

Sports Policing Tools in a Changing World

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Based on the research into the relationship between sport and policing we can say that sports policing is a specific part of sports administration. The paper seeks answers to the following questions: What are the reasons for football hooliganism? What previous events, stadium disasters have happened in the last few decades that focussed the attention of those concerned with securing events on the fact that the established practice needed to be changed and new legal norms had to be established? Lord Justice Peter Taylor was the first to point out all these issues, after, in co-operation with a committee, he had conducted a detailed analysis of the problems. His proposals radically changed the image of both modern British and European soccer, as well as the related Hungarian rules and regulations.

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After examining the relationship between sport and law enforcement, I came to the conclusion that sports policing is a specific part of sports administration. It can be interpreted in narrow terms and clearly defined as a special field of policing. A range of laws provides for everything related to sports policing, supplemented by regulations issued by the specific associations, which serve as directions concerning both keeping sports policing records and securing sports events.²

In the second half of the 20th century hostilities became more and more intensive between various sports clubs and sports fans in sports grounds, especially in stadiums. The self-regulation of sport is not enough when we have to deal with rowdy groups; when they filled the empty stadiums, as time passed, the internal standards often mentioned as “lex sportiva” were insufficient and the introduction of new legal instruments became necessary. Thus, safety at sports events today is guaranteed by 18 acts, 14 decrees and, for example in the case of football, five internal regulations issued by the association of this particular sport. Issues related to securing sports events concern problems of the whole society, law, law enforcement and morals.³

When it restores public safety after an attack against it and when it guards public safety under threat, law enforcement in fact manages emergency situations. Sports

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² Tóth (2016) 292.

³ Tóth (s. a.) 20.