

Review article

SUPPRESSION OF SPECTATOR VIOLENCE AT SPORTS EVENTS

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Abstract. *Over the past years, sport events and competitions have been gaining attention not only as remarkably useful social activities and means of constructive affirmation of youth's physical abilities, but in a negative context as well. We are witnessing a growing number of forms of disorder, violence, misbehavior and commission of criminal offences and misdemeanors i.e. administrative offences related to sport events. That is the reason why, in an attempt to prevent and suppress these forms of misbehavior, the Republic of Serbia adopted a special law in 2003 – The Law on The Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at sport Events. This law is dedicated to the regulation of relationships between sport associations, clubs and individuals, as well as the system of rights, obligations and responsibilities for organizers, participants and spectators of sport events. The most serious forms of violence and misbehavior at sport events are referred to as criminal offences and strict punishments and other types of criminal sanctions can be imposed on their perpetrators, which is the issue discussed in this paper.*

Key words: *sport, sports event, misbehavior, criminal offence, criminal sanction.*

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, various sports competitions and events have been a rich source of mass entertainment. Unfortunately, ancient and modern sports share one common characteristic – violence and aggression expressed not only among the participants but among spectators and supporters as well (Jewell, Moti & Coates, 2012, 11-12). Events in Ancient Rome contained especially brutal examples of crowd violence and it seems that medieval spectators were not more decent, although levels of violence decreased in the late medieval period. The emergence of modern sports enhanced the further decrease of violence among spectators, but it still remained common (Coakley, 2008, 218). Unfortunately, fre-

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quent and dramatic media reports confirm that the Republic of Serbia does not appear to be following this positive trend. For example, between 2000 and 2010 seven people were killed due to sports violence in our country (Savković, Đorđević, 2010, 7).

Diverse forms and aspects of individual or group human behavior, particularly those committed at public gatherings or sports events, represent violations of public peace and order and are incriminated as criminal offences (Jovašević, 2012, 67-69). These incriminations are prescribed by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia (CC)¹ that came into force on January 1st 2006, and are expected to protect significant social values known as "public peace and order"². "Public peace and order" refer to a state of synchronized interactions among citizens, which is established and maintained on the basis of their activities in public places, including the activities of various public entities, aimed at providing equal conditions for the protection of human rights, personal and economic safety, peace, tranquility, privacy, freedom of movement, preservation of public moral and human dignity and protection of minors (Article 2, Law on Public Peace and Order). Defined in that sense, "public peace and order" consists of the maintenance of peace and order on a daily basis, embodied in the undisturbed living and working of citizens, the functioning of social, administrative and other public activities. At the same time, public peace and order appears as a general precondition for community order (Miletić, 2004). This heterogeneous group of crimes includes a variety of criminal offences that are directed against different social values and connected by the fact that they all represent violations or infringements of public peace and order. The protected values can be attacked, harmed or threatened by activities such as: violent behavior, conspiring and planning the commission of criminal offences or organizing a group or other alliance in order to commit criminal offences or causing panic and disorder by disclosing or disseminating untrue information. Furthermore, this chapter of CC also includes criminal offences that represent punishable preparatory activities, which, due to a particularly high degree of their social hazard and seriousness, obtained the characteristics of independent and autonomous criminal offences: conspiracy to commit a crime (Article 345 CC), forming criminal alliances (Article 346 CC) and making and obtaining weapons and tools intended for the commission of an offence (Article 347 CC). The activities these criminal offences are comprised of must be committed in a particular way, meaning that the manner in which they are committed is an element of their essence and has to be premeditated by the perpetrator. These manners may include: the use of force or coercion, threatening or illegal behavior. The Criminal Code contains several criminal offences that are relevant to the suppression of violence, disorder and misbehavior at sport events: 1) causing panic and disorder (Article 343 CC), 2) violent behavior (Article 344 CC) and 3) violent behavior at a sport event or public gathering (Article 344 a CC). The last one was not systematized within the CC until September 2009, when it was overtaken from Article 20 of Law on the Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sport Events³, adopted in 2003. After alterations of CC from December 2009, the scope of application of this provision was extended to public gatherings too.

¹ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 85/2005, 88/2005, 107/2005, 72/2009, 111/2009 and 121/2012.

