

THE PROBLEMATICS OF SPORTS LAW IN LATVIA: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW STATUTORY ACTS PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract. *The article shall be devoted to the problematics of Sports law in Latvia. Mainly authors shall be determining through the prism of civil and criminal law how does Sports law in Latvia looks like today, how it manifests itself and at what stage of development it allocates itself. The following chapters shall be observed: 1) Introduction: the origin of Sports Law in Latvia, 2) Sports Law through the prism of civil law; 3) Sports Law through the prism of criminal law; 4) Conclusions. The main problematics in question is whether there exists sports law in Latvia and what are the controversial issues in the national legislation regarding sports. The article is based on the analysis of legislature and relevant documents.*

Keywords: *Illegal actions in Sports, Sport in Latvia, Sports Law.*

Introduction: the origin of Sports Law in Latvia

Paragraph 11 of the Recommendation No. R (92) 13 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States of the European Sports Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 24 September 1992 states as follows:

“11. Acknowledging that public authorities should develop reciprocal cooperation with the sports movement as the essential basis of sport, in order to promote the values and benefits of sport, and that in many European States, governmental action in sport is taken in order to be complementary to and support the work of this movement (subsidiarity).”

The member states of the European Union were given a freedom of action regarding how to implement the stated above general principles of co-operation and complementarity.

Alongside such European countries as Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg (Charker, 1999) Latvia has a general law on sport - Sports Act (Latvian: Sporta likums). This law was passed by Parliament in October 2002, i.e., two years before officially entering the European Union, as a single document.

One would think that the existence of Sports Act indicates the presence of well thought-out sports legislation in Latvia, but authors suggest analysing the quality of this act and its relevance before asserting this fact.

Also a few words are to be said on the origins of Latvian sports, as the historical events that affected Latvia, greatly influenced the development of Latvian sports. Below authors shall list the major dates and events from the history of Latvian sports ascertained in the study provided by the Latvian Institute:

- before World War I, Riga was one of the main sports centres of the Russian Tsarist Empire, along with St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and Revel (Tallinn);
- on December 18, 1911 the Baltic Olympic Committee was founded with an aim to co-ordinate its activities with the Russian Olympic Committee in selecting athletes from the Baltic provinces for the Olympic Games;
- on March 6, 1921, after Latvia declared its independency in 1918, the Provisional Union of Latvia's Sports Organizations was established in Riga. Its purpose was to co-ordinate the activities of Latvia's various sports organizations and promote the establishment of a unified system for sporting activities;
- the Ambassador of France in Latvia, Count de Martel, supplied the Latvian Olympic Committee with information about the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924. The Latvian Olympic Committee was recognized by the International Olympic Committee in year 1923;
- between the two World Wars Latvian sportsmen took part in seven Olympic Games: four Summer and three Winter Games, and many international competitions, while students participated in several World University Games. Latvian athletes won one silver (in Los-Angeles, 1932) and two bronze Olympic medals (in Berlin, 1936);
- from June 1941 until May 1945 Latvia was occupied by Nazi German forces, which in turn were replaced in 1945 by the Soviet regime. Incorporated into the USSR as one of the fifteen Soviet Socialist Republics, Latvia's sports system was reorganized according to the Soviet centralized model;
- in the late 1980's Gorbachov's "Perestroika" (Encyclopædia Britannica online, n.d.) relaxed some of the restraints on the republics. The first attempts to change Soviet regulations in Latvian sports took place in 1988, when the Sports Conference of Latvia unanimously voted for the restoration of the Latvian Olympic Committee and adopted resolutions on the democratization of the sports system at all levels. The Latvian Olympic Academy was founded on March 21, 1989;

- on May 4, 1990 the newly elected Supreme Council of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, which included a majority of pro-independence deputies from the Popular Front of Latvia, adopted a declaration calling for the restoration of an independent Republic of Latvia. Moscow did not accept this declaration;
- the first meeting between the managers of the International Olympic Committee and the leaders of restored Olympic Committees of the three Baltic States took place in Lausanne in late autumn 1990. The Baltic representatives informed the International Olympic Committee about the restored Olympic Committees and their wish to participate in the next Olympic Games in Albertville in France. A negative answer was given by the International Olympic Committee on the grounds that these countries were still under the rule of the USSR;
- on August 21, 1991, as the USSR began to unravel, Latvia formally restored its legal independence;

After becoming an independent state Latvian sports trends and programs envisaged development in three directions:

1. Sports for All, including disabled and handicapped people,
2. Children/Youth Sports,
3. Elite/Top competition sports. (Latvian Institute, n.d.)

