

## SPORTS VIOLENCE MANAGEMENT AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DELTA NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT, DELTA STATE

<sup>1</sup>OGHA, F. H.; <sup>2</sup>IBRAHEEM T. O. and <sup>3</sup>IBRAHEEM M. O.  
University of Ilorin, Nigeria.

### Abstract

*Participation in sporting activities contributes to health, social, economic, and cultural aspects of life but are often marred by violence at all levels of sports competitions public secondary schools inclusive. This study investigated sports violence management and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State. A descriptive research design of survey type was adopted for this study. The population of this study consisted of 411 respondents (152 Principals; 189 Vice-principals; and 70 Physical Education teachers). A sample of 229 respondents was selected for the study through Multi-stage Sampling Technique. A validated and tested questionnaire with a correlation coefficient of 0.75 was used for data collection. Inferential statistics of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation were used to test the formulated hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level. The result of the findings shows that;*

- (i) There was a significant relationship between athletes' involvement in the management of sports violence and sports development ( $n = 220$ ,  $df 218$ ,  $p = 0.001 < 0.05$  sig level).*
- (ii) There was a significant relationship between sports venue security as a management of sports violence and sports development ( $n = 220$ ,  $df 218$ ,  $p = 0.003 < 0.05$  sig level).*
- (iii) There was a significant relationship between clear rules as a management of sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools, Delta State. ( $n = 220$ ,  $df 218$ ,  $p = 0.004 < 0.05$  sig level).*

*Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that; (i) involving athletes in the management of sports violence reduces sports violence and improve sports development in public secondary in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State, (ii) sports venue security as a management of sports violence lessens the severity of sports violence and increase sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State, (iii) clear rules as a management of sports violence reduce the occurrence and boost sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State. It was recommended among others that, school administrators and sports personnel's in public secondary schools should provide opportunities for athletes to be involved in the management of sports violence by inviting them to stakeholders meetings.*

**Keywords:** Development, Violence, Athletes, Venue, Security.

### Introduction

The contributions of sports to human development cannot be undermined. Sports bring about physical, mental, social, emotional, and skill

development in the life of the participants.

Sports have also been identified as unifying agents and tools for national development. Sports bring people of all ages, social classes, tribes, gender, and

religion, among others to a specific location and time to participate in or watch sporting events. According to Uwayo (2021), sports have the ability to create social bonds as well as increase productivity among people living in a community. Secondary school sports programs aim to improve leadership skills, promote positive relationship among students without roadblocks, and teamwork to achieve a set goal. Skogvang (2023) defined sports as competitive physical activities that require skills and intellectual capacity done by individuals or between teams in order to significantly contribute to their physical, intellectual, social, emotional and financial well-being. Sports have the objective of winning a prize.

Olaoye (2021) stated that, any human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and physical skills, which by its nature and organization is competitive and is generally acceptable, are referred to as sports. The steady growth, attainment, and progression of sport from a lower-level strata to a higher level or strata are referred to as sport development. This process calls for factors such as sport policy, sport personnel, sport funding, sport program, sport facilities, and sponsorship. The extent to which these conditions are met will undoubtedly have an impact on how

effectively any sport development works (Aina, 2021). The Federal Republic of Nigeria Sports Development Policy (2009) defined school sports development as a process of continuous improvement of the school sports structure, institution and programmes in order to create a societal condition conducive to physical fitness for all and for effective functioning and self-actualization of one pupils or students. The main objectives of secondary school sports programs may not be achieved when school sports competitions result to sports violence.

Sports violence is a serious issue that affects not only professional athletes, but also secondary school students who participate in sports activities as it could create a hostile and unsafe environment for other students, teachers, coaches, and spectators. Sports violence can occur on and off the field, in both professional and amateur settings, and in various forms. Nwaogu (2020) described Sports violence as negative behaviours displayed by athletes, officials, spectators, and fans that induce damages which happen out of the game's rules and have nothing to do with the sport's competitive objectives. Violence in sports is common in competitive sports notably hockey, football, rugby, wrestling, basketball, volleyball and boxing. According to Ibraheem and Owoade, (2022) violence at

secondary school sporting events could take the form of harm, fights, and misunderstanding among athletes and sports officials. It exposes participants to the risk of accident, injury, lasting disability, loss of lives and properties and damage the level of competitiveness also frightens the administrators and sports officials to the point that they are not impartial, strict, and cordial.