² Definition and characteristics of public peace and order are determined in Law on Public Peace and Order (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 51/1992, 53/1993, 67/1993, 48/1994, 85/2005 and 101/2005).

³ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 67/2003, 101/2005, 90/2007, 72/2009 and 111/2009.

CAUSING PANIC AND DISORDER

This criminal offence consists of disclosing or disseminating untrue information or allegations, which cause panic, serious disruption of public peace and order or disable or cause significant impediments for the enforcement of decisions of state bodies or organizations exercising public authorities (Petrović & Jovašević, 2006). The values protected by this incrimination are determined as public peace and order and tranquility of the citizens. The human activity that constitutes this criminal offence includes disclosure or dissemination of untrue information or allegations. Disclosure refers to direct or indirect announcing to another person facts or circumstances by the perpetrator, as his own perceptions or findings, although he knows that they are untrue, that they do not correspond to the objective reality. Dissemination is described as declaring facts and circumstances not as perpetrator's own personal opinion but as information he obtained from another person. Both cases refer to untrue information or allegations relevant to various fields of social life, but their disclosure and dissemination must be committed continuously, more than just once. The offence is completed when untrue information or allegations are introduced to any person. The consequence of this offence is determined alternatively and may include: panic, serious disruption of public peace and order, disabling or significant impediments for the enforcement of decisions and measures. "Causing panic" means instigating among citizens the feeling of dissatisfaction, revolt or disapproval directed against particular or all decisions or measures of state bodies or organizations, whereas "serious disruption of public peace and order" refers to causing disorders in the normal course of social or economic life, traffic or other communal activities. The disruption of public peace and order has to be serious, of a broader scope, affecting a large area or long lasting, which represents a factual question resolved by the court in each individual case. "Disabling the enforcement of decisions and measures" means that they cannot be executed at all, and "causing significant impediments for the enforcement of decisions or measures" refers to the situation in which they are executed from time to time, temporarily or partially, with greater or smaller degrees of success. It is highlighted that the enforcement of decisions or measures must be followed by serious disturbances, and "significant impediments". The punishment prescribed for this criminal offence includes both imprisonment from three months up to three years and a fine.

A more serious form of this offence, for which imprisonment from six months up to five years is prescribed, exists if the offence is committed through the media or at a public gathering (a gathering of a larger number of individually undetermined individuals, who gathered in order to discuss the issues of general social significance or issues of community interest). The way and the means of disclosure or dissemination, the speed and possible extent of spreading of untrue information or allegations indicate a greater level of social hazard and, hence, increase the seriousness of the offence. That is the reason why a more severe punishment can be imposed in such cases.

VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

Violent behavior, also called bullying (Kaiser & Rasminski, 2009, 280) or hooliganism (Ramo, 2005, 1-10) consists of causing significant distress of citizens' tranquility or serious violation of public peace and order by rude insults or maltreatment of another person, by violence directed against another person, by instigating a brawl or by insolent

or ruthless behavior (Petrović & Jovašević, 2006). The activities, which constitute this criminal offence, are determined alternatively (Jovašević, 1982). The rude insulting of another person occurs if the honor, dignity, pride or feelings of another person are significantly and seriously harmed by strong and offensive language, expressions and words, particularly in the presence of a larger number of other persons or in front of persons one is expected to educate or teach. Rude maltreatment of another person represents physical and psychological maltreatment that causes pain, suffering, fear, physical or mental discomfort and humiliation. Committing violence directed against another person includes activities that harm other person's bodily integrity and physical and mental health. Instigation of a fight refers to initiation or provocation of a physical confrontation between two persons or among several persons. Insolent or ruthless behavior comprises the use of indecent, rude and vulgar expressions in front of women, children or older people, as well as the extremely disrespectful, fierce and destructive handling of objects. The aforementioned activities that comprise the criminal offence of violent behavior are defined more precisely in judicial practice⁴. For example, rude insults include serious forms of attacking another person's honor and reputation as well as grave injuries of other person's feelings, whereas maltreatment of another person means causing physical or mental pain, or a higher degree of physical discomfort. Committing violence directed against another person is present if corporal integrity of another person is violated by the use of physical force as well as if freedom of movement or freedom of making decisions is taken away from another person. Insolent or ruthless behavior refers to behavior that significantly differs from accepted norms of decent conduct, but also to violent handling of objects and goods in general. Criminal offences exist only if the instances of violence or insolent or ruthless behavior are intense or extreme.

