

Preventive Strategies and Media Mechanisms for Ensuring Security in Sports Facilities

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Abstract:

Sports facilities are the foundation where various sports are practiced. The presence of these sports facilities, with the necessary development and quality of services provided, along with effective management, enhances and elevates the level of sports performance. Consequently, they shine in international arenas. To ensure the effectiveness and viability of these sports facilities and to achieve positive outcomes for sports, they must be surrounded by entities that ensure their security and safety from all forms of violence, especially amidst the growing trend of such incidents in stadiums in contributing to their security.

Keywords: *Sports facilities; preventive strategies; media mechanisms; facility security.*

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- INTRODUCTION

Interest in the sports field is increasing day by day. For a long time, sports were considered somewhat peripheral to economic concerns. Before the revival of the Olympic Games by Pierre de Coubertin in 1896, sports were synonymous with concepts such as health, recreation, leisure activities, and entertainment exercises. However, modern evidence has shown that alongside recreation and entertainment, sports are closely linked to consumer values, entering into the economic cycle as a product, a partner in production, or as added value. Additionally, sports serve as an experimental field for citizen formation in physical, mental, and social aspects. Therefore, sports should be treated as a real industry requiring investments and capital to provide necessary resources, with sports facilities being among the most crucial.¹

The idea of sports facilities can be traced back to the Greeks, who were the first to establish sports venues, exemplified by the ancient Olympic Games held in 776 BC. Due to the increasing number of participants from various Greek provinces, the idea of constructing large sports stadiums capable of accommodating the largest number of spectators emerged. In the 1920s, sports halls began to appear and gradually evolved into what they are today. Advanced and progressive architectural designs for sports facilities gradually spread to some European countries such as Finland, Germany, and Italy, then extended to other countries like England, America, and France.

The continuous development and advancement in the art and technology of sports architecture is evident in sports facility architecture.²

Sports facilities serve as the foundation for practicing various sports. With the presence of these facilities, along with the necessary development and quality of services provided, and effective management, the performance level of sports improves, shining in international arenas. Algeria is one of the countries that has paid great attention to the construction of sports facilities and structures with the aim of developing and disseminating practice across the national

territory for all age groups of practitioners. The sports facilities have received significant attention from the Algerian state through the established facilities and substantial financial support, along with support from private companies to keep pace with the sports professionalism system.³

To ensure these sports facilities are more effective, viable, and achieve a more positive impact on sports, they must be surrounded by entities that ensure their security and safety from all forms of violence. Sportsmanship has been prevalent in sports activities until blind fanaticism infected it. People rush to stadiums to support one team or another, and since the emergence of blind fanaticism, incidents of riots in stadiums have increased. Hence, security authorities must play their role in sports events.⁴

Securing sports facilities is one of the essential elements in ensuring the facility's continuity in fulfilling its assigned tasks and maintaining it, as it falls within the public national properties of the state... Securing sports facilities relies on many diverse principles and rules based on the type and characteristics of the facility itself, as well as the normal and abnormal circumstances prevailing in its operation, without neglecting the human aspect, which is considered a positive and effective actor within the fundamental components of these facilities regarding the actual application and adherence to the principle of safety and security.⁵

Furthermore, sports media, through its various channels, has a significant impact on public opinion by raising awareness of sports culture and increasing sports literacy. It helps the audience understand and respond to new developments in the field. Sports media serves as support for the development of sports awareness among fans and helps eradicate non-sporting behavior and violence in sports stadiums.⁶

1. Problem Statement and Research Questions:

Given the importance of sports in skill development and advancement, and recognizing that sports facilities and structures are essential bases for ensuring effective training and improving athletic

performance, the current civilizational development has made the presence of advanced sports facilities necessary to guarantee the success of sports activities and events. In Algeria, like other countries, great attention has been given to sports facilities. Algeria has strived to create sports facilities across the country and financially supported them to ensure proper management, which guarantees the best performance.

