



THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT REGIME

A RECONSIDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPORT'S POLITICAL STATUS

SCOTT R. JEDLICKA, PH.D.
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SPORT MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THREE KEY QUESTIONS

- What is an international regime?
- Is international sport a regime?
 - Are the definitional elements observable?
 - Is there an enforcement framework?
 - Is sport politically significant?
- What are the implications for state involvement in sport governance?

INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

- A negative connotation?
- Regimes are “principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures around which actors’ expectations converge in a given area of international relations” (Krasner, 1982)
 - Principles – beliefs of fact, causation, and rectitude
 - Norms – standards of behavior defined in terms of rights and obligations
 - Rules – specific prescriptions or proscriptions for action
 - Decision-making procedures – prevailing practices for making and implementing collective choice
- Examples: international law, monetary exchanges, trade agreements

INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

- “Changes in rules and decision-making procedures are changes within regimes”
- “Changes in principles and norms are changes of the regime itself”

INTERNATIONAL SPORT PRINCIPLES

- Sport as tool for social development
 - Olympism's goal: "To place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind"
 - SportAccord's objective: "To promote sport...as a means to contribute to the positive development of society"
 - UNESCO: "For society at large, physical education, physical activity and sport can yield significant health, social and economic benefits"
- Political autonomy
- Non-discriminatory

INTERNATIONAL SPORT NORMS

- One international organization per sport
- One national governing body (NGB) per sport per nation
- Similar organizational structures for sport orgs. (exec. board and general assembly)
- Competition cycles (biennial, quadrennial)
 - Individual sport championships
 - Multi-sport championships
- Attitudes toward and approaches to regulating doping
- Methods for adjudicating legal disputes

ENFORCEMENT AND RELEVANCE

- International sport is governed by a complex network of organizations



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE



TAS / CAS

TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DU SPORT
COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT



- Despite rhetoric to the contrary, sport is not apolitical

IMPLICATIONS FOR SPORT GOVERNANCE

- States are reluctant to exert direct oversight/influence over international sport governance because the regime is defined in terms of non-intervention
- State intervention (if desired) may need to be reframed in terms of state (not sport) interests
- Altering the degree and frequency of governmental involvement may require changing regime principles and norms, not merely rules and decision-making procedures