The consequence of this criminal offence appears in two forms (Jovašević, 1996): as harm that consists of significant, vast or long lasting distress of public order, including disturbances affecting public traffic, communal infrastructure and social or economic activities and as a threat, in the sense of a significant disturbance of citizens' tranquility, or causing a higher degree of fear for the personal and financial safety of victims or persons close to them. The offence is completed either when any of the previously described forms of violent behavior caused the significant disturbance of citizens expressed through the feeling of insecurity, fear for one's own life, corporal integrity or preservation of dignity, or when public order is seriously disturbed by creating commotion or turmoil, or when property is damaged. The perpetrator can be any person acting with premeditation and it is not required that the perpetrator's previous life indicates that he is keen on this pattern of behavior⁵. But, the participants of a sport event cannot appear as the perpetrators of this criminal offence, which means that the fight between a football player and an assistant referee does not represent an activity that would constitute this criminal offence⁶. The punishment prescribed for this criminal offence is imprisonment up to three years. The law is also familiar with its more serious form, for which a more severe punishment – imprisonment from six months up to five years can be imposed. It may occur in three cases (Đurđić & Jovašević, 2010). The first one appears if violent behavior is committed by a group, meaning that at least three persons participated in the commission

⁴ Decision of Belgrade District Court Kž. 2180/2006.

⁵ Judgment of Serbian Superior Court Kzp. 491/2006.

⁶ Decision of the Court of Appeal in Belgrade Kž. 1632/2011.

of one or several same or different activities. The second one is committed if during the commission of this offence a person sustains light bodily injury. Light bodily injury must appear as the result of commission of the basic form of this criminal offence and that the perpetrator caused it negligently. This injury can be caused to the victim of violent behavior, to an accidental passer-by, or to a person who interfered in order to separate the participants of confrontation. The third form is present if grave degradation of citizens appeared as the result of the commission of violent behavior, i.e. when the victim of violent behavior is coerced to suffering that deeply affects his moral feelings, honor, property or human dignity. The situation, in which violent behavior, which obtained the character of ruthless (fierce, brutal or rude) behavior, caused the premeditated death of another person, is treated as criminal offence of aggravated murder.

VIOLENT BEHAVIOR AT A SPORTS EVENT OR PUBLIC GATHERING

This criminal offence is prescribed by Article 344 a of CC, after its alterations in September and December 2009, when the title, definition, elements and characteristics of this criminal offence were transferred from Law on the Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events to the amended Criminal Code. However, the provisions of Law on the Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events still need to be taken into consideration when discussing this criminal offence, because the criminal offence entitled as "Violent Behavior at Sports Event" was defined in Article 20 of this Law in 2003. Its Article 4 contains the definition and forms of expression of violence and misbehavior at sports events. Violence and misbehavior at sports events may appear as: physical violence or physical confrontation among participants of a sports event; throwing objects at the sports field or among the spectators; introducing in the sports facility an object with marks that offend national, racial, religious or other feelings or instigate hatred or intolerance that may lead to physical confrontation; damaging the sports facility, its equipment, devices and installations; causing disorder or destroying property on the occasion of the arrival to or departure from sports events or inside the sports facility, disturbing the course of the sports event, endangering the safety of the participants or other persons; entering the sports field without authorization, official premises and passages of the sports facility or the part of the facility designated for the rival team supporters; the attempt to introduce or introducing into the sports facility, possessing or consuming alcohol or other psychoactive substances, or pyrotechnical devices and other objects that may endanger the safety of the participants in the sports event or disturb its course; the ignition of cheering objects or other items and wearing scarves with club insignia, caps and other objects, with the intent to hide the identity of a person.