However, mere construction of sports facilities is not sufficient. There must be entities and plans to ensure their safety from any damage or sabotage, thus ensuring their security, especially amidst the growing phenomena of fanaticism and riots in various sports events. Additionally, considering the significant role played by sports media in developing sports awareness and eliminating non-sporting behaviors, the researcher was curious to understand the preventive measures and media mechanisms necessary to ensure the security of sports facilities.

In this context, our study revolves around the following main research question:

- What are the preventive strategies and media mechanisms necessary to ensure the security of sports facilities?

This main question led to a set of sub-questions, as follows:

- What is meant by sports facilities?
- Who are the entities responsible for the safety of sports facilities?
- What are the preventive strategies necessary to ensure the security and safety of sports facilities?
- What are the media mechanisms that media outlets should follow to contribute to ensuring the security of sports facilities?

1.1 Study Objectives

This study aims to describe sports facilities and identify the preventive strategies necessary to ensure their safety. It also aims to understand the media mechanisms that media outlets should adopt to contribute to the security of sports facilities. Additionally, this study

seeks to identify the entities responsible for the safety of sports facilities.

1.2 Study Methodology:

Since our study focuses on "preventive strategies and media mechanisms for ensuring the security of sports facilities," which falls under descriptive studies that go beyond data collection to analysis and interpretation, the adopted methodology in the study is descriptive. This methodology is the most common and widely used in this type of study.

2. Study Terminology:

2.1 Preventive Strategies:

2.1.1 Linguistically:

It means protecting and safeguarding, prevention is what protects something.

2.1.2 Conceptually:

It is the freezing of the activity of the person who is harmful to society and neutralizing them with preventive or precautionary measures and measures, meaning trying to keep the righteous citizens righteous. Thus, society is responsible for socializing individuals according to its values, principles, and interests, protecting individuals and preventing them from any deviation. Consequently, individuals refrain from any inclination to attack public or private interests.⁷

2.1.3 Operationally:

In our study, preventive strategies refer to all measures, plans, precautions, and actions taken by responsible entities to protect sports facilities from any trespassing or sabotage they may face, as well as protecting players, referees, spectators, important personalities, or others from all forms of violence and riots they may encounter.

2.2 Mechanisms of Media:

2.2.1 Linguistically:

A feminine noun derived from "machine": mechanical movement, - mechanical engineering.

2.2.2 Conceptually:

It is a means of managing risks in order to ensure the achievement of work objectives or to ensure compliance with a specific process. Mechanism of control sometimes means taking a countermeasure or protective action, and it also means managing and utilizing a specific behavior.⁸

2.2.3 Operationally:

In our study, we refer to media mechanisms as all the policies, procedures, roles, tools, and methods used by media outlets to contribute to the security of sports facilities through the dissemination of news and information related to sports activities, with the aim of increasing public awareness of a sports culture that aligns with the recognized sports values in society and helps maintain the safety of sports facilities from any acts of sabotage.

2.3 Sports Facility:

2.3.1 Conceptually:

It is a public administrative institution whose tasks are limited to organizing and managing competitive or mass sports practices. Sports facilities include stadiums for football, halls dedicated to handball or volleyball, etc. The functions of administration, finance, maintenance, and repair are the fundamental functions of Algerian sports facilities.⁹

It is also defined as any building or property intended for physical and sports activities, including all fixed and movable structures, equipment, and sports supplies related to athletes or the public (changing rooms, stands, health structures, etc.).¹⁰

2.3.2 Operationally:

It is any institution prepared for sports activity and includes football fields, halls designated for other sports such as handball, race

tracks, etc. It is subject to an organizational structure responsible for managing sports activities, maintaining them, and striving to achieve their goals.

2.4 Security of Sports Facilities:

2.4.1 Conceptually:

Security is an objective that societies seek to achieve at all times and places and is a fundamental pillar of development in its comprehensive sense. Security is a set of educational, preventive, and punitive measures taken by the authorities to secure and establish security internally and externally, based on the principles laid down by Islam to ensure security.¹¹

The term security of facilities means preserving their safety, ensuring their continuity and progress in a safe environment, meaning achieving a stable work climate free from risks for those working in the facilities, and that the responsibility for the security and protection of the facility is limited to the security management. (International Research Training Center.)

