

# Power and Political Influence in Sports in Indonesia: A Literature Review

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the power and political influence in sports in Indonesia. In this study, the author used a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through literature review. The results of the study showed that power and political influence greatly affect the development of sports in Indonesia, from the development of infrastructure, organization of sporting events, to the recruitment of athletes and coaches. Political influence also affects the integrity of sports, such as doping cases and cheating in competitions. In addition, power and political influence can have a negative impact on athletes and coaches, such as political intervention in technical decisions and the appointment of incompetent people as sports administrators. However, there have been several efforts made by the government and society to reduce the negative impact of power and political influence in sports, such as the formation of independent institutions and increasing awareness of sports integrity. Therefore, the conclusion of this study is that it is important to pay attention to the role and political influence in the development of sports in Indonesia, as well as taking appropriate steps to maintain integrity and minimize the negative impact of power and political influence in sports.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sports in Indonesia is not merely a physical activity but also a reflection of its society's life. Besides serving as a means to sharpen physical and mental skills, sports provide a platform for individuals and communities to express their identity and national pride. The true function of sport, if seen from the assimilation of the effects obtained by it, is that it can develop socio-political space, race and ethnicity, gender, norms and ethics, as well as

communication/media elements. From the assimilation process that occurs, it can be seen that more or less has brought about changes in the form and function of sports according to the elements attached to them. As a cultural product, sport cannot avoid the various ideologies and patterns of thought that surround it [1]. This is confirmed by the opinion expressed by [2] the assimilation of sports with several developing social elements, including: socio-political space, race and ethnicity, gender, norms and ethics, as

well as communication/media elements. From the assimilation process that occurs, it can be seen that more or less has brought about changes in the form and function of sports according to the elements attached to them. As a cultural product, sport cannot avoid the various ideologies and patterns of thought that develop and surround it, such as; social class identity, gender issues, sports marketing/industry, and social politics.

On the other hand, political complexity infiltrates the world of sports, creating challenges that affect not only its competitive aspects but also the values cherished by society. The political influence in Indonesian sports cannot be overlooked. The government and sports organizations play crucial roles in determining the direction and policies that influence the development of sports in the country. From budget allocation to the selection of sports federation officials, political interference often sparks controversy and imbalance, which can undermine the integrity and fairness of sports competitions.

Moreover, issues such as corruption, nepotism, and abuse of power also come under scrutiny in the Indonesian sports arena. Cases like embezzlement of funds, match-fixing, and non-transparent selection of officials have raised awareness of the importance of good governance and accountability in sports management. Inequality and discrimination also pose serious concerns, especially in accessibility and support for sports among the less privileged or minority groups. Nevertheless, amidst this complexity, efforts are continuously made to clean up and restructure the Indonesian sports world. Through internal reforms and pressure from civil society, steps towards transparency, accountability, and justice are increasingly advocated. Initiatives to develop better governance and promote values such as integrity and inclusion are being strengthened, with the hope of building a stronger foundation for sustainable and dignified sports development in Indonesia.

This research aims to explore and analyze the role of power and political influence in the Indonesian sports world

through literature review. This research is essential to understand the dynamics and factors influencing decision-making in the Indonesian sports world and how they affect sports development in Indonesia. Through careful and detailed literature review, this research is expected to provide clearer insights into the complexity of issues related to power and political influence in sports in Indonesia. Thus, the findings of this research can make significant contributions to practitioners and decision-makers in the sports world to improve the sports system in Indonesia.

## 2. METHOD

The research method employed in this study is literature review. Literature review is a research technique used to gather, evaluate, and synthesize literature or written materials relevant to the research topic. The steps to be taken in this research are as follows:

1. Identification of research topic and objectives: This research aims to explore and analyze the role of power and political influence in the sports world in Indonesia through literature review.
2. Identification of data sources: The data sources to be used in this research are literature or written materials such as scholarly journals, books, reports, official documents, articles, and mass media relevant to the research topic.
3. Selection of data sources: Relevant data sources will be carefully and meticulously selected based on predetermined inclusion and exclusion criteria.
4. Data collection: Relevant data on the research topic will be collected from the selected and screened data sources. The data will be analyzed and synthesized to obtain conclusions relevant to the research objectives.
5. Data analysis: The collected data will be analyzed using content analysis techniques. This technique will be utilized to gain a deeper

understanding of the issues related to power and political influence in sports in Indonesia.