Up to this day these three directions are present in the Latvian sport policy and are being reflected in Sports Policy Guidelines for 2014-2020 (POLSIŠ, 2013), which is a policy planning document in the sports industry that determines the sports policy of the State for seven years.

The history of Latvian sports as well as the history of Latvian people was full of search of its true self and struggles for the independency, what of course has a reflection in Latvian legislative acts on sports and explains its possible imperfections.

Therefore, the aim of the paper is to determine through the prism of civil and criminal law how does Sports law in Latvia looks like today, how it manifests itself and at what stage of development it allocates itself.

Sports Law through the prism of civil law

In order to consider civil aspects of the sports law in Latvia two main types of the legislative acts are to be analysed, i.e., law and regulations of the Cabinet of Minister adopted on the basis of this law to support its functioning.

Sports Act framework

Latvian Sports Act was adopted by the parliament and proclaimed by Latvian president in year 2002 with a purpose pursuant to article 2: “to specify the general

and legal basis for sports organisation and development, mutual relationship of sports organisations, State and local government institutions and basic tasks in sports development, and the basis for the financing of sport, as well as the principles that shall be observed when taking part in the international sports movement.” It consists of 20 articles regulating only the general principles of functioning of the Latvian sports system and its subjects. Where subjects are deemed to be sport federations, sport teams, athletes, sport organizations, etc.

According to the article 1 (10) sport is defined as all types of individual or organized activities in order to maintain and improve physical and mental health, as well as to achieve success in sports competitions. For the comparison Federal Law “On Physical Culture and Sports in the Russian Federation” (Закон о физической культуре, 2007) of Latvian neighbour Russian Federation, divides sport into five types: sport, children and youth sport, mass sports, sport of high achievements and professional sport, and defines each of them separately. Also Code du Sport of French Republic at its Titre II: Sportifs (Code du sport, 2004) has two separate definitions of high-level sport and professional sport.

Under Article 3 of the Sports Act the following basic principles shall be observed in the field of sport:

1. the principle of equality, which provides that every person has a right to engage in sport;
2. the principle of fair play which determines that care shall be taken that the Olympic ideals and principles of ethics are observed, as well as dishonesty and the use of doping, physical and moral rudeness in sport is fought against in the educational, organisational and administrative work related to sport; and
3. the principle of safety which provides that sports events take place in a safe environment and are organised and conducted by qualified sports employees.

The realization of the principle of safety, mentioned above refers to the criminal aspects of Sports law.

Sports Act also regulates the following concepts:

- competence of state and municipal institutions
- competence of Latvian National Sports Council
- characteristics of sports organizations, i.e., sports federation, sports club, etc.
- competence of Latvian Olympic Committee
- allocation of financial resources for sport
- awarding of monetary prizes for outstanding achievements in sport
- organization of and participation in the international sport competitions
- rights and duties of athletes

- ban on manipulation of sports competitions
- definition of a professional athlete
- etc.

Only one article is devoted to almost every concept, whereas Sports Act does not cover such important elements of Sports law as: separate regulation for mass sport, professional sport and sport of high achievements, extra-judicial dispute resolution procedures, special “labour law” for sports contract, Paralympic sport, etc.

The very recent amendments were made in year 2016, when an article 15.1. on manipulation of sports competitions was added to Sports Act. Article 15.1. states that manipulation of sports competitions means any action aimed at an improper alteration of the course of a sports competition or making its result unpredictable. Such manipulation is prohibited and all the athletes, sports organizations, sports personnel and sports professionals are obliged to take all necessary actions to prevent such manipulation. The responsibility for the manipulation is provided in the article 212.1. of the Criminal Law of Republic of Latvia. This amendment is deemed to be the most urgent modification of Latvian Sports Act and shall be discussed in the chapter 3 of this research.