There are different factors that can contribute to sports violence, such as personal characteristics of the athletes or fans, situational factors such as competition, rivalry, or provocation, social factors such as peer pressure, group identity, or cultural norms, and structural factors such as media coverage, rewards, or sanctions (Nwaogu 2020). The use of mercenaries often brings about sports violence during public secondary schools sports competitions. Oseh (2019) cited a similar case of this nature in the year 2015 when the coach of Community Secondary School, Abodo hired a player to play for them for constituency inter-secondary schools competition semi-finals. The hired player was not residing in the village and the whole arrangement was made through phone. The person in question has never trained with school team for once. During the match the mercenary was playing and was identified which led to protest at the sports venue. Management of sports

violence is a topic that has gained attention in recent years, as incidents of violence by athletes and fans have raised concerns about the safety and ethics of sports.

Management is a term that refers to the process of planning, organizing, leading and controlling the resources and activities of an organization to achieve its goals (Research Gate, 2016). Management involves setting objectives, allocating tasks, motivating and communicating with employees, monitoring and evaluating performance, and making decisions. Management of sports violence is an act of putting in place measures to prevent violence before it takes place also controls it when it finally takes place. Ogbe (2016) outlined it as a procedure of implementing systems to antagonize the damaging effects of an issue or activity that could harm the well-being or repute of an athlete, officials, or sports directors. Obilor and Miwari (2021) opined that, successful sports managers, administrators, games masters/mistresses are those who anticipate and are fully prepared that violence may erupt during sporting activities instead of being caught unaware or unprepared. Some of the ways that can be used to address and manage sports violence are to involve the athletes in sports management, provision of adequate security and establishment of clear rules to promote positive values and life skills

through sports programmes, especially for young people who are at risk of engaging in violent extremism.

Athletes have a crucial role to play in sports violence management before, during, and after the sporting events because they are the primary actors and stakeholders in sport. One of the ways to manage sports violence is to involve athletes as active agents rather than as passive victims or offenders. According to McSweeney, Webb, and Devers, (2022) this can be accomplished by giving athletes the freedom to express their worries, viewpoints, and personal experiences about violence and abuse in sport, as well as by including them in the creation and implementation of laws and programs that seek to prevent and lessen such behavior. Baker, (2021) stated that many national and international sport federations have athlete representatives or committees that provide input and feedback to their governing bodies. Athletes can also form or join associations or unions that advocate for their rights and interests, such as fair play, anti-doping, health and safety, welfare, education, and career transition. Also, athletes could be involved in sports management in a bid to prevent and manage sports violence is through their contribution to the development and delivery of sport programs and services.

Given the wide-ranging reflection of sports events in the mass media, the security available in these events can be seen as an expression of security at the community level. Security according to Parent, (2018) is defined as a set of actions taken by event stakeholders to uphold law and order, deter and prosecute criminal activity, and foster a sense of safety. Yusuf, Akinwusi, and Morakinyo, (2020) defined security as state of being free from danger, leading to loss of life or damage to property. One of the most important areas in sports is security, which means organizing events and sports competitions away from any danger and threat. Sports security management investigates the nature and scope of sports security and the issues of sports events such as terrorism (the motivation for terrorist activities, the methods of terrorist activity, and the effect of terrorist acts), natural disasters and issues of disturbances and disorder in sports (Ekerete, 2019). Praditsathaporn, Kaviya and Yupapin (2018) opined that in sports events, it is necessary to take steps to ensure the security of stadiums and sports stadiums against potential violence because the occurrence of a violence situation in a sports arena, while having a negative impact on the sporting event, is effective on reducing the presence of spectators in competitions and games in a country.

To prevent sports violence in schools, it is essential to establish clear rules that define acceptable and unacceptable behaviors, and that are enforced consistently and fairly. Establishment of clear rules is a key aspect of promoting fair play and ethical behavior in sports. Rules are designed to regulate the conduct of athletes, officials, and spectators during sports events, and to deter or punish any violations that may compromise the integrity and spirit of sports (Oyebanji, 2018). According to Oyebanji, (2018) rules should be based on the principles of respect, fairness, responsibility and non-violence, and should be communicated to all stakeholders, including students, teachers, coaches, parents and administrators. Rules and penalties should also be aligned with national and international standards and regulations on sports ethics and integrity. Abrams, Bartlett, and Prewitt-White (2015) recommended the use of foster a culture of respect and tolerance among athletes, coaches, parents and administrators. That sport stakeholders must make systemic interventions at all levels of sport (preferably beginning with younger athletes) to limit violence in sport and set boundaries for behavior. They also argue that athletes should not be treated as if they are exempt from moral expectations because of their physical skills.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Sports today have gained more popularity and grown beyond the level of entertainment and deriving pleasure. Sports are more than deriving pleasure, physical fitness development and entertainment such as high monetary prizes for winners, fame and heavy allowances and so on. Despite the potential benefits of sports for physical fitness, mental, health, economic, social and skill development, violence remains a significant challenge in many Nigerian secondary schools' sports programs. It was observed that, many public secondary school sports programs in Delta State have been disrupted by violence which could be as a result of unhealthy rivalry between schools, partiality on the part of officials, win-at all cost syndrome, use of machineries (professional athletes), amongst other. Several studies have been conducted on the issue of sports violence in different contexts and settings, Ibraheem and Owoade (2022) carried out a study on strategic approach of managing violence during recreational sports events in Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria. Obilor and Miwari (2021) carried out a study on assessing the consequences of violence in Nigerian public secondary schools. After consulting several literature, it was revealed that no

