

## **Sportmanship As One Of The Character Buildings For Football Athletes**

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### **Abstract**

Sportmanship is an individual's attitude and behavior in sports in respecting rules, officials, social conventions, and respect for opponents carried out with a high commitment to sports. The aim of this research is to determine the attitude of sportmanship as a form of character for football athletes. This research design uses literary research methods. The steps taken to review the literature are by exploring previous research related to sportmanship to continue or criticize. The initial stage in the form of ideas or theories related to professionalism will be collected and grouped based on predetermined subthemes, after that separating data that supports the subtheme and separating information that is not directly related to the subtheme. Then the data analysis continues and it is narrated in detail according to the needs of this research. The data sources in this research are based on documentation and indexed WEB journals in the form of scientific research journals, dissertations, theses, research reports, textbooks, papers, seminars, official writings that discuss sportmanship in character building in football athletes. The results of this research prove that one of the elements that supports sportmanship in forming the character of football athletes is a sports environment that is created and aimed at developing the athlete's character, which is supported by coaches, parents, spectators, administrators, and the athletes themselves. The fundamental element of sportmanship comes from the internalization of sportmanship that has been instilled from an early age until the athlete is an adult.

**Keywords:** Sportmanship, Character, Football, Environment

## Introduction

Education plays a pivotal role in an individual's life as it facilitates the enhancement of intelligence, acquisition of skills, cultivation of personal potential, and the development of responsible, intelligent, and creative individuals (Fraser-Pearce, 2022; Guo et al., 2019). The utilization of specialized terminology within the field of education represents a strategic allocation of resources towards prospects, rather than a mere construct of the imagination. This is because education plays a pivotal role in the cultivation of cognitive abilities and the formation of moral character (Mei et al., 2020; Tonegawa, 2022). The phrase "Men Sana in Corpora Sanno" is commonly used in the realm of athletics, and it conveys the idea that a healthy soul resides within a strong body (Stoll, 2015). According to Edgar (2015), this philosophical perspective highlights the essentiality of attaining good health to enhance both mental and physical well-being, hence improving overall quality of life. In the given context, sport serves as an educational tool that needs to be regarded as a fundamental element promoting equilibrium and well-being in an individual's life (Twietmeyer, 2015). Sport is not solely focused on physical aspects; it also has the capacity to cultivate an individual's mindset and disposition (Škerbić, 2019). Sport holds significant importance as it serves as a foundational element for fostering values such as fair play, sportsmanship, collaboration, and nationalism (Elcombe, 2018).

Sport is a significant contributor to the development of national character. Through participation in sports, individuals can cultivate qualities such as sportsmanship and foster a sense of national unity. This is achieved through engaging in various competitive events within the realm of sports (Fella Suffa et al., 2019; Kavussanu & Stanger, 2017). In accordance with the ideas and essence outlined by dos Santos Amaral et al. (2021) and Kobiela (2016), it is imperative that all constituents of the nation demonstrate knowledge and actively contribute to the advancement of national sports, aligning with their individual talents and interests in their different sporting disciplines. Character education plays a crucial role in the moral development of children, particularly athletes in the realm of football. It is anticipated that character education will serve as a fundamental pillar in the cultivation of future human resources, with the aim of enhancing their overall quality (de Melo & Gomes, 2016; Li, 2022). Sport has the potential to serve as a platform for the development of an individual's true character (Galily et al., 2022; Ring et al., 2023).

Football, a widely recognized sporting event, encompasses numerous participants and viewers (Faure & Pemberton, 2011). Football is embraced by diverse communities, and participation in football necessitates the acquisition of specific abilities that are readily attainable (Newson, 2019). According to Longas Luque and van Sterkenburg (2022), proficiency in football is not solely reliant on technical abilities, but also heavily influenced by the demeanor and personal qualities exhibited by the players. In a soccer match characterized by numerous participants, the occurrence of friction between players and opponents is highly probable. The coach of the Indonesian U-23 Team expressed strong dissatisfaction with the players' alleged lack of sportsmanship following their defeat to Thailand in the semifinals of the 2021 SEA GAMES, which continues to be a subject of intense debate. The progression of the Indonesian national team in the semifinals was halted due to their defeat to Thailand. The defeat of Thailand was

further characterized by the issuance of three red cards to players from the Timas U-23 team. Firza Andika, Rachmat Irianto, and Ricky Kambuaya were issued red cards by the referee in the latter stages of the second half of extra time. Firza was issued a red card after committing a forceful foul against a Thai player, but Rachmat and Ricky were both expelled from the match following the receipt of a second yellow card. Following a violation committed by Firza, a dispute ensued between Indonesian and Thai players, resulting in both parties receiving red cards. In addition to this, players engage in other forms of misconduct, commonly referred to as bad football play or cheating. One such example is Elephant Football, which is a match between two teams where one intentionally allows the opposite team to emerge victorious. The rationale for this decision is to circumvent encounters with other victors from different groups. In the context of the Premier Division, a match involving PSS Sleman and PSIS Semarang took place on October 26, 2014. This match marked the culmination of the final eight stage, whereby elephant football was played. Both PSS and PSIS successfully secured their places in the semifinals. However, they expressed a reluctance to intentionally score an own goal in the last match to secure victory.