6. Data interpretation: The results of the data analysis will be interpreted to draw conclusions relevant to the research objectives. These conclusions will be used to develop recommendations or suggestions for practitioners and decision-makers in the Indonesian sports world.
7. Report writing: The research findings will be documented in a systematically and logically structured research report. The research report will include an introduction, literature review, research method, data analysis, results and discussion, as well as conclusions and recommendations.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Results of the Research

Power can be defined as the ability or right to influence the behavior or decisions of others, both directly and indirectly. In social and political contexts, power is often associated with control and influence over others or groups of people. In the context of state governance, power is the ability to compel citizens to comply with all the regulations and policies existing in a country [3].

Power can stem from various sources, such as social status, wealth, positions or roles, physical ability or intelligence, personal influence, and support from groups or institutions. Power can also be categorized into various types, such as formal and informal power, authoritarian and participatory power, political and economic power, as well as individual and group power.

In the context of sports, power can manifest in various forms, such as athlete power, power of sports administrators or officials, and power of sponsors or parties with economic interests in sports. Power in sports can influence various aspects, such as

decisions of sports organizations, sports development, fund allocation, and determination of policies and rules in sports. Through the significant power to regulate all forms of sports management, this can undoubtedly impact the improvement of athlete performance as well as the formation of self-image [4], [5]

However, power that is not balanced with clear responsibilities and authorities can lead to conflicts and abuses of power. Therefore, it is important to maintain a balance of power and uphold good governance in the world of sports to ensure the interests of sports and the community are met. Power can be influenced by various factors or variables. Some factors that affect power include:

1. Social status: Individuals with high social status tend to have more power compared to those with low social status. Additionally, socioeconomic status plays an important role in influencing social interactions. People with high social status are more likely to interact with others who also have high social status. Individuals holding the highest positions of power have greater opportunities. For example, a high-ranking government official has more power compared to an ordinary worker.
2. Wealth: Wealth can also influence power, as someone with significant wealth has more access and control over resources and facilities.
3. Position or Role: Someone holding an important position or role within an organization or institution has significant power to influence decisions and policy direction. This is because it goes back to the understanding of the position or role itself. A position entails a set of tasks that have similarities with others and requires the same level of knowledge, skills, and abilities in execution, even though they may occur in different locations [6], [7]
4. Physical ability or intelligence: Individuals with high physical ability

or intelligence can also wield significant power, as these abilities enable them to lead and influence others. This is relevant based on the opinion put forward by [8], intelligence is an ability used to solve real-life problems, along with the capacity to adapt to new challenges and successfully address them, which falls under an individual's intelligence. Someone with good intelligence skills can establish good relationships with many people because they possess effective communication skills, can thrive in group settings, and adopt a democratic approach in socializing with others [9]

5. **Personal Influence:** Individuals with significant personal influence within a particular group or community can also wield considerable power in influencing others.
6. **Support from a Group or Institution:** Individuals or groups that have support from a specific group or institution can also hold significant power because they have access to and control over the resources and support provided.

In addition to those factors, power can also be influenced by specific contexts or situations, such as crisis situations or emergencies, competition between groups or individuals, and changes in organizational or institutional governance.

Political influence in the context of sports can be defined as the interaction between politics and sports, where political power is used to influence and regulate various aspects of sports, such as sport development, regulation, financing, and decision-making. Political influence in sports can come from various entities, such as the government, political parties, public officials, and political organizations with interests in sports. Political influence in sports can also occur at various levels, ranging from the national level to the local level. Some

examples of political influence in sports include:

1. **Regulation:** The government can use its political power to regulate and tighten rules in sports, such as anti-doping regulations, health and safety regulations, and financial management regulations.
2. **Financing:** The government can influence the allocation of budgets and resources in sports, such as grant funding, sponsorship, and sports facilities.
3. **Decision-making:** The government or public officials can influence decision-making in sports organizations, such as the selection of administrators, policy determination, and sports event regulations.
4. **Performance enhancement:** The government can leverage sports to enhance national performance and image, such as through sports infrastructure development and sports program development.