2.4.2 Operationally:

By the term security in our study, we mean the necessary security measures to achieve the security of sports facilities.

3. Literature Review:

Among the studies related to the research topic and intersecting with its variables are the following:

- *A study by Mohsen Al-Zaharani titled "Preventive Measures to Achieve the Security of Stadiums: A Survey Study on King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh," submitted as a thesis for obtaining a Master's degree in Police Science (2005)¹²:*

The study primarily aimed to identify preventive measures to achieve the security of stadiums by relying on the descriptive analytical survey method to suit the nature of the study. It relied on a questionnaire as a data collection tool and was applied to a random

sample of special missions and duties forces, in addition to a comprehensive survey of administrators and security and safety personnel comprising (184) individuals. The study focused on King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and was field-applied during the second semester of the academic year (1424-1425 AH). The objective boundaries included identifying the viewpoints of the study sample regarding the necessary preventive measures before, during, and after the match to achieve the security of sports stadiums at King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh. The study sought to answer the following main question: What are the preventive measures to achieve the security of sports stadiums?

The study reached a set of results, the most important of which are as follows:

- The study showed that the most important security measures included: allocating stands for the fans of each team, installing barriers to prevent fans from entering the field, imposing deterrent penalties on rioters in the stands, and urging security authorities to deal well with the audience in the stadium stands.
- The study indicated that the security measures related to securing important personalities focused on: inspecting and searching the location of the important personality to ensure their security before and after the match, allocating gates for the entry and exit of important personalities and placing guards on them to ensure their safety, placing bulletproof barriers in the royal enclosure, issuing invitations to VIPs and specifying their seating location in the royal enclosure.
- ***Study by Issa Al-Hadi titled "Sports TV Programs and Their Impact on Promoting Sports Awareness: Content Analysis of Algerian Television Programs" (2008)¹³:***

The study aimed to identify the role of TV programs on Algerian television in developing sports awareness among viewers, as well as to understand the status of sports policy among media professionals and its position within the framework of the public policy of TV programs. The study relied on content analysis method to suit the

nature of the study and used a questionnaire as a data collection tool. It was applied to a purposive sample through deliberate selection of content represented in televised sports programs within Algerian television. The study sought to answer the following main question: To what extent do sports programs on Algerian television contribute to developing sports awareness among viewers? The study reached a set of results, the most important of which are as follows:

- Regarding the style and manner of delivering sports information to viewers, 10 out of 43 sports experts, including media professionals, professors, athletes, and those interested in TV programs, found it to be presented in an engaging and appealing manner. However, 33 disagreed, stating that it was not presented well or in an attractive style, while approximately 57 respondents somewhat agreed.
- In terms of analyzing content categories based on the orientation of TV presenters and producers of sports programs on Algerian television, there was a relative satisfaction regarding the qualification of presenters and producers of sports programs in terms of academic and practical qualifications, as reflected by the responses, to some extent. However, this satisfaction remains relative and not absolute due to the convergence of response rates.
- The results showed that Algerian television does not fulfill its required role in promoting sports awareness. Its programs do not align with the needs of the audience, as there is a significant gap between the inclinations of sports audiences and the objectives of programs, which tend to be similar in form, content, and objectives, focusing solely on entertainment rather than promoting sports, nurturing youth, and preserving it.

4. Conceptual Framework:

4.1 Components of Sports Facilities:

4.1.1 Olympic Complex (Stadium):

It is one of the most important sports facilities where international Olympic Games are organized for various sports (football, athletics, jumping, throwing).

4.1.2 Sports Field (Playing Field):

Comprising the natural or artificial turf and equipment specific to each sport.