In the context of high-level international football competitions, the incident involving Zinedine Zidane's header against Italian player Marco Materazzi during the final match of the FIFA World Cup is noteworthy. Materazzi directed derogatory remarks at Zidane's parents and sister, individuals who hold significant roles as prominent players within the French national team. During that instance, Zinedine Zidane was issued a red card and then expelled from the pitch, resulting in France's ultimate defeat over Italy. The behavior exhibited by the two players demonstrates an unsportsmanlike attitude. The PSSI, or the Football Federation, together with its affiliated entities including clubs, academic institutions, and football schools, as well as all stakeholders engaged in the advancement of football and its participants, should possess an understanding of this circumstance. The responsibility of administrators, coaches, and athletes encompasses the coaching and enhancement of the playing abilities and character traits of aspiring football athletes.

In contemporary times, the progress of social development within the realm of sports has become increasingly sophisticated. Numerous phenomena have emerged that exert effect on the dynamics of social interactions within society. In accordance with this perspective, the evolution of sports will persistently align with societal advancements. Sports for the younger generation serves the purpose of preserving and enhancing physical well-being and fitness, fostering personal accomplishment, promoting excellence, inculcating ethical principles and virtuous character, cultivating sportmanship, instilling discipline, bolstering, and nurturing national solidarity and cohesion, fortifying national resilience, and elevating the prestige and integrity of the nation. Sport, encompassing all facets and dimensions of its activities that incorporate elements of competition, necessitates the presence of attitudes and behaviors rooted in moral consciousness. An inclination that manifests a state of preparedness to engage in actions and conduct oneself in alignment with established rules and guidelines. Sports readiness encompasses more than just adhering to implied rules; it also involves the capacity to interpret and make conscientious judgements regarding the appropriateness of internally generated activities.

One prominent issue in contemporary society pertains to the cultivation of fair play or sportsmanship as a fundamental principle within the realm of sports. This entails creating an environment where individuals engaging in physical activities are confronted with a socially acceptable and equitable framework. Consequently, the rules governing these activities are perceived as more just than those governing everyday life. To exemplify courteous conduct, the younger cohort must not just adhere to established regulations, but also possess the capacity to align their actions with the dictates of their conscience. It is imperative for the younger generation to possess a character that can uphold the principles of sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is a concept that is intricately linked to one's conduct and principles, encompassing a steadfast disposition to navigate circumstances with attributes such as benevolence, integrity, accountability, and deference towards others.

The establishment of the National Sportsmanship Brotherhood in the United States in 1926 aimed to disseminate the principles of sportsmanship across several domains, ranging from youth-oriented activities to global sporting events. The teachings encompass a set of eight principles, which are as follows: 1) Adhere to established regulations, 2) place reliance upon trustworthy companions, 3) uphold physical well-being and overall health, 4) exercise restraint over expressions of wrath, 5) ensure the absence of excessive violence within the game, 6) exercise humility in times of victory, 7) exhibit courage in the face of defeat, and 8) cultivate a sound mind and body for the preservation of a healthy spirit.

Contemporary society places an expectation on the younger generation to possess a comprehensive understanding of ethical standards, social wisdom, a sportsmanlike attitude, discipline, and adherence to principles in interpersonal interactions. Engaging in shared sporting activities can impart valuable lessons, as games governed by specific rules promote mutual benefits and mitigate potential conflicts arising from divergent perspectives. Sport provides an avenue for individuals to develop socialization skills, which often goes unnoticed by public agencies and similar entities.

## **Method**

The present study employs literary research methods as outlined by Mardalis (1999). Academic researchers acquire knowledge and data through utilizing a range of resources available in libraries, including documents, notebooks, publications, and historical narratives, among others. Library study, as defined by Jia (2021), refers to the systematic process of gathering data through the utilization of Google Scholar and scholarly literature with the objective of advancing theoretical frameworks. According to Sugiyono (2012), library studies encompass theoretical investigations, references, and other literary analyses that pertain to the cultural, value-based, and normative developments within the realm of social research. Consequently, researchers mostly rely on the exploration of literature, records, and references to get data pertaining to the role of sportsmanship in fostering character development among football athletes.