study has been carried out on the subject sports violence management and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta state. Therefore, it is this identified gap in research studies that instigated the researcher to carry out this present study.

### Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested in this study:

- (i) There is no significant relationship between athletes' involvement in the management sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.
- (ii) There is no significant relationship between sports venue security as a management of sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.
- (iii) There is no significant relationship between clear rules as a management of sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

### Methodology

Descriptive research design of survey type was adopted for this study. The population of this study consisted of

all 152 Principals, 189 Vice-Principals, and 70 Physical Education Teachers in Public Secondary Schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State, totaling 411 from 146 Public Secondary Schools. Source: (Post Primary Education Board Asaba, Planning, Research and Statistic Department, Oct, 2022). 229 respondents were selected through a multistage sampling technique. Simple random sampling technique was used to select five Local Government Areas out of nine. Purposive sampling technique was used to select all the 95 Principals, 101 Vice Principal and 33 PHE teachers in the schools under the selected five Local Government Areas this covered. The instrument for this study was a researcher structured questionnaire titled Sports Violence Management in Pubic Secondary Schools (SVMPPSS). The questionnaire is of three sections A, B and C. Section A focused on personal and demographic data of the respondents such as gender, educational qualification, job experience, and marital status while section B gathered information on management strategies of sports violence and C gathered information on sports development in public secondary schools, Delta state. The questionnaire contained 15 items, that is, 5 items per variable; the items were based on a modified four-point Likert scale of Strongly Agreed (4), Agreed (3), Disagree

(2) and Strongly Disagree (1). The instrument was subjected to both face and content validity by three experts from Administration and Management of Human Kinetics Education and Sports in the Department of Human Kinetics Education at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. After which their observations, advice, and comments were used to produce the final draft of the questionnaire which was administered to the respondents. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained with the split-half method where 20 copies of the questionnaire were administered to a randomly selected group of respondents (public secondary schools administrators and sports personnel) in Delta South Senatorial District different from the target area at once by splitting the 20 respondents into two. The results of the two tests were

correlated by using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Statistics (PPMC) at 0.05 alpha level and a reliability coefficient of 0.75 was obtained which makes the instrument useable for the research. Inferential statistics of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to test the formulated hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0.

## Results

### Hypotheses Testing

**Null Hypothesis One:** There is no significant relationship between athletes' involvement in the management sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

**Table 1: Correlation Analysis of relationship between athletes' involvement in the management sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State**

Variables	N	df	r-value	p-value	Decision
Athletes involvement	220	218	0.250	0.001	Ho Rejected
Sports development					

$p < 0.05$  alpha level

Researchers Fieldwork (2023)

Table one reveals that the calculated ( $r = 0.250$ ) at 0.05 alpha level and at 218 degree of freedom ( $p = 0.001$ ) < sig level (0.05). Hence the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that athletes'

involvement in the management of sports violence promotes sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.



**Null Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant relationship between sports venue security as a management of sports

violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

**Table 2: Correlation Analysis of relationship between sports venue security as a management of sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State**

Variables	N	Df	r-value	p-value	Decision
Sports venue security Sports development	220	218	0.544	0.003	H <sub>0</sub> Rejected

$p < 0.05$  alpha level

Researchers Fieldwork (2023)

Table 2 reveals that the calculated ( $r = 0.544$ ) at 0.05 alpha level and at 218 degree of freedom ( $p = 0.003$ ) < sig level (0.05). Hence the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicates that sports venue security as a management of sports violence helps to boost sports development

in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

**Null Hypothesis Three:** There is no significant relationship between clear rules as a management of sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

**Table 3: Correlation Analysis of relationship between clear rules as a management of sports violence and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State**

Variables	N	df	r-value	p-value	Decision
Clear rules Sports development	220	218	0.344	0.004	Ho Rejected

$p < 0.05$  alpha level

Researchers Fieldwork (2023)

Table three reveals that the calculated ( $r = 0.344$ ) at 0.05 alpha level and at 218 degree of freedom ( $p = 0.004$ ) < sig level (0.05). Hence the null hypothesis was rejected. This shows that clear rules as a management of sports violence reduces the occurrence of sports violence and increase sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

### Discussion of the Findings

The discussion of findings of this study was based on the relationship between athletes' involvement, sports venue security and clear rules as sports violence management and sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.