The offence of violence at sports events or public gatherings is committed by a person who physically assaults or engages in physical confrontation with the participants of a sports event or public gathering, commits violence or damages property of greater value on the occasion of the arrival to or departure from a sports event or public gathering, introduces pyrotechnical devices or other explosive flammable or harmful substances, which may cause bodily injuries or endanger the health of the participants of the public gathering, into a sports facility or throws these objects onto the sports field, among spectators or participants in a public gathering, without authorization enters sports field or the part of the sports facility designated for rival team supporters, damages the sports facility,

its equipment, devices and installation, by their behavior or slogans expressed during a sports event or public gathering instigates national, racial, religious or other hatred or intolerance based upon discriminatory grounds, which causes violence or physical confrontation among the participants. This incrimination protects several social values including public peace and order at sports events or public gatherings, life and bodily integrity of people and property of greater value. It may be committed by a multitude of alternatively enumerated activities. Physical assault against or physical confrontation with the participants of sports events or public gatherings refers to any activity by which the perpetrator directly endangers the life and body of another person – participant of the sports event or public gathering. This activity may be performed in several different ways and may include the use of various means such as: weapons (firearms or knives), equipment or other devices that can cause serious harm to another's body (Pavišić, Grozdanić & Veić, 2007). Committing violence or damaging property of a greater value on the occasion of the arrival to or departure from a sports event or public gathering (Lazarević, Vučković & Vučković, 2004) may appear in the form of one of two activities that share one common feature – the time of their commission – the occasion of the arrival to or departure from a sports event or public gathering. The first form consists of the commission of violence that is expressed through various physical activities that include the use of different means or devices that endanger the life or body of other, individually undetermined persons, whereas the second is defined as damaging property of greater value, no matter who its owner is. Damaging may refer to any activity by which the form or the substance of a particular object is destroyed, so that this object cannot be used for its initial purpose but only temporarily, partially or for a shorter period of time and provided that its initial features may be regained by the reparation or replacement of its damaged part. Introducing into the sports facility or throwing on the sports field, among the spectators or participants of public gathering objects, pyrotechnical devices or other explosive flammable or harmful substances that might cause bodily injuries or endanger the health of the participants of the sports event or public gathering is generally considered hazardous because it endangers human life or the human body, or property of greater value by dangerous means such as: objects, pyrotechnical devices or other explosive, flammable or harmful substances that are suitable to injure the human body or endanger human health. For the existence of this form of violent behavior at sports events or public gathering, it is required that the activity is committed either through introducing dangerous objects into the sports facility or through throwing these objects on sports field or among spectators (Đorđević, 2009). This is the case when spectators exhibit either hostile or instrumental aggression or verbally abuse or throw objects at an opposing athlete or team. If their intent is to hurt the athlete, the spectators are being hostile, but if their intent is to gain an advantage for their team, by distracting the opposing players, it is considered instrumental aggression (Tenenbaum, Stewart, Singer & Duda, 1997, 2).

Entering without authorization the sports field or part of the sports facility designated for rival team supporters, which causes violence, may refer to any activity by which the perpetrator makes or attempts to make direct physical contact with rival team supporters with the intention of performing various forms of violence against them. In this case, it is important that the perpetrator entered or attempted to enter one of the following locations: the sports field or part of the sports facility designated for rival team supporters. Damaging the sports facility, its equipment, devices and installations is the situation in which the offence is determined by the so called "consecutive disposition", which means

that it may be completed by any activity that is suitable to lead to consequences consisting of damaging the sports facility, its equipment, devices or installations to a greater or lesser extent. Instigating national, racial, religious or other hatred or intolerance that is based upon discriminatory grounds, as the consequence of the perpetrator's behavior or slogans expressed during sports events or public gatherings, which leads to violence or physical confrontation among the participants of the sports event may include a variety of diverse activities that are intended to instigate or enhance national, racial, religious or other hatred or intolerance based upon discriminatory grounds. This criminal offence can be committed either by performing a particular form of behavior or by expressing particular slogans (posters), provided that any of them caused the consequence comprised of violence directed against another person or physical confrontation among other participants of the sports event (Babić & Marković, 2007). The perpetrator may be any person acting with premeditation. The perpetrator may be sentenced to imprisonment from six months up to five years together with a fine.