The process of conducting a literature review involves examining prior scholarly investigations pertaining to the concept of sportsmanship, with the aim of either extending or scrutinizing existing studies. During the preliminary phase of this study, a comprehensive

compilation of various concepts and theories pertaining to professionalism will be gathered and organized according to pre-established subcategories. The subsequent phase involves the segregation of material that substantiates the sub-theme, as well as the segregation of information that lacks direct relevance to the sub-theme. Subsequently, the data will be subjected to analysis and subsequently presented in a narrative format. To enhance the persuasiveness of the argument, supporting evidence in the form of established ideas, authoritative reports, and pertinent scholarly papers will be employed. The utilized data sources consist of reputable libraries comprising scientific research journals, dissertations, theses, research reports, textbooks, papers, seminar reports/conclusions, official publications by governmental and other institutions that address the role of sportmanship in the development of character among football athletes.

### **Result and Discussion**

Sports exhibit diverse growth and development patterns, which are influenced by the specific organizational frameworks they choose in accordance with their unique objectives. There are four primary objectives associated with the execution of sports activities, namely: (1) Recreational sports, which prioritize the enhancement of both physical and mental well-being; (2) Player performance, which emphasizes competitive endeavors and accomplishments. Sports education places a strong emphasis on the educational component, using sport as a subject of study. To attain the educational objectives established by the government, it is imperative to incorporate sports and physical training that prioritizes physical enhancement. This will result in improved fitness levels, enabling individuals to effectively engage in their everyday routines (Putra, 2020).

According to Aldegheiry (2021), sports encompass various activities that involve elements of competition or skill, and it is imperative that these activities are accompanied by attitudes and behaviors rooted in moral consciousness. This perspective conveys a willingness to conform and adhere to the established rules and norms inside a specific country or tribe, wherein each tribe possesses its own set of regulations. In contemporary society, it is observed that no indigenous community imparts teachings that promote the adoption of negative traits among its succeeding generations. This phenomenon is particularly evident in nations that prioritize the cultivation and embodiment of virtuous and ethical human conduct (Quartiroli et al., 2022). Indeed, preparedness encompasses more than just adherence to implicit regulations; it also entails the capacity to comprehend and deliberate upon matters in accordance with one's personal values. Moreover, any decisions ratified by the conventional assembly or relevant stakeholders are deemed final and inviolable, thereby necessitating universal compliance within society (Sandford et al., 2022).

To ensure the smooth operation of sports and social interactions within the confines of relevant legislation, it is important to cultivate the moral and ethical qualities of athletes (Camiré & Trudel, 2010). The cultivation of character, particularly among football athletes, can be achieved by fostering an appreciation for the principles of sportmanship (Kilic & Ince, 2021). The development of sportsmanlike behavior by fostering character necessitates a protracted and ongoing endeavor. Hence, it is imperative to carefully strategize and execute

character development programs for sports athletes starting from their early years in elementary school. Character formation encompasses three essential components that are of utmost significance in the development of a virtuous character. The constituents of a strong character encompass moral cognition, which refers to the understanding and awareness of moral principles, moral affect, which pertains to the emotional responses and sentiments associated with moral matters, and moral behavior, which involves the enactment of moral activities (Yildiz et al., 2021). It is imperative to ensure that athletes possess the capacity to comprehend, experience, and apply positive ideals.

One of the prevailing challenges in contemporary society is to the implementation of fair play or sportsmanship as a fundamental principle within the realm of sports. This phenomenon manifests itself in diverse manifestations of conduct exhibited by athletes, coaches, and even individuals within the realm of journalism. The primary focus lies on the endeavor to attain triumph without depending on technical and tactical supremacy. This is indicative of the presence of aggression in sports and a proclivity to assert dominance, as exemplified by impolite conduct among players or towards referees (Malone & Lorimer, 2020).

According to Agus, Fahrizqi, Ameraldo, Nugroho, and Mahfud (2022), fair play or sportsmanship is a cognitive disposition that exemplifies the honorable conduct associated with chivalry within the realm of athletics. The creation of attitudes is underpinned by the principles of sportsmanship, which afterwards serve as the foundation for behavior. Therefore, it may be inferred that sportsmanship affords an equal opportunity for victory to both participating teams. This phenomenon can occur when athletes adhere to a structured training regimen, demonstrate discipline, exhibit enthusiasm, adhere to rules, and possess a sense of tolerance and respect towards their peers and opponents. Consequently, this will foster a heightened level of sportsmanship, thereby directly impacting the development of the athletes' character.

