



AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE REALITY OF SPORTS HOOLIGANISM IN SPORTS STADIUMS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS SCIENCES AT ANBAR UNIVERSITY

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Abstract: The research aimed to identify the reality of sports hooliganism in sports stadiums from the point of view of students of the College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences at the University of Anbar, as the researchers used the descriptive approach in the survey method for its suitability and the nature of the research problem, and the research community included students of the College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences at Anbar University for the morning study for the academic year (2024-2025), which numbered (329) male and female students, the study sample was randomly selected and numbered (180) students with a percentage of (54.71%) from the total research community, and the results of Research and for all areas studied on low evaluation scores, and contribute to all areas of research studied to raise sports hooliganism in sports competitions, and the researchers recommended the need to work on the application of the law and strictly against all individuals violators, and to establish educational programs and courses due to their importance in spreading sports culture among the masses, and keep sports media away from news that provokes hooliganism through audio and read channels.

Keywords: hooliganism, hooliganism, sports fields, students, physical education.

Introduction

Sports activities are important things that aim to improve the behavior of the individual and provide him with values, trends, and good behavior to be a good citizen in his society of an emotional nature balanced psychologically, socially, and emotionally. However, the spread of the phenomenon of hooliganism in competitions and sports activities at present has become one of the social diseases that most Western, Arab, and local societies suffer from, as they have become a threat to lives and property through the behavior of players, administrators, referees, and the public (Spaaij, 2007), because of the accompanying acts of vandalism, destruction, and killing, before, during and after sports competitions, which pose a significant challenge to sport and drain the energies of countries to fight and reduce or eliminate them (Zielinski & Bajorek, 2013).

Football is one of the most important sports loved by the Iraqi public. This love generates negative behavior that affects the level of the game in general and the public in particular. Despite the spread of hooliganism among football fans, a group of fans remains peaceful and away from the violence that has established for themselves good values, standards, symbols, and rituals for social integration, giving them a sense of security and belonging to the group (Al Salman, 2023).



The resort to sports hooliganism among sports fans is a means to achieve specific goals or an end in itself, as it reflects a state of imbalance and disintegration that prevails in Arab society, and the sources and motives of riots are issued from several sources (the public, players, referees, coaches, journalists, administrators of clubs and sports federations, security men, paramedics)(Stott et al., 2008).

The importance of the research lies in the fact that the phenomenon of sports hooliganism is constantly increasing among athletes in an attempt to detect and highlight the sources of hooliganism in sports stadiums, which may contribute to the treatment of this social disease and through the results of this study can be broadcast and spread sports culture among individuals to combat this phenomenon.

Sports hooliganism is one of the negative phenomena that accompanied sports old and new at the level of the world and the Arab world in general and Iraq in particular and has become one of the main problems that threaten sports at present because of the accompanying sports activities of friction and tension between the competing teams(Dunning, 2000), as well as the tension and anxiety experienced by the masses while encouraging their sports teams and the accompanying events that sometimes develop the phenomenon of sports hooliganism, and based on what we live and observe for many manifestations of hooliganism in sports stadiums, the researchers have seen through This study identifies the sources of sports hooliganism and stands on the most important recommendations to reduce this phenomenon through the following question (a study of the reality of sports hooliganism in sports stadiums from the point of view of students of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Sciences).

Research Objective: Identify the reality of sports hooliganism in sports stadiums from the point of view of students of the College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences at Anbar University.

Material y methods

Study Design:

The researchers used the descriptive approach in the survey method for its suitability and the nature of the research problem(Adham Ali et al., 2022; Ali et al., 2022).

Participants

The research community included students of the College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences at Anbar University for the morning study for the academic year (2024-2025), numbering (329) male and female students; the study sample was randomly selected and numbered (180) students with a percentage of (54.71%) from the total research community.

Measuring Instruments

1. Sports hooliganism:

The researchers used a scale that included (35) phrases distributed over five areas (riot of the public (fans), riot of players, riot of referees, riot of administrators and coaches, riot of the media) and included the answer scale of (5) answers according to the five-pointer Likert gradient, which is (I agree 5 degrees, I agree 4 degrees, neutral 3 degrees, do not agree 2 degrees, do not agree 1 degree). The following scale was adopted to judge the arithmetic averages(Al-Alwani & Ali, 2023):

From 1.00 below 2.33, a low score.

From 2.33 below 3.66 average degrees.

From 3.66 – 5.00 degrees high.

2. Scale stability

In order to verify the stability of the measurement instrument, the equation (Alfakronbach)(Saeed et al., 2024) was applied to all statements of the fields of study and the tool as a whole, as shown in Table (1).



Table 1.