4.1.3 Ancillary Facilities to the Sports Complex:

These facilities provide services to the public, players, supervisors, referees, VIP guests, and journalists. They include stands, changing rooms, referees' changing rooms (always separate from the public for privacy), press rooms, and VIP lounges with separate entrances from the public stands, always directly connected to the playing field.¹⁴

4.2 Types of Sports Facilities:

Sports facilities vary based on the areas dedicated to sporting activities. They can be classified into several types based on:

- **Objectives:** Competitive facilities, training facilities, recreational facilities, educational facilities, therapeutic facilities, etc.
- **General Form:** Outdoor (open-air) facilities, indoor (covered) facilities.
- **Sport (Game):** Team sports (football, basketball, volleyball, etc.), individual sports (track and field, tennis, etc.), aquatic sports (swimming, diving, etc.), rhythmic and acrobatic sports (gymnastics), children's sports (playgrounds).
- **Legality:** Facilities with legal fields (for official competitions), facilities with non-legal fields (for education, training, and recreation).
- **Ownership:** Government facilities (schools, universities, public squares), private facilities (companies, clubs), commercial

facilities (specialized sports centers: self-defense, fitness, bowling, etc.).

- **Type of Ground:** Depends on the type and nature of the sports activity (natural grass, artificial grass, asphalt, tiles, wood, ice, sand, synthetic turf, etc.).¹⁵

4.3 Characteristics of Sports Facilities:

For a facility to be considered sports-oriented, it must meet the following two criteria:

- **Open to the Public:** It should not be restricted to a specific group of people but should be open to everyone, allowing for common use by athletes, spectators, and others.
- **Intended for Physical and Sports Activities:** The primary and fundamental purpose of the facility should be the practice of physical and sports activities or recreational activities.

However, it does not preclude the possibility of conducting other activities, such as cultural events, social gatherings, or political rallies, on a subsidiary or occasional basis.¹⁶

4.4 Principles of Sports Facilities Planning:

There are several fundamental principles to consider when planning clubs, training centers, and sports villages for optimal utilization. Some of these principles include:

4.4.1 Site Selection and Accessibility:

This involves studying the type of sports facilities to be established, which affects the choice and size of the site. Considerations include:

- Anticipating future population growth and upcoming projects or expansions.
- Studying various transportation options to the site, which should ideally be close to the city or village with convenient transportation access.

- Ensuring all roads leading to the site are well-paved and adequately lit, both for access and egress from the stadium, ensuring the safety and comfort of players, referees, spectators, media personnel, and others

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4.4.2 Functional Homogeneity of Stadiums and Facilities:

- Changing rooms, toilets, and bathrooms should be located close to the playing areas.
- It is preferable for various types of open stadiums to be located close to each other to facilitate maintenance of their surfaces and management. This also applies to covered stadiums.
- Administrative buildings should be close to each other and easily accessible.¹⁷

4.4.3 Security and Safety Factors:

- A sufficient space should be left for accessing the stadium to prevent players from being endangered, either due to their rush during the game or when the audience enters the field due to excessive excitement.
- It is important to avoid any hard or encrypted edges that may cause harm. Also, doors leading to open or closed stadiums should be open outward.
- The distance between water taps, hoses, maintenance tools, and toilets should be taken into account.

4.4.4 Optimal Utilization:

The site's space should be divided into multiple fields, using the best materials for construction, especially in the flooring, to withstand constant pressure and ensure proper performance and safety for players.¹⁸

4.4.5 Allocation:

- Quiet areas for sports that require tranquility, such as shooting or gymnastics, should be designated away from noisy areas to ensure good results for the players.

- Specific areas should be allocated for adults separate from young children, as well as separate areas for males and females, along with toilets and changing rooms.
- Closed areas for electrical appliances and tools should be designated out of reach of both children and adults to prevent accidents.

4.4.6 Public Health Regulations:

- The number of toilets should be proportional to the number of facility users, considering health regulations for drinking water sources, covered sewage systems, daily cleanliness, and periodic maintenance.
- Attention should be paid to leveling the floors of stadiums to prevent injuries.
- Ventilation and lighting should be provided for all open and covered stadiums, as well as for toilets, bathrooms, changing rooms, and massage rooms.¹⁹

4.5 Entities Responsible for Sports Facility Safety:

Generally, the bodies responsible for regulating sports activities include:

4.5.1 International or National Olympic Committees:

Olympic Committees are present in countries around the globe, with hardly any nation lacking one. These committees are under the umbrella of an international committee based in Lausanne, Switzerland, known as the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC is an international non-governmental organization that does not seek profit, possessing a legal personality and not limited by a specific duration. It is recognized by the Swiss Federal Council as of September 17, 1981. In each country, the International Olympic Committee is represented by a National Olympic Committee whose mission is to develop and protect the Olympic movement within its

country, in accordance with the Olympic Charter which includes adherence to its principles.