Nevertheless, authors suggest that regulation provided in the Sports Act is insufficient, not specific enough and does not answer the needs and tendencies of modern sport movement in Latvia. When comparing Latvian sports law regulation to the regulation and legal act on sports of other countries, e.g., France or Russia, the impression is that Latvian legislator’s aim, was only to provide the main guidelines and principles for the sports movement in Latvia.

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on sport

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers are the primary sources of law in Latvia. The Cabinet of Ministers may issue legislation in the form of regulations (Latvian: noteikumi) in the following cases:

1. on the basis of an authorization laid down by statute;
2. to approve an international agreement or draft thereof, denounce an international agreement or suspend its operations, unless the Constitution or the law provides otherwise;
3. if necessary for the application of European Union legislative acts and if the issue in question has not been regulated by statute; these regulations may not impinge on the fundamental rights of private individuals (E-justice, 2016).

Below authors shall mention the regulations that were issued on the bases of Sports Act.

1. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 594 “The health care and the procedure of medical surveillance for the athletes and children with

increased physical activity” from September 6, 2016. According to the Sports Act the organization of such a procedure lies in the competence of the Ministry of Healthcare in collaboration with a Ministry of Education and Science, hence, National Sports Medicine Centre every year, before May 1 shall compile a report on the previous year about the status of the physical health of the athletes and children with increased physical activity and submit it to the Minister of Healthcare and Minister of Education and Science providing the proposals to improve the situation.

2. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 26 “Regulations on the procedure of granting money awards for the outstanding achievements in sport, and the amount of the prize money” from January 3, 2012. Article 3 states that money award is granted for the achievements attained in the official international sports competitions, that are included in the relevant international sports federation competitions calendar, if this sports federation is recognized by the International Olympic Committee or the International Paralympic Committee, or is a member of the International Sports Federations Association (SportAccord).
3. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 820 “Doping control procedures” from October 19, 2011. This Regulation prescribes the doping control procedures and regulates the competence of the institutions involved in doping control and their operation.
4. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 77 “Regulations regarding the procedures for the certification of sports specialists and the requirements specified for a sports specialist” adopted January 26, 2010. This Regulation prescribes the procedures for the certification of sports specialists and the requirements specified for a sports specialist in order to acquire the right to work in the field of sports; and the fee for the certification of a sports specialist.
5. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 76 “Regulations on the information content included in the sports facilities register and its updating procedures”. This Regulation was adopted in January 26, 2010 on the bases of the Article 12 of the Sports Act, that prescribes that “the information regarding sports facilities present in the State shall be compiled in the register of sports facilities. The register of national sports facilities shall be a part of the register of sports facilities. The register of sports facilities shall be kept by the Ministry of Education and Science. The content of information to be included in the register of sports facilities and the procedures for updating thereof shall be determined by the Cabinet of Ministers”.

6. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 1396 “Procedures for the recognition of sports federations and the control of the recognised sports federations” from December 8, 2009. This Regulation prescribes the procedures for the recognition of sports federations; the procedures for the control of the activity in the field of sports of the recognised sports federations; and the content of the information to be included in the Register of Sports Federations and the procedures for updating thereof.
7. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 819 “Procedures for the state financial support to the national team preparing for and participating in the European and world championships and Olympic Games qualifying tournaments and finals” adopted on July 28, 2009. According to its Article 2, regulation’s aim is to ensure the financial support to national team in preparation for sports games and participating in competitions in order to promote high level of achievements and results.
8. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 422 “Regulations regarding the procedures by which information shall be indicated regarding the co-financing of sport events from the state budget, and the content of the information referred to” from May 12, 2009. A natural person or legal person who receives co-financing from the State budget for the implementation of a sports event, shall use the following logo



in all mass media and publicity (for example, information stand, information board, poster, printed materials (including brochures, booklets, conference and seminar materials), Internet website, audio-visual material (including digital video discs, compact discs, cassettes and video films)).

9. Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers nr. 422 “By-law of the Latvian National Sports Council” from July 29, 2003. The Latvian National Sports Council is a public consultative institution which participates in the development of the State sports policy, facilitates sports development and co-operation in the field of sports, as well as the taking of decisions regarding matters related to sports. In accordance with the Article 3 of the Regulation the Council shall have the following rights: to require and to receive information necessary for the work of the Council from State and local government institutions, sports federations and sports clubs; to establish advisory commissions and working

groups and to invite experts for the analysing and solving of matters related to sport.