Shows the stability coefficient for the fields of study and the tool as a whole

Domain	Number of ferries	Coefficient of stability
Riot of the public (fans)	8	0.77
Riot players	7	0.81
Referees riot	6	0.89
Riot administrators and trainers	7	0.88
Media riot	7	0.91
The tool as a whole	35	0.95

It is clear from the above table that the stability coefficient for the fields of study ranged between (0.77 – 0.91), and the stability coefficient of the tool as a whole amounted to (0.95), all of which are acceptable values.

Application of the scale:

The scale was applied to the research sample of (180) male and female students. The scale was distributed on Sunday (27/10/2024) to the research sample. The number of questionnaires distributed to the research sample reached (180) questionnaires, and all questionnaires were retrieved after the sample answered them.

Statistical methods:

The researchers used the statistical bag SPSS to process the data(Ali et al., 2024).

Results

Presentation of the results:

To answer the research question (studying the reality of sports hooliganism in sports stadiums from the point of view of students of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Sciences), the researchers found the arithmetic averages and standard deviations for all statements of the scale fields as shown in the tables below.

1. Public riots:

Table 2.

Shows the arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the respondent's answers to the audience riot field

	Ferry Number	Phrases	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Rating score
1	8	Lack of sports awareness among the public	2.68	1.30	Medium
2	2	The crowding of the stands with fans and the proximity of the fans of the competing teams to each other	2.41	1.10	Medium
3	1	Mob encouragement and racist or regional chants	2.38	1.22	Medium
4	7	Unloading public pressures as a result of complex economic and social conditions	2.24	0.98	Low
5	6	Mass bigotry of a specific team	2.03	0.97	Low
6	3	Insulting and cursing the referees, players, or the opposing team's fans	1.68	0.88	Low
7	4	The fans going down to the pitch and interfering in the conduct of matches	1.59	0.95	Low
8	5	Throwing tools such as bottles or stones at opposing team players and fans	1.40	0.85	Low



The field of public riots	2.05	0.65	Low
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2. Player hooliganism:

Table 3.

Shows the arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the respondents' answers to the players' hooliganism field

	Ferry Number	Phrases	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Rating score
1	1	Objection to and obstruction of referees' decisions	2.40	0.98	Medium
2	7	Weak social status of the player in the team	2.28	1.20	Low
3	2	Perform body language signals so that they provoke opposing team players or referees	1.99	1.04	Low
4	3	Deliberate roughness toward opposing team players	1.98	0.97	Low
5	5	The use of violence as a result of the inability of clubs to control their players	1.89	1.05	Low
6	6	Use violence to justify and cover up players' failures	1.89	1.10	Low
7	4	Spitting and cursing the opposing player	1.49	0.85	Low
Player hooliganism			1.99	0.70	Low

3. Referees riot:

Table 4.

Shows the arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the respondents' answers to the referees' riot field

	Ferry Number	Phrases	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Rating score
1	2	Refereeing is inconsistent with the importance of the match	2.48	1.07	Medium
2	6	Poor experience of some referees in countering the tricks and tricks of some players	2.40	1.18	Medium
3	5	The weakness of the personality of the referees in front of the pressure of the fans and players	2.24	1.31	Low
4	4	The ignorance of some rulers of laws and regulations and their failure to keep pace with modern developments laws	2.23	1.27	Low
5	3	Slowness in decision-making and inability to follow the action of the match	2.14	1.09	Low
6	1	Favoritism, bias for a particular team, or courtesy of a player	2.13	1.31	Low
The field of referees riot			2.27	0.95	Low

4. Hooliganism of administrators and trainers:

Table 5.

Shows the arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the respondent's answers to the field of riot administrators and trainers



	Ferry Number	Phrases	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Rating score
1	3	Objection to referees' decisions	2.59	1.17	Medium
2	7	Some administrators try to exploit sports as a means of achieving social status or personal gain	2.27	1.26	Low
3	5	Pressure on players to withdraw from the competition	2.16	1.11	Low
4	2	Trying to direct players in a provocative and annoying way	2.12	1.08	Low
5	1	Anger and entering the field without asking the referee's permission	1.98	1.17	Low
6	6	The tyranny of tribalism or sectarianism over the culture of trainers or administrators	1.96	1.15	Low
7	4	Provoking and inciting players or fans	1.89	1.10	Low
Trouble Zone Administrators & Trainers			2.14	0.88	Low

5. Media riots:

Table 6.