According to Sitepu's research conducted in 2017, it was found that the involvement of athletes does not inherently result in a favorable impact on the development of their character. The development of an individual's character can be influenced by their participation in sports, provided that the sports environment is intentionally designed to foster character development in athletes. The formation of positive character through sport is contingent upon the presence of certain variables that facilitate a positive trajectory, such as effective leadership and exemplary coach behavior. The attainment of a fair play or sportsmanship mindset necessitates substantial support from coaches, parents, spectators, administrators, and the athletes themselves.

According to the research conducted by Syamsul Arifin in 2017, formal education levels play a significant role in cultivating sportsmanship values. Hence, the appropriate assimilation of sportsmanship principles across educational tiers establishes a robust basis for the ethical dispositions of athletes starting from a young age. Conversely, the presence of methodological flaws throughout the process of internalizing sportsmanship norms might detrimentally affect the moral development of athletes in subsequent stages of their lives.

Triatmo Joko Purnomo and Roesdiyanto (202) said in their study that within the domain of physical education and sports, various values are present, such as self-confidence and belief in one's own capabilities. It is imperative to maintain honesty while engaging in gameplay. The collaborative efforts among individuals who share a friendship during competitive events. It is imperative to adhere to the regulations established by the collective of participants. The qualities of discipline, obedience, and adherence to educators and established standards are highly valued in academic settings. Tolerance towards friends with various understandings. The topic at hand pertains to academic culture and its relationship with sports activities within educational institutions, as well as the broader endeavor to promote the dissemination of sports values across society. Purwanto and Susanto (2019) assert that character education in physical education encompasses several key aspects. Firstly, it emphasizes the cultivation of respect, irrespective of factors such as race, gender, and social status. Secondly, it promotes the practice of mutual correction of behavior, particularly in relation to conduct. Thirdly, it encourages individuals to demonstrate concern for others. Lastly, it underscores the importance of sportsmanship in competitive sports, including displaying fair play towards opposing teams. In the work by Toeri from Dakir (2019), the concept of character education is elucidated as the systematic endeavor to imbue individuals within educational institutions with moral principles. This endeavor encompasses various elements, such as knowledge acquisition, conscious volition, and practical implementation of values, all directed towards fostering a holistic human development. The values in question pertain to one's relationship with the Divine, self, the environment, and one's nation. The development of character can be facilitated by the consistent and early engagement in activities, with the crucial involvement of educators (Annisa, 2020).

In addition to this, Sumaryanto (2012) asserts that sports can serve as a means for character development. Sport plays a key role in fostering the development of national character, promoting sportsmanship, and reinforcing national solidarity. Based on this premise, it is imperative for all elements of the nation to actively contribute towards the advancement of national sports. According to Prayitno (2008), there is a widely recognized normative belief that the development of national character holds significant importance for the younger generation and has a direct impact on the destiny of the nation.

There are several human characters categorized based on their motivation:

#### 1. Achievement Motivation

Human beings who have characters with motivation like this always try to get the best achievements

#### 2. Popularity Motivation

People with this kind of character always prioritize social relationships, willing to leave their personal interests behind for friendship matters. The characteristics are that they generally spend hours cultivating good social relationships

#### 3. Power Motivation

People with this kind of character tend to be leaders, always wanting to be smarter. Strong and powerful.

However, these three characters are also influenced by genetic and environmental factors

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## Conclusion

The issue of football athletes' behavior has emerged as a significant concern not just for Indonesia but also for the global football community. World football federations, including FIFA, have undertaken numerous initiatives aimed at promoting fair play through movements and campaigns. However, the outcomes of these endeavors have not yielded the desired level of effectiveness. Football federations worldwide organize numerous football competitions with the aim of promoting fair play. However, despite these efforts, instances of bad occurrences and behaviors persist inside these competitions. Hence, an alternative approach that can be pursued involves athletes adhering to structured training regimens, displaying discipline, fostering a training-oriented mindset, and adhering to established rules. Additionally, cultivating an attitude of tolerance and respect towards both teammates and adversaries can contribute to the development of a strong sportsmanship disposition.

In addition to this, an essential factor contributing to sportsmanship is the establishment of a sporting environment designed to foster the development of an athlete's character. The development of desirable character traits through participation in sports can be facilitated by various factors, such as the presence of conducive settings that promote a positive trajectory, including effective leadership and exemplary coach conduct. The provision of assistance and encouragement from various stakeholders, including coaches, parents, spectators, administrators, and the players themselves. Another crucial aspect of sportsmanship involves the internalization of sportsmanship attitudes that have been cultivated from an early stage of development until the individual reaches adulthood. If all these criteria are met, the attributes of a proficient football athlete will naturally manifest. The achievement of this outcome is contingent upon the establishment of synergistic collaboration among athletes, coaches, government entities, and society. It is anticipated that there will be a cessation of any more occurrences that may impair the reputation of the football industry.



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