However, political influence in sports can also generate controversy and negative impacts, such as excessive political intervention, abuse of power, and dependence on specific political interests. Therefore, it is important to uphold good governance and transparency in sports, as well as maintain independence and autonomy in decision-making.

### 3.2 Discussion

In Indonesia, the power and political influence in sports are significantly strong and intertwined. The Indonesian government holds significant authority in regulating sports, such as through the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Kemenpora), the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), and the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM). This attention is marked by the enactment of laws governing sports, namely Law Number 11 of 2022, through which a greater portion is allocated to improving the welfare of athletes in Indonesia. Furthermore, the mechanism

for organizing sports is also regulated in terms of the distribution of policy responsibilities to be carried out by the central and regional governments. This indicates that the government is committed to providing maximum service in improving both the health quality and the overall quality of society [10].

The Indonesian government also wields significant political influence in decision-making and regulation within sports, such as the establishment of anti-doping rules, financial regulations, as well as the development of sports programs and facilities. Furthermore, politics also impact decision-making within sports organizations, such as in the selection of officials, policy-making, and event regulation. Political influence can also be observed in the management of funds and financing of sports in Indonesia. However, political influence in Indonesian sports often sparks controversy and negative repercussions, such as excessive political intervention, abuse of power, and dependency on specific political interests. Therefore, it is crucial to uphold good governance and transparency in sports in Indonesia, as well as maintain independence and autonomy in decision-making. Consequently, it is hoped that sports in Indonesia can thrive optimally and deliver maximum benefits to society.

The power and political influence in sports in Indonesia can encompass:

- 1. Political Impact on Sports Development in Indonesia:** The Indonesian government holds authority to develop sports in the country. However, political influence can also affect sports development, such as budget allocation, sports infrastructure development, and program enhancement. The political impact on sports development can also influence the quality and performance of sports in Indonesia. The quality of sports in Indonesia can also use political instruments in order

to advance the world of sports in Indonesia [11]. The development of sports in Indonesia cannot be separated from political influence; the goals of engaging in sports vary. Based on the politicization of the Indonesian state according to Law Number 11 of 2022, sports are divided into three categories: community sports, performance sports, and educational sports, all with the same goal of improving the welfare of the people and enhancing the reputation of the Republic of Indonesia.

Achievement sports coaching is sports coaching carried out with the aim of achieving a sporting achievement." In this context, it can be interpreted as the development of sports branches aimed at facing competitions, competitions, starting from the lowest level up to the international level." Achievement sports are intended as an effort to improve the abilities and potential of athletes in order to increase the honor and dignity of the nation [12]. Meanwhile, educational sports have an important role as an instrument for human resource development, this is contained in the opinion expressed by [13] that the role of schools, as educational sports, is used as the foundation for national sports development in laying the foundation for cultivating sports skills through learning activities. physical with kindergarten stages as training, elementary nursery and middle/high school as training and college as peak achievement

- 2. Political Role in Sports Promotion:** The Indonesian government also plays a significant role in promoting sports and increasing public interest in sports. Political influence in sports promotion can affect the level of public participation in sports and can also influence the sports culture in Indonesia. Promotional activities are aimed at encouraging people to

engage in sports activities and promoting specific events to spread awareness of certain sports branches or their economic impacts [14], [15]. Forms of promotional activities used in sports marketing include: advertising; individual sales (personal selling) as well as; public relations [16] This is tied to the definition of promotion, which is an activity aimed at communicating useful information to influence society [17].

### 3. Regulation and Rules in Sports:

Political influence can also be observed in regulations and rules in Indonesian sports. Anti-doping regulations, health and safety regulations, and financial management rules in sports can be influenced by political power in Indonesia. Therefore, regulations and rules in sports must be well-established and transparent so that sports in Indonesia can develop effectively and benefit society. Regulations have an important role in regulating all forms of actions and actions carried out by individuals in carrying out sports activities, literally Regulations are an important role for individuals to be able to control their emotions well [18]. Regarding regulations, they should be transparent and impartial, and the process of making them should involve political influence that is collaborative, executed together, and beneficial in a harmonious manner [19].