The Code is also familiar with three more serious or qualified forms and one special form of this criminal offence. The first more serious form, for which imprisonment from one to eight years may be imposed, exists if its basic form is committed in a group. In accordance with Article 112 Paragraph 22 of CC, a group consists of at least three persons connected in order to commit, permanently or occasionally, criminal offences. It is not necessary that the members of the group have clearly defined roles and the group does not need to have permanent membership or developed structure. Hence, the qualifying circumstance of this criminal offence consists of the fact that one or several different violent activities or misbehaviors at a sports event are committed in a group, together, jointly. An even more serious form is committed by the ringleader of the group. A ringleader is a person who organizes, directs, coordinates or leads particular activities or ventures of a group's members, defines their roles, etc. The sentence that may be imposed on the ringleader is imprisonment from three to twelve years. The third more serious form of this criminal offence, for which imprisonment from two to ten years is prescribed, exists if the commission of the basic form of the offence resulting in disorder, during which a person suffered serious bodily injury, material damage of a greater value. In cases where the value of damaged property shall be considered "greater" represents a factual question, it is solved by the court in each individual case. This value is estimated according to conditions on the market at the moment of the commission of the offence and not at the time of trial.

A special form of the offence from Article 344 a CC exists if a public official or responsible person in charge for the organization of sports event fails to undertake necessary security measures aimed to avoid or prevent disorder, by which he endangers the life or body of a larger number of individuals or property of a greater value. The perpetrator of this form has a special status - the status of an official or responsible person, who organizes sports events or public gathering. His criminal activity consists of failing to act (Storey & Lidbury, 2009, 28-29), and it represents a negative or passive activity, i.e. the lack of activity or failing to undertake all or some measures that are designated to avoid or prevent disorders at sports events. The consequence of the offence emerges in the form of actual, real endangerment of life or body of a larger number of persons or property of a greater value.

SECURITY MEASURE OF FORBIDDEN ACCESS TO CERTAIN SPORTS EVENTS

Security measures of forbidden access to certain sports events from Article 89 b CC was introduced into the criminal legislation of the Republic of Serbia in order to increase the effect of the society's fight against violence and misbehavior at sports events or public gatherings, not only through imposing strict punishments, but also through the application of specially designated measures. This security measure can be imposed on the perpetrator of a criminal offence of violent behavior at a sports event or public gathering in combination with punishment since December 2009. By imposing this remarkably individualized security measure, the court bans the perpetrator from attending certain sports events when such a prohibition is necessary in order to protect another's safety. It is imposed only on the perpetrators of criminal offences that include violence at sports events and it involves certain bans or limitations regarding a perpetrator's behavior. Namely, the perpetrator is obliged to personally report himself before the beginning of certain sports events to the official at local police administration or police station in the area of his current residence and dwell in one of these objects during the course of the sports event. The duration of the measure, which must be determined in the text of the judgment, may last from one to five years from the moment when judicial decision obtained legal force, but the time the perpetrator spent in prison is not taken into account thereby. This is not an obligatory measure, which means that it depends on the court's attitude in each individual case, but cases of its obligatory imposing may be prescribed by the law, as in Article 344 a CC. Its application requires the fulfillment of several preconditions regarding the commission of violence at sports events. The court has to be convinced that the application of this measure is necessary and to estimate, on the basis of all circumstances of the offence and the perpetrator's personal characteristics, that its application is reasonable for the protection of safety in general. Due to its supplementary character, it is imposed together with another sanction such as: imprisonment, judicial admonition, educational measure or juvenile prison sentence. If this measure is imposed together with a conditional sentence, the court has to emphasize in the judgment that it may be revoked in case that the offender breaches the ban to access certain sports events, i.e. if he does not obey other imposed duties or obligations. If, after having served the prison sentence, the offender breaches this ban or does not comply with other duties or obligations, the court that sentenced him previously may sentence him again to imprisonment from thirty days to three months. This prison sentence does not represent the consequence of a committed criminal offence, but comes as the result of perpetrator's failure to fulfill previously imposed obligations or to comply with security measure and respect the court's decision.

CONCLUSION

A radical increase in the number of violent incidents and other forms of misbehavior represents a characteristic feature of sports events and public gatherings, particularly in this region. Not only do these forms of violence disturb public peace and order as well as the tranquility of citizens, but they also directly endanger the life and bodily integrity of the participants of the sports event, rival team supporters or property of greater value. That is the reason why all contemporary legislations, including the legislation of the Republic of Serbia, provide systems of measures designated to prevent or suppress violent

incidents that occur at or are related to sports events and minimize possible consequences of these illegal activities committed either by individuals or hooligan groups. Moreover, some aspects of violent behavior at sports events are regulated by international legal sources. The most important of them is the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, adopted by the Council of Europe in 1985 and ratified by the Republic of Serbia in 2001.⁷

