

Human Rights and Sports, Christian Thibault,
Liikkukaa - Sports For All

My major concern is sports and human rights,
something that gets easily forgotten or
overlooked.

In classical Greek education, sports used to be
one of three major topics, along with mathematics
and philosophy.

All these have been split into different sub-
topics, but I still like to think that physical
education, sports events as unifying
entertainment, sports as related to role models
and social inclusion is still a major part of
what we should be concerned with.

In modern sports, there is also the element of
major global events again and again seemingly to
take place in countries with a significantly
challenged human rights situation.

Participants are often faced with a moral dilemma
in case they are not able to address those
issues.

But also in the acute internal situation of
countries where we are trying to involve migrants
and provide opportunities for minorities to
participate in social life, sports both provides
huge opportunities, but also challenges.

ETNO experts have produced and published the
relevant thesis concerning young migrants in
2013/2014:

(http://www.intermin.fi/fi/ajankohtaista/uutiset/maahanmuutto/1/0/etno_neuvottelukunnan_teesit_nuorista_harrastaminen_ehkaisee_syrjaytymista_49303)

Being able to participate in sports is a human
right, here are some interesting quotes:

1.

(<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/blog/more-game-nexus-sport-and-human-rights>)

"Besides recognizing sport as a human right itself, sports are also a platform for promoting and raising awareness about all human rights concerns. The same human rights violations that happen within the sports world—discrimination, violence against women, and denial of children's rights—impact society at large. Sports events, teams, administrators, and athletes can use their platform to share information and educate the world on human rights. Three United Nations international treaties—the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—clearly articulate the right to sport, recreation, physical activity, and play. These international documents make room for international, national, and local sports organizations to embrace the fight for human rights."

2.

Principle 6 of the Olympic Charter:

"The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play."

3.

Added clause to the Olympic charter, principle 6:

"Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement."

In the light of the above, we should look at several international, but most of all at the

internal issues, we can easily influence in our own country.

The extremely high cost for participating in sports, together with the limited space and facilities provided to exercise and growing demand for administration are discriminating large parts of the population from participating in organized sports.

Also regulations like t.ex. the football federations 'homegrown'-rule (SK), however reasonable they sound for protecting people born and grown up in Finland, should be challenged in this context.

"SUOMEN PALLOLIITTO KILPAILUMÄÄRÄYKSET 2016 16 §

Suomessa kasvatettu pelaaja (SK-Pelaaja)

*(Suomessa kasvatettu pelaaja (SK-Pelaaja):
Pelaaja, joka on ollut rekisteröityneenä suomalaiseseen seuraan yhteensä vähintään kolmen vuoden ajan 12 - 21-vuotiaana.)*

1. Tämä pykälä koskee seuraavia sarjoja: Naisten Liiga, Naisten Ykkönen, Veikkausliiga, Miesten Ykkönen ja Miesten Kakkonen. Sääntö on voimassa myös näiden sarjojen joukkueiden Suomen Cupin otteluissa.

2. Ottelupöytäkirjaan merkityistä pelioikeudellisista pelaajista vähintään puolet on oltava SK-pelaajia, joista vähintään neljän on pelattava ottelussa, poikkeuksena on Miesten Kakkonen, jossa vähintään viiden SKpelaajan on pelattava ottelussa. Kaikkien ottelupöytäkirjaan merkittyjen pelaajien on oltava pelipaikalla joko kentällä tai vaihtopenkillä. 3. Mikäli kohdan 2 ehdot eivät täyty, joukkueen katsotaan käyttäneen pelioikeudettomia pelaajia. Tällaisessa tapauksessa asia käsitellään kilpailumääräysten 24 §:n mukaisesti. 4. Erittäin painavista syistä

*liittohallitus voi myöntää seuran anomuksesta
poikkeusluvan tähän pykälään.*