4.5.2 Sports Federations and Sports Clubs:

- **Sports Federations:**

Since the International Olympic Committee is the highest international sports body in the world, this means that there are lower-ranking international sports bodies. These bodies are represented by international sports federations, each specializing in the organization and development of a specific sport. For example, there is the International Football Federation (FIFA), the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), and so on. Each of these federations has national sports federations in every country, responsible for the promotion and regulation of the respective sport. For instance, the Algerian Football Association, which is a member of the Algerian National Olympic Committee, is affiliated with FIFA.²⁰

- **Sports Clubs:**

Sports clubs are defined as recreational institutions aimed at positively contributing to the sports and social development of community members according to their needs and desires. They are also recognized as educational, sports, cultural, and social institutions sponsored by the General Presidency for Youth Welfare, aiming to prepare morally upright citizens through suitable activities and programs aligned with the state's general objectives.²¹

The scientific security vision in stadiums lies in the participation of clubs, supporters, and associations in maintaining stadium security and ensuring the smooth running of sporting events, adhering to regulations, and respecting the rules of the game. In sports literature, clubs are considered educational sports institutions that contribute to enriching social relationships, imparting sports principles, and supporting communication and interaction among club members, supporters, and fans.

Therefore, club presidents bear great responsibility for ensuring that clubs play the required role in preventing and reducing the phenomenon of sports violence. They must:

- Emphasize the correct principles of sportsmanship in the minds of players and all club members.
- Serve as role models, demonstrating ethical and social values in their actions, and adhere to the principles of sportsmanship in all circumstances.
- Possess a level of knowledge and expertise translated into a program for monitoring all sports activities within the club, complying with these rules, imposing penalties on violators, and avoiding sensationalism and attacks on rival teams, clubs, referees, and officials at the local and international levels.²²

4.6 Preventive Strategies for Ensuring the Safety of Sports Facilities:

4.6.1 Considerations when Developing a Sports Facility Security Plan:

Location of Sporting Events: Choosing the location for sporting events is crucial for those responsible for security and ensuring the safety of participants, including players, administrators, referees, and spectators. If the security authorities deem the chosen location unsuitable for various reasons such as inadequate capacity, insufficient emergency exits, or lack of sufficient parking spaces for the audience, the event may be canceled.

4.6.2 Timing of Sporting Events:

Precisely scheduling sporting events is necessary for various reasons, such as avoiding conflicts with other events or activities, political or economic events, and ensuring that law enforcement personnel can be adequately allocated to provide required security for the sporting events.

4.6.3 International and Regional Conditions:

It is essential to consider how the domestic audience is affected by international and regional conditions, their emotional response, and

their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the stance adopted by the host country towards these circumstances.

4.6.4 Important Personalities:

Ensuring the safety of these personalities requires knowing all the details about their arrival schedule, their designated location during matches, conducting prior inspections of their area, and assigning necessary security guards until the end of the match.

4.6.5 Emotional and Psychological State of the Audience:

Based on the emotional and psychological state of the audience, the police forces increase their readiness level, presence at the facility and its access roads, surveillance activities, and assign specific individuals for monitoring and investigation purposes.

4.7 Preventive Measures Adopted by Security Authorities:

In the present day, successful action is not solely reliant on the use of force and confrontation but rather on proactive measures. This involves implementing preventive measures that ensure caution and vigilance to secure sports facilities effectively, offering the highest levels of security prevention. This minimizes the reasons that could threaten the security of sports facilities and individuals. The preventive measures adopted by security agencies at sports facilities include:

4.7.1 Before the Match:

Security agencies undertake several measures before the start of a sports competition, such as scanning the stadium through thorough inspections by specialized services to ensure the absence of solid materials, stones, iron bars, and other tools that could be used in acts of violence and assault.