In the Republic of Serbia, measures of state reaction to violence at sports events and public gatherings are prescribed by Law on the Prevention of violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events from 2003, which determines the definition and possible forms of violence and misbehavior at sports events and provides a set of preventive measures, and Criminal Code from 2005. Since these preventive measures have not contributed to the suppression of violence and misbehavior at sports events, the amended Criminal Code prescribed three criminal offences relevant to that issue (causing panic and disorder, violent behavior and violence at sports event or public gathering), providing strict punishment and one particular safety measure – the ban of access to certain sports events. In spite of the fact that the existing Serbian legal framework for the suppression of violence at sports events provides a series of incriminations and a set of administrative and criminal sanctions (punishments and measures), it does not seem to be efficient, which is confirmed by a multitude of repeated and serious violent incidents of hooligans, who, in numerous cases, manage to avoid or at least postpone liability for the consequences of their misbehavior. So, regardless of an appropriate normative framework, the lack of effective implementation of relevant legal provisions is obvious. Not only is such a situation unacceptable from the aspect of safety, but it also represents the breach of international obligations our country accepted after the ratification of European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches. Therefore, the criminal policy should also focus on the development of a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientifically approved approach to the prevention of such excesses. In addition to the already undertaken measures of repressive character, priority should be given to preventive measures (Litavski, 2010, 21), including those enforced by the police before, during and after the sports event. The Serbian police tends to rely on rather traditional measures (such as the presence of uniformed policemen equipped with crowd dispersal equipment, special vehicles, service dogs and horses at the venue of a sports event and around it) based upon the classical concept of creating a buffer zone between the opposing groups of supporters in order to prevent contact between them by cordons or intervention lines (Subošić, Vučković & Kekić, 2011, 150).

Along with the application of conventional measures of criminal and administrative character, it is necessary to change our society's general attitude towards violence, conflicts, intolerance and discrimination and to raise the citizen's awareness of the benefits of honest, proper and decent sports cheering, as opposed to hooliganism. This is particularly important in the case of juvenile members of street gangs and hooligan groups, who often tend to exhibit this type of violent behavior, especially as "a part of fan subculture manifesting itself in the desire to inflict physical or mental pain to the opponent rather than to support their clubs" (Subošić, Vučković & Kekić, 2011, 147). In that context, it is

⁷ European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, Strasbourg, 19.VIII.1985, European Treaty Series No. 120. Retrieved March 19, 2013, from the World Wide Web: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=120&CL=ENG>

important to mention the impact of the media and educational system, which, as powerful transmitters and instruments of socialization, can make an immense contribution to the suppression of violence in relation to sports, primarily through pointing out its negative consequences and promoting and enhancing peaceful supporting and fair play. Finally, as a supplement to both conventional as well as broader preventive measures, so called "fan coaching" comprised of educational activities targeted specifically at supporters and carried out by social workers (Comeron, 2002, 14), should also be taken into consideration as a potentially effective measure.

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SUZBIJANJE NASILJA NAVIJAČA NA SPORTSKIM PRIREDBAMA

Godinama unazad sportska dešavanja i takmičenja dobijaju na značaju ne samo kao izuzetno korisne društvene delatnosti i načini za pozitivnu afirmaciju, u prvom redu, fizičkih sposobnosti mladih, već i u negativnom svetlu. Svedoci smo sve brojnijih oblika nereda, nasilja, nedoličnih oblika ponašanja, pa i vršenja krivičnih dela i prekršaja koji su vezani za održavanje sportske priredbe. Stoga je i Republika Srbija u pokušaju da spreči i suzbije ovakve oblike nedoličnog ponašanja 2003. godine donela poseban Zakon o sprečavanju nasilja i nedoličnog ponašanja na sportskim priredbama. Ovim su zakonom uređeni odnosi sportskih udruženja, klubova i pojedinaca, kao i sistem prava, obaveza i odgovornosti za organizatore, učesnike ili posmatrače sportskih manifestacija. Najteži oblici nasilja i nedoličnog ponašanja na sportskim priredbama su propisani kao krivično delo za čije učinioce su propisane stroge kazne i druge vrste krivičnih sankcija o čemu upravo govori ovaj rad.

Ključne reči: sport, sportska priredba, nedolično ponašanje, krivično delo, krivična sankcija.