events and in terms of causing significant material damage to sporting facilities.

Literature

1. Biberović, A., Ahmić, D. (2009). *Sports Management. Second Edition*. Tuzla: „Offset“.
2. Hadžikadunić, A., Kozić, V., & Hadžikadunić, M. (2006). *Functions of fair play in modern sports*. Proceedings of the II International Conference "Sports Management". Belgrade: Faculty of Management in Sports.
3. Kostadinović, I. (2006). *Law and the fans*. Proceedings of the II International Conference "Sports Management". Belgrade: Faculty of Management in Sports.

4. Code of conduct of the members of the organization of the Football Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
5. Mišković, S., Milanović, V., & Ademovski, D. (2010). *Implementation of security management in sports management*. *Management in Sports* scientific journal in the field of sports management, p. 79-85. Belgrade: Faculty of Management in Sports.
6. Nešić, M. (2007). *Management of sporting events*. Bačka Palanka, DNS „Logos“.
7. Parčina, I. (2010). Violence at sporting events. *Management in Sports* scientific journal in the field of sports management, p. 103-109 Belgrade: Faculty of Management in Sports.
8. *Rules on security at international games and games at the federal level of competition of the SA/FA Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo* (2013). Official Gazette of Soccer/Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
9. *Sports Act in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (2008). Sarajevo.
10. *Sports Act of Tuzla Canton* (Official Gazette TC no: 17/00).
11. *The Public Assembly Act of Tuzla Canton* (Official Gazette TC no: 13/99, 10/00, 14/02, 6/04 and 10/04).
12. Životić, D. (1999). *Management in sports*. Belgrade: Ministry of Sports and Youth of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.