Sports Law through the prism of criminal law

In order to get a more complete and clear idea of the sports law, there is a need of accurate and consistent comparison of its features as an integrated branch of the Latvian law to those of its other branches. The authors believe that the sports law as the newest complex branch in the Latvian legal system is based on the norms of constitutional, administrative, labour, civil, criminal, international, procedural, etc. branches of law. The main area regulated by the sports law is relationships developing during sports activities.

In this chapter, the authors consider the main current issues of the relationship between the sports law and the criminal law in the Republic of Latvia.

The criminal law regulates the relations arising from the commission of a crime; it is characterized by an imperative method and enforcement actions, as well as by the punitive nature of responsibility. The main function of the criminal law is protective; particularly, it protects relationships in the field of physical culture and sports.

There are many objects that are subject to public protection in sports, such as life and health of athletes, the procedure for holding professional sports competitions, social relations that ensure normal activity of the officials or organization's apparatus functioning in the sports sector, property matters between subjects of sports legal relations, human security (protection of the equal rights of citizens regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property status, birth and other circumstances), etc.

The Criminal Law of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter referred to as the CL) stipulates criminal liability for a number of offenses that may be related to the organization and conduct of sports competitions and activities, namely (Krimināllikums, 1998):

- Criminal offences endangering life or health of a person (Chapters 12 and 13 of the CL)
- Criminal offences against fundamental rights and freedoms of a person (Chapter 14 of the CL)
- Criminal offences against property (Chapter 18 of the CL)
- Criminal offences of an economic nature (Chapter 19 of the CL). Among the criminal activities of this group, the authors deem necessary to identify separately such unlawful act as felonious manipulations during sports competitions and consider the amendments to the

Criminal Law on Manipulations of Sports Competitions (Article 212.1 of the CL) that came into effect in 2016 (see in Chapter 3.1 below).

- Criminal offences against general safety and public order (Chapter 20 of the CL)
- Criminal offences committed by the government officials (Chapter 24 of the CL)

Amendments to the Criminal Law and Sports Act

Amendments on the manipulation of sports competitions were introduced to the Sports Act and Criminal Law of the Republic of Latvia and entered into force on March 1, 2016. These amendments are an unprecedented case in the Latvian legislation and innovation in general.

Sports law in Latvia, as a specialized and integral area of law, is at the very beginning of its development. The above amendments were adopted in a comprehensive manner together with the amendments to the Sports Act. However, according to the authors, the amendments were adopted hastily without considering some aspects.

In the summer of 2015, the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Department of Sport, Latvian Olympic Committee, as well as with the assistance of the Football Federation and other professionals in the sports industry developed amendments to the Sports Act and Criminal Law. This work was founded on the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions. Nevertheless, Latvia has not signed this document yet.

According to Article 3, paragraph 4 of the Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Council of Europe, 2014): “Manipulation of sports competitions” means an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.

As it can be seen from the above definition, the manipulation of sports competitions is both an act and omission. Nevertheless, omission is not included into article 15.1 of the Sports Act (Sporta likums, 2002). In accordance with article 15 (Sporta likums, 2002), manipulation of sports competitions means any action aimed at an improper alteration of the course of a sports competition or making its result unpredictable.

The Criminal Law of the Republic of Latvia has no definition for “omission”, in contrast to some foreign countries. However, there are many definitions of omission in criminal and legal literature of Latvian scholars.

The prevalence of sports crimes committed by omission is small, but their social danger may be greater if compared to an infringement in the form of action.

For example, omission by a sport federation (mostly in team sports), when a fixed match is uncovered (for example, obligation to carry out an internal investigation of the forfeit), will incur both financial losses for the industry in general, and for individuals in particular, not to mention the moral aspect of this issue, for one of the main principles of the European sports law is honesty and transparency of the European sports competitions.

Unfortunately, criminal science of the Republic of Latvia still has no common approach to criminal liability for omission, which is a serious problem and could be a reason to exclude the term “omission” from the definition in Article 15.1 of the Sports Act.