Regulations and rules can influence a person's emotions in carrying out sports activities, proper emotional regulation is able to regulate feelings, physiological reactions, cognition related to emotions, and reactions related to emotions (Ramadhan et al., 2020). The concept of emotional regulation is broad and includes psychological awareness and unconsciousness,

behavior, and cognitive processes. In addition, emotional regulation adapts to emotional situations whose stimuli are related to the environment. Emotion regulation is the process of managing emotions felt by individuals when individuals are faced with stressful situations. Individuals who are able to regulate emotions well will show more positive emotional expressions, whereas if individuals are less able to regulate emotions then they tend to show negative emotional expressions [20]

### 4. Protection of Athletes from Political Influence:

Political influence in sports can affect the protection of athletes from political interventions and abuse of power. The protection of athletes from political influence must be ensured so that athletes can participate peacefully and achieve good performance in sports. As with other activities, athlete protection is contained in policies in the rules to protect disputes that arise among athletes, taken in the scope of football. Efforts to resolve work relationship disputes between professional football athletes and club management, if referring to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2004 concerning Settlement of Industrial Relations Disputes (hereinafter referred to as the Industrial Relations Dispute Settlement Law) then the problem of salary arrears will be resolved in the Industrial Relations Court [21]

In conclusion, the power and political influence in sports in Indonesia can have both positive and negative impacts on the development and performance of sports in the country. Therefore, it is important to implement good governance and transparency in sports in Indonesia, as well as to maintain independence and autonomy in decision-making to

ensure that sports can develop effectively and benefit society.

Here are some advantages and disadvantages related to the power and political influence in sports in Indonesia:

#### **Advantages:**

1. The government has the authority to develop and promote sports nationally, thus increasing public interest in sports and enhancing Indonesia's sports achievements at the international level.
2. Government involvement in sports can create opportunities for investment in sports infrastructure and strengthen the sports industry in Indonesia.
3. Regulations and rules in sports can be well-established and transparent to avoid rule violations and create a fair and healthy sports environment.
4. Athlete protection from political influence can be ensured to ensure that sports in Indonesia operate smoothly and maintain sports integrity.

#### **Disadvantages:**

1. Political power and influence can lead to abuse of power and political intervention in sports, thus disrupting the integrity and independence in sports.
2. Political involvement can affect budget allocation and development priorities in sports, hindering the development of sports in less developed areas.
3. Sometimes politics can trigger excessive conflict and rivalry in sports, sacrificing the spirit of sportsmanship that should promote cooperation and solidarity.
4. Political involvement in sports can raise suspicions and distrust

from the public regarding the integrity of sports.

In conclusion, the power and political influence in sports in Indonesia can have both positive and negative impacts. Therefore, it is necessary to have good and transparent management and governance in sports in Indonesia, as well as to maintain independence and autonomy in decision-making to ensure that sports can develop effectively and benefit society.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the literature review regarding the power and political influence in sports in Indonesia, it can be concluded that political involvement in sports has a significant impact on the development of sports in Indonesia. The power and political influence can open investment opportunities in the sports industry and increase public interest in sports, but it can also trigger political intervention and disrupt the integrity of sports.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Here are some research recommendations related to power and political influence in sports in Indonesia:

1. Case Study: Research can be conducted by conducting case studies on several major sports events in Indonesia, such as the Asian Games or Sea Games, and analyzing the impact of power and political influence in organizing these events.
2. Policy Analysis: Research can be conducted by analyzing government policies related to sports development in Indonesia and how these policies can affect power and political influence in sports.
3. Public Survey: Research can be conducted by conducting public surveys to understand the public's perception of power and political influence in sports in Indonesia, and the extent to which existing policies

and regulations are effective in maintaining the integrity of sports.

4. Comparative Analysis: Research can be conducted by conducting comparative analysis with other countries to compare the role and influence of politics in sports as well as the policies implemented to maintain the integrity of sports.
5. Athlete Experience Study: Research can be conducted by interviewing athletes and sports coaches to understand their experiences regarding political influence in sports, and how it affects their sports careers.

These research recommendations can provide deeper insights into the power and political influence in sports in Indonesia, as well as provide solutions and appropriate

policy recommendations to maintain the integrity of sports in Indonesia.

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