The result on table one revealed that athletes' involvement in the management of sports violence improves sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State. These offers to the fact that, the involvement of athletes in developing and implementing policies would prevent and address sports violence in public secondary schools in Delta State. Also, athletes have a positive influence on their peers and can reduce the occurrence of sports violence in their schools. These findings agrees with the earlier finding of McSweeney, et al (2022) titled 'the right touch of pitch assertiveness: Examining entrepreneurs' gender and project category fit in crowd funding'' the study recommended that athletes can take part in advocacy efforts, instructional seminars, peer mentorship programs, and awareness-raising projects that encourage positive values, respect, fair play, and non-violence in sports, for instance. By exhibiting moral and responsible behavior both on and off the field, athletes can also serve as role models for the society at large and for other athletes'.

The findings also corroborates with the study of Baker (2021) titled 'pathways in Paralympic sport: An in-depth analysis of athletes' developmental trajectories and training histories'' the study recommended that athletes can form or

join associations or unions that advocate for their rights and interests, such as fair play, anti-doping, health and safety, welfare, education, and career transition. Also, athletes could be involved in sports management in a bid to prevent and manage sports violence is through their contribution to the development and delivery of sport programs and services.

The result on table two showed that sports venue security as a management of sports violence aids in furthering sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State. It therefore indicates that regular assessment of the security risks helps to manage sports violence in public secondary schools. Also collaborating with local security agencies help to ensure the safety of sports venues and sports events.

These findings supports the study of Praditsathaporn, et al, (2018) titled 'sport safety improvement using security camera without audience privacy violation'' which recommended that it is necessary to take steps to ensure the security of sports venues and the venue against potential violence because the occurrence of a violence situation in a sports arena, while having a negative impact on the sporting event, is effective on reducing the presence of spectators in competitions and games in public secondary schools.

It is also in line with the study of Yusuf, et al, (2020) titled ‘examining the level of stadium security and safety during Nigeria Professional Football League matches’ the study recommended that security agents should be employed as stewards in sports events having gone through proper training. A steward is an individual who is trained to be responsible for the safety and care of spectators and other stadium users during a competition.

The result on table three revealed that clear rules as a management of sports violence improves sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

It therefore justified the fact that rules for sports violence is necessary to prevent and reduce such incidents in school sports. In addition, communicating rules for sports violence before and during sporting event as well help to manage sports violence.

These findings supports the study of Oyebanji, (2018) titled ‘‘doping cases Among Nigerian athletes: an analysis from 2004-2016’’ the study revealed that the establishment of clear rules is a key aspect of promoting fair play and ethical behavior in sports. It further revealed that rules are designed to regulate the conduct of athletes, officials, and spectators during sports events, and to deter or punish any

violations that may compromise the integrity and spirit of sports.

The study recommended that rules should be based on the principles of respect, fairness, responsibility and non-violence, and should be communicated to all stakeholders, including students, teachers, coaches, parents and administrators. Rules should also be aligned with national and international standards and regulations on sports ethics and integrity. The findings also affirm the study of Abrams et al. (2015) titled ‘‘sport and violence. Sport Exercise and Performance Psychology Newsletter’’ the study revealed that the use of clear rules foster a culture of respect and tolerance among athletes, coaches, parents and administrators. It recommended that sport stakeholders must make systemic interventions at all levels of sport (preferably beginning with younger athletes) to limit violence in sport and set boundaries for behavior.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were drawn;

- (i) Involving athletes in the management of sports violence reduces sports violence and improve sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

- (ii) Sports venue security as a management of sports violence lessens the severity of sports violence and increase sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.
- (iii) Clear rules as a management of sports violence reduce the occurrence and boost sports development in public secondary schools in Delta North Senatorial District, Delta State.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- (i) School administrators and sports personnel's in public secondary schools should provide opportunities for athletes to be involved in the management of sports violence by inviting them to stakeholders meetings.
- (ii) The school administrators and sports personnel in public secondary schools should employ the services of security agents to maintain law and order during sports competitions.
- (iii) Public secondary schools organizers should establish clear rules to regulate the conduct of officials, athletes and spectators during sports

competitions and punish any violations that may compromise the integrity and spirit of sportsmanship.

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