4.7.2 During the Match:

- Preventing gatherings and crowds in front of the changing rooms and along the sides and corridors of the field.

- Protecting players, referees, match officials, and media personnel.
- It is essential to open the stadium gates about fifteen minutes before the end of the match to facilitate the exit of supporters.

4.7.3 After the Match:

- Taking responsibility for the protection, escort, and security of the visiting team and referees, and when necessary, the visiting team's supporters from the stadium to a safe distance.
- In addition to these preventive measures, security services place other security barriers at the paths and streets the audience will use to prevent public order disturbances and facilitate traffic monitoring and redirection if necessary.
- If this results in acts of violence, intervention should be strict and effective according to a pre-planned security strategy within the limits allowed by law.²³

4.8 Security Measures for Sporting Events within Sports Facilities in Algeria:

4.8.1 Measures Related to the Sports Facility:

The approval of sports infrastructure facilities, according to Article 02 of the Executive Decree 09-184, refers to the process that ensures compliance with special arrangements for design, construction, technical standards, security measures, and emergency interventions before opening these facilities to the public. Every sports facility intended for hosting events and competitions must obtain an approval decision issued by the Minister in charge of sports or the governor after consulting the national or provincial committee for the approval of sports facilities. The issuance of this decision requires:

- The sports facility's compliance with the technical construction standards and the security of exits and entrances.
- Adherence to necessary security standards due to the sports facility's design and intended use, the sports discipline(s) practiced, and environmental impact studies when necessary.²⁴

4.8.2 Special Committees:

To ensure the smooth running of sports events and competitions, special committees have been established:

a. Coordination Committee:

According to Article 08 of the joint ministerial decree on the prevention of accidents and maintaining security during sports events, a coordination committee for sports events is established by the governor, which must meet three days before the match or the day after it takes place²⁵. The committee is responsible for preparing, monitoring, and evaluating sports events and competitions, including²⁶:

- Taking all necessary measures before each match to ensure the event or competition runs smoothly.
- Evaluating each meeting after the match has taken place.

b. Supporters' Committee:

Article 21 of Law 13-05 related to physical activities and sports and their development stipulates that clubs and sports associations organizing sports events must establish a supporters' committee specifically tasked with:

- Participating in identifying and implementing measures to prevent and combat violence in sports facilities, strictly respecting applicable laws and regulations.
- Promoting sportsmanship and spreading sports ethics among its members and preserving them.²⁷

c. National Executive Committee for Violence Prevention in Sports Facilities:

According to Executive Decree 14-352, this committee is placed under the supervision of the Minister responsible for sports. Its tasks, outlined in Article 03 of Executive Decree 14-352, include:

- Study all measures aimed at preventing and combating violence in sports facilities, proposing them, ensuring their implementation, and facilitating sectoral consultation in this area.
- Propose elements contributing to the definition of a national strategy for preventing and combating violence in sports facilities.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national strategy for preventing violence in sports facilities and its application by the provincial committees dedicated to this cause.
- Follow up on the activity programs provided by all sectors and the activities of provincial committees in the field of preventing and combating violence in sports facilities.
- Contribute through communication with relevant sectors and agencies to identify measures, activities, and conditions that contribute to the smooth conduct of sports events and competitions.
- Coordinate all efforts to prevent and combat violence in sports facilities in collaboration with relevant sectors and provincial committees.
- Monitor the establishment of these committees at the provincial level.
- Propose the approval of a model internal regulation for provincial committees for the prevention of violence in sports facilities to the minister in charge of sports.
- Conduct evaluation visits to assess all measures taken to organize, secure, and conduct sports events and competitions.
- Propose any measures that can organize all sports events and competitions that may incite acts of violence in sports facilities, frame them, or, if necessary, stop them to the minister in charge of sports.
- Prepare and ensure the wide distribution of the National Committee's information bulletin.