Sports and Illegal actions

There are several reasons why professional sports, as well as entertainment industry in general, are a subject of interest for many people. Firstly, it is a pleasant leisure-time. Over the last century, stadiums, sport and concert halls have become one of the most popular places to visit. Secondly, these events are a source of considerable income for a large number of individuals and companies. This income is generated by advertising sport events and competitions, organizing various lotteries, activities of bookmakers and betting offices, and TV broadcasting, as well as by professional sport activities and events themselves.

However, despite the harsh sanctions in many countries of the world, the thirst for wealth and fame is often much stronger than moral ideals and fear of punishment. Moreover, the manipulation of sports competitions is not, unfortunately, the only one illegal action in professional sports.

So far, many criminologists and experts in Sports law believe that there are the following types of illegal acts in professional sports:

1. Criminality among athletes.
2. Illegal money laundering.
3. Organized crime and illegal betting.
4. Illegal influence on the results of sports competitions.
5. Use of doping.
6. Criminal fanaticism and extremism in sports.

Qualifying a criminal act is followed by a competition of the legal acts of national and international public organizations (federations, associations, etc.), since such acts, as a rule, are also the torts specified by the statutes, disciplinary codes, regulations, etc. of these organizations.

For example, according to Chapter 2 “Special Part” of the Disciplinary Regulations of the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) (Latvian: Latvijas Futbola federācija) (Latvijas Futbola Federācija, 2016), the following punishable acts can be qualified as crimes:

- Misbehaviour of fans (Article 2.1.), namely, acts of force towards other individuals, destruction of the property at sports facilities, fire safety violation, abuse, etc. (Article 2.4.)
- Documents forgery and falsification (Article 2.8.)

For the commission of these acts, the players, officials and spectators are subject to the following disciplinary and sports measures provided for the LFF Disciplinary Regulations (Latvijas Futbola Federācija, 2016):

- Warning;
- Fine;
- Disqualification;
- Restricted access to changing rooms, technical zones and press conferences;
- Restricted access to the stadium;
- Prohibited participation in any kind of soccer-related activities;
- Deprivation of awards;
- Prohibited transfer;
- Holding games without spectators;
- Holding games on neutral territory;
- Prohibited registration of new players;
- Game result cancellation;
- Expulsion from competitions;
- Conferred defeat;
- Points cancellation;
- Transfer to a lower league.

According to the LFF regulations, as well as to the similar regulations of the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) (Org.: Fédération Internationale de Football Association) and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), any disputes between FIFA, its confederations, members, leagues, clubs, players and officials are subject to the general jurisdiction of the football associations bodies. No appeal to ordinary courts is allowed. The acts and offences mentioned above constitute public torts that cannot be attributed to the legal category of "dispute". The legal documents of the football associations contain no direct prohibition on the application of criminal liability measures by national jurisdictions.

The possibility and necessity of bringing an individual to criminal responsibility in accordance with the CL are never conditioned by the presence or absence of any violation of sports discipline, or any sports disciplinary process being conducted (including those conducted by a public organization), or any bringing to sports disciplinary responsibility. Therefore, the committer of an act constituting both crime and sports disciplinary offence component, shall be

brought to criminal responsibility (in accordance with the CL) and to sports disciplinary responsibility (in accordance with the LFF/UEFA/FIFA Disciplinary Regulations). In such a case, no sanctions for bringing the perpetrator to criminal liability shall be imposed by sports organizations.

Such practice is supported by a strong international background of parallel conduct of criminal and sports disciplinary trials without any sanctions from FIFA, UEFA or national sports organizations.

The problem of prevention of illegal actions in Latvian professional sports became topical quite recently. For example, football events in 2014 were the reason to change criminal and sport laws. It was at the end of the year 2014 when an investigation was initiated regarding manipulations with the results of some matches, involving two former representatives of the football club “Daugava” from Daugavpils. In mid-January 2017, the State Police of Latvia closed the investigation and referred the case to the public prosecutor in order to initiate a criminal process against two individuals, i.e. two men born in 1966 in 1983.