Shows the arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the respondent's answers to the media riot field

	Ferry Number	Phrases	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Rating score
1	3	Media involvement in sports competitions in economic, political, or social conflicts and tensions	2.40	1.11	Medium
2	6	Unconstructive criticism and trying to show the defects and mistakes of rulers or administrators	2.39	1.27	Medium
3	4	The bias of some media for sports teams without their badger	2.27	1.18	Low
4	1	Shipping and negative influence by sports media	2.15	1.23	Low
5	2	Highlighting the personal problems of players, such as economic and social	2.15	1.17	Low
6	7	Trying to use deceptive words during comments that disturb panic or anger	1.98	1.09	Low
7	5	Using modern communication technologies such as Facebook to attack a specific player, team, or audience	1.93	1.10	Low
Media Riot Field			2.18	0.94	Low

Discussion

Table (2) shows that the arithmetic averages of the answers of the study sample for the phrases of the public riot field ranged between (1.40-2.68), as the statement (8) ranked first with an average evaluation score and statement (5) ranked last with a low evaluation score, and the arithmetic average for each field reached (2.05) with a low evaluation score.



The researchers attribute the reason for this decline to the low level of sports culture of the public and their lack of knowledge of the regulations and laws followed in sports competitions (Frosdick et al., 2013), and this is confirmed by (Al-Naqib, 1990) the motives of hooliganism of sports fans do not emanate in the stadium, but are acquired from the daily life of the public, and the lack of public awareness and deterrent penalties against violators (Khaled & Mamoun, 2012).

It is clear from Table (3) that the arithmetic averages of the answers of the study sample for the phrases of the field of riot of the players ranged between (1.49-2.40), as the statement (1) ranked first with an average evaluation score and the statement (4) ranked last with a low evaluation score, and the arithmetic average for each field reached (1.99) with a low evaluation score.

The researchers attribute this decline to the players' low fitness levels. The result of their feeling of bias of the referees towards the opposing team players leads to anger among the players and fans of the team, which creates tensions that lead to hooliganism of the players (Tsoukala, 2006), and this is confirmed by (Mamser, 1989) that sports stadiums are the right place to satisfy hidden desires converted to cover failure and defeat in the match (Mohammed, 1989).

It is clear from Table (4) that the arithmetic averages of the answers of the study sample for the phrases of the referees riot field ranged between (2.13-2.48), as the statement (2) ranked first with an average evaluation score and the statement (1) ranked last with a low evaluation score, and the arithmetic average for each field reached (2.27) with a low evaluation score.

The researchers attribute the reason for this decline to the inconsistency of refereeing with the match due to the ignorance of the referee's laws and regulations, their lack of arbitration experience, and the pressure of the public and their provocative chants affect the decisions of the referees (Spaaij & Testa, 2016), and this is confirmed by (Al-Nadhari, 2012) that all referees are affected by psychological pressure according to their refereeing experiences (Muhammad, 2014).

It is clear from Table (5) that the arithmetic averages of the answers of the study sample for the phrases of the field of riot of administrators and trainers ranged between (1.89-2.59), as the phrase (3) ranked first with an average evaluation score and the statement (4) ranked last with a low evaluation score, and the arithmetic average for each field reached (2.14) with a low evaluation score.

The researchers attribute the reason for this decline to stress and anxiety resulting from the intensity of competition and the inability to control their emotions, as well as the low level of education and the inability to dialogue, which was confirmed (Milburn, 2005) that there is a strong relationship between behavioral deviations, violence and the absence of the ability to communicate socially, often leading to violence.

It is clear from Table (5) that the arithmetic averages of the answers of the study sample for the phrases of the field of riot of administrators and trainers ranged between (1.89-2.59), as the phrase (3) ranked first with an average evaluation score and the statement (4) ranked last with a low evaluation score, and the arithmetic average for each field reached (2.14) with a low evaluation score.

The researchers attribute the reason for this decline to stress and anxiety resulting from the intensity of competition and the inability to control their emotions, as well as the low level of education and the inability to dialogue (Lewis, 1996), which was confirmed (Milburn, 2005) that there is a strong relationship between behavioral deviations, violence and the absence of the ability to communicate socially, often leading to violence (Milburn, 2005).

Table (6) shows that the arithmetic averages of the answers of the study sample for the phrases of the media riot field ranged between (1.93-2.40), as the statement (3) ranked first with an average evaluation score and



statement (5) ranked last with a low evaluation score, and the arithmetic average for each field reached (2.18) with a low evaluation score.

The researchers attribute the reason for this decline to the competition between sports media, which exploit all developments in social, economic, and political life in order to mobilize sports fans and politicize them in certain directions (Spaaij, 2006), and this is confirmed (Al-Zayoud, 2012) that many sports media rely on different methods to attract viewers all over the world and in many ways and for different purposes (Yassin & Ibrahim, 2019).

Conclusion

1. The research results for all the studied areas showed low ratings.
2. All areas of research studied contribute to the provocation of sports hooliganism in sports competitions.

Recommendations:

1. Work to strictly enforce the law against all individuals who violate it.
2. There is a need to work on establishing educational programs and courses due to their importance in spreading sports culture among the masses.
3. There is a need to keep sports media away from news that provokes riots through audio and print channels.

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