- Prepare an annual report of its activities.

d. Provincial Committees for Violence Prevention in Sports Facilities:

According to Article 12 and subsequent articles of Executive Decree 14-352, the Violence Prevention Committee in Sports Facilities is established at the provincial level under the supervision of the Governor. The committee is tasked with specific responsibilities outlined in Article 03 of Executive Decree 14-352, including:

- Implement activities stemming from the National Committee's activity program.
- Study, analyze, and follow up on measures for preventing and combating violence in sports facilities.
- Contribute, in coordination with relevant sectors and agencies, to identifying measures, actions, and conditions that facilitate the smooth conduct of sports events and competitions.
- Evaluate sports events after the competitions and inform the National Committee accordingly.
- Prepare statistics related to their activity field and ensure their updates.
- Submit a report on their activities to the National Committee monthly and as the situation requires.
- Propose all measures that can organize all sports events and competitions that may incite acts of violence in sports facilities, frame them, and secure them. (Executive Decree 14-352 defining the powers, composition, organization, and functioning of the National Executive Committee and Provincial Committees for the Prevention of Violence in Sports Facilities and its Combat, 2014)

5. State of Sports Facilities and Their Development in Algeria:

5.1 State Policy Regarding the Establishment of Sports Facilities:

Before independence, sports in Algeria reflected colonial policy and ideology. The management of sports organizations and structures

was exclusively controlled by Europeans. The colonial policy regarding the establishment of sports facilities focused on urban areas with a significant European population, aiming to satisfy the needs and desires of the colonizers and thereby highlight the economic, social, and cultural disparities between the locals and the French colonists.

After independence, the Algerian state inherited a legacy of sports structures, including 36 stadiums, 214 different sports facilities, and 6 swimming pools. This necessitated rapid solutions to various problems related to these sports facilities, including management, coaching, financing, utilization, and maintenance.

Therefore, the adoption of a strategy for sports development in Algeria involved (Article 21 of Law 13-05 concerning physical and sp, 2015):

- Assessing and rehabilitating the existing heritage.
- Strengthening the network of sports facilities at schools.
- Establishing sports training institutes.
- Developing sports practice and investing in the sports field.
- Constructing major basic sports facilities with international standards to organize major sports events and improve the technical level of sports practice.²⁸

Since independence, the Algerian state has recognized the importance of sports facilities in developing sports practice among wide segments of society. Given the significant role of these institutions in social development, the state has ensured that residential areas, educational institutions, economic institutions, and administrations include a sports facility. Sports facilities and structures in Algeria are among the important economic institutions on which considerable funds are spent to modernize and keep up with the transformations and challenges required by today's sports world.

The state has also worked on creating facilities that allow a broad segment of society to engage in sports practice through

neighborhood fields, contributing to the discovery of talents that can enhance the performance level of national clubs.²⁹

Three programs were launched during 2000-2004, allocating significant amounts to support the national park of sports facilities, including the completion of 785 new projects and the rehabilitation of 786 facilities, leading to the expansion of the facilities park to one facility for every 11,591 people. This period also saw the renovation of the 5th July complex facilities, the construction of 4 multi-sport complexes, the upgrade of projects and their standards, and maintenance of the available basic facilities.³⁰

In 2022, the sports facilities park saw the completion of many important facilities as part of the state's major projects, with several already received and more expected within the year. The new sports complex in Oran, located in the municipality of Ain El Turck over an area of 105 hectares, represents a significant gain with facilities including a football stadium with a capacity of 40,000 seats, a multi-sport hall (60,000 seats), an athletics track (4,000 seats), and a water center with two Olympic pools, among other world-class facilities.

Oran was also enhanced by the Mediterranean village, covering 39 hectares with a capacity of 4,266 beds. Similar to Oran, the Baraki stadium was recently delivered, and the Douera and Tizi Ouzou stadiums, equipped with all necessary facilities and conditions for hosting major football events, will soon be delivered, adding to Algeria's sports facilities park.³¹

However, sports facilities across the national territory lack sports equipment and gear, due to the national market's total unavailability of such expertise. This shortage can be attributed to two main factors: the absence of a national industry for sports equipment and gear and the low level of imports by institutions monopolizing import and marketing. This deficit can also be explained by the decline in state resources.³²

5.2 Media Mechanisms that Must Be Followed to Ensure the Security of Sports Facilities:

Media is considered the fourth estate due to its powerful influence on public opinion, even controlling and directing it according to the authorities' directions. It is an indispensable force, and the importance of the role it plays has increased with the diversity of auditory and visual media platforms. Similarly, sports media, with its various tools, has a significant impact on sports fans by raising their level of sports culture, developing their sports awareness, and thereby eliminating behaviors that may incite violence.