Moreover, public peace disturbance by football fans (it should be noted that over the past decade the actions contrary to the Latvian law are mostly taken by fans of the visiting teams) and illegal use of doping by athletes are issues of current interest in Latvia as well. For example, 2014 Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) Report (WADA, 2016) was published at the beginning of the year 2016, and its data shows that 6 Latvian athletes were caught illegally using doping (basketball – 3 athletes, biathlon – 1 athlete, hockey – 2 athletes).

However, if each type of the above mentioned illegal actions in professional sports gets considered, the Criminal Law of the Republic of Latvia and the Sports Act might be amended for several times.

Conclusion

Sports law in Latvia is a very young branch of law that situates itself at the very beginning of its evolution because of the non-sequential progress caused by the aspects of the historical development of Republic of Latvia.

Authors suggest that Sports legislation provided in the Sports Act is insufficient, not specific enough and does not answer the needs and tendencies of modern sport movement in Latvia. If to compare Latvian Sports Act to the legal acts on sports of other countries, e.g., France or Russia, the impression is that Latvian legislator’s aim was only to provide the main guidelines and principles for the sports movement in Latvia specifying the procedures with the regulations of the executive power of the state.

Even so, Sports law in Latvia is an integral area of law, and the current issues affect:

1. Constitutional law – constitutional structure of the state and social system, fundamental principles of the individual.
2. Civil law – property relations and associated personal non-property relations in the field of sports law.
3. Labour law – labour of workers in the field of physical culture and sports, first and foremost professional athletes.
4. International law – international agreements. International economic relations: organization and holding international sports competitions; international cooperation and foreign investments in the field of sports; international movement of labour resources in the field of sports; establishment of joint ventures to produce goods for sports and tourism.
5. Criminal law – Criminality among athletes; illegal money laundering; organized crime and illegal betting; illegal influence on the results of sports competitions; use of doping; criminal fanaticism and extremism in sports.
6. Administrative law – public administration, public associations, local governments and other non-state entities related to sports and sports activities.

As is known, sports industry is a self-regulated industry and most of the above issues are settled at the level of national federations. Nevertheless, the experience of many countries shows that financial and security issues should be resolved at the national level.

For example, the criminal legislation in United States of America provides liability for bribing persons who participate in sports competitions, including referees, coaches, time keepers, etc. In turn, according to the Kyrgyzstan Criminal Code, bribery of athletes, referees, coaches, team leaders, and other participants or organizers of professional sport competitions, and also organizers or jurymen of profit-making entertainment competitions, shall be punishable by a fine in the amount of 300 to 500 minimum monthly wages.

Part 1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus provides liability for giving money, securities or other assets, or provision of services of property nature, to athlete, referee, coach, team leader or organizer of sport competitions, organizer or jury member of a profit-making competition in exchange for influencing the results of competitions or receiving the above items to influence the competitions. The second part establishes criminal liability for the same actions committed repeatedly. As opposed to the Criminal Law and Sports Act of the Republic of Latvia, the differences are not only in a more expanded content of the legal provision, but also in the form of sanctions. For example, the Criminal Law of the Republic of Latvia provides such punishments as imprisonment,

forced labour and fine, while the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus provides punishments not only in the form of a fine, forced labour, or imprisonment, but also depriving the right to occupy certain positions or be engaged in certain activities.

Experience in studying the criminal legislation of the above and other countries, having different level of socio-economic development, shows that the issue of prohibition to manipulate sports competitions is differently treated in these countries. However, they have unity of views on the fact that these actions must be punished.

In the criminal legislation of most developed countries (United States of America, Germany, France, Spain, etc.) the issues of causing harm upon holding sports competitions are not considered as a distinct circumstance that exclude criminality of an action. However, bodily harm caused by violation of rules is considered to be illegal and may lead to criminal liability.

On the basis of the stated above, the authors suggest that the Latvian scientific world in cooperation with the legislators will have to resolve a number of issues regarding settlement of various relations in the field of sports industry. It should be done through the amendments of Sports Act, providing for regulations on professional sport, sport of high-achievements, extra-judicial dispute resolution, etc. Special labor law should be written for the convenience of the conclusion of the professional sport contracts. As well as the illegal actions in sports should be punished accordingly by the means of Criminal legislation.

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