Despite the importance of sports media in spreading awareness among fans and players, it often becomes a primary reason for psychological mobilization to engage in violence in the sports field, whether before or after the match. This is through its bias towards certain sports teams over others or through unfair criticism by focusing on the importance and danger of some players over others.³³

Sports media can be considered one of the most significant factors leading to aggression and violence in and out of sports stadiums. Its incitement to win at all costs, far removed from the ethics of sportsmanship and the rush to achieve journalistic scoops, along with the absence of a cultured and rational dialogue language and non-adherence to professional standards such as disrespecting others' orientations, are all factors that turn the media profession into a deadly weapon. It operates on directing and charging supporters and inflaming their emotions to commit acts of violence and vandalism that harm the safety and security of individuals and properties.³⁴

Given the above, it was necessary to emphasize the importance of activating the positive role of media through a set of mechanisms aimed at reducing or completely eliminating the phenomenon of violence in sports facilities, striving to preserve their safety.

These are summarized in the following points:

- Presenting a deep sports culture through programs and seminars to explain the concept of sports and its cultural and educational role, and explaining the laws of various sports.
- Focusing on the real ideals and values of sports, and instilling these concepts, ideals, and values in the audience's conscience as a first step to achieving public sports awareness that makes them stay away from fanaticism and the misunderstanding of sports and its goals, thereby avoiding riots and violence, especially if this is accompanied by the elimination of other economic, political, and social causes that pressurize the fans and push them towards riots and violence.³⁵
- Discussing facts, issues, and problems in sports.
- Providing recreation for the fans and participating in lightening the burden of life.
- Avoiding the continuous promotion of violence culture to prevent psychological and emotional arousal.
- Focusing on positive behaviors for emulation.
- Involving stars in programs that denounce violence.
- Respecting professional secrets and avoiding defamation, baseless accusations, slander, and insult.³⁶
- Avoiding war language in describing the match, and not treating a match loss as a catastrophe.
- Reporting sports news without distortion or misrepresentation and stating facts without bias.
- Comprehensive news coverage of the phenomenon of violence in stadiums.
- Avoiding publishing statements that could harm any party involved in the match.³⁷
- Not focusing on referees and inciting fans against their decisions.
- Encouraging parents to educate and monitor what their children watch in various media, especially violent content.
- Focusing on properly training sports media personnel.

- Utilizing sports leadership (administrators, technicians, players, referees) in programs that aim to denounce violence.³⁸

- **CONCLUSION:**

From the foregoing, it is evident that the sports sector is one of the crucial sectors that has become a necessity to keep pace with the developments of the era, an inevitability. Sports facilities, being the fundamental base where sports of all kinds are practiced, must be surrounded by bodies that ensure their security and safety from all forms of violence, especially in light of the increasing phenomenon in stadiums. From this stand point, we mention some recommendations as follows:

- Enacting strict penalties for all those who incite violence and riots in sports facilities, and preventing individuals with a history of causing disturbances in stadiums from attending sports events.
- Emphasizing the prohibition of the audience from bringing anything that could be used to incite riots within stadiums, such as fireworks.
- Developing sports awareness among fans through sports clubs and specialized committees aiming to reduce the phenomenon of stadium violence.
- The necessity for the responsible authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of sports facilities.
- Those involved in the field of sports must realize the importance of the responsibility entrusted to them in organizing sports events in order to preserve the safety of all parties involved in the event as well as maintaining the safety of the facility.
- Developing positive attitudes and a sports culture free from all forms of fanaticism among sports fans through media messages aimed at calming spirits and educating the public about the noble principles of sportsmanship. The ability of the media to reduce behaviors that could compromise the security of sports facilities is

significant and surpasses its capacity to broadcast and spread messages that could contribute to enhancing sports fanaticism behaviors.

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