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## Evaluation of sports practitioners perception toward the implementation of transparency and fairness principles in national sports policies

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### Abstract

National sports policies exist to regulate the sports system so that all can feel the benefits and no one feels disadvantaged. However, it is not yet known whether the existing policies are transparent and fair, so this quantitative descriptive study was conducted to determine the extent of the perception of sports practitioners regarding the application of the principles of transparency and fairness to national sports policies. With the survey method, 455 sports practitioners were selected through purposive sampling to provide answers through a questionnaire on the google form. The statement comes from the variables of transparency and fairness with asymmetric Likert as the answer choice, which is strongly agree to strongly disagree. The results show that 28.48% of sports practitioners strongly agree and 59.81% choose to agree that the principle of transparency has been applied to sports policy, although there are 11.02% of sports practitioners who disagree and 0.69% strongly disagree. On the other hand, 35.22% of sports practitioners strongly agree and 59.84% agree that the principle of fairness has been applied in the implementation of national sports policies. However, there are 4.84% of sports practitioners who disagree and 0.11% strongly disagree if the principle of fairness has been applied. It can be concluded that the principles of transparency and fairness in national sports policies have been felt by sports practitioners, one of which is through the ease of obtaining information related to sports policies to the distribution of awards and coaching.

**Keywords:** sports policy, perception, sport practitioners, transparency, fairness.

### INTRODUCTION

In every government, policies are introduced to regulate and direct the implementation of activities related to the lives of the people so that all can feel the benefits and no one feels disadvantaged, one of which is the national sports policy. National sports policies consisting of Law No. 3 of 2005 on the National Sports System, Government Regulation No. 16 of

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2007, Government Regulation No. 17 of 2007, to Government Regulation No. 18 of 2007 are guidelines used by various sports organizations to design programs and activities for promote national sports. These various policies will later be implemented and their impact felt by stakeholders or sports practitioners, such as athletes and coaches, sports organization administrators, academics in the field of sports, as well as government employees in the field of sports. Therefore, policies should be made with various considerations of thoughts and inputs given by stakeholders to ensure that the principles of transparency and justice become one of the things that underlie the preparation of policy content ([Williamson & Williams, 2011](#)). Moreover, the literature on transparency in participatory policy making has grown very rapidly ([Brunswicker et al., 2019](#)). With increasing digitization in all aspects of life, resulting in digitally enabled relationships of how policy makers and citizens can observe each other, will significantly change policy making fundamentally.

Meanwhile, previous research found that the countries whose respondents were ranked as 'most transparent' had significantly higher levels of law on access to information, telecommunications infrastructure, E-Government, press freedom, and income levels, compared to other countries. countries with low levels of transparency ([Fox, 2007](#); [Relly & Sabharwal, 2009](#)). The findings of this study indicate that telecommunications infrastructure and press freedom affect the government's perception of transparency in a positive and significant way.

The principle of transparency as one of the components of good governance is important in efforts to eradicate corruption ([Androniceanu, 2021](#)) or if it is associated with policy making, then its contents should not only benefit one party. Transparency here also means openness in the policy-making process, where the public can find out how the discussions were carried out in the preparation to the initial draft of the policy so that they can understand well what is in it ([Jaeger & Bertot, 2010](#)).

This is inseparable from the application of the principle of justice. The principle of justice related to the granting of rights and obligations in

accordance with the capacities and capabilities of each institution (Alam et al., 2010), can be implemented if there are community representatives in the policy-making process. The implementation of this principle can later increase community satisfaction with the performance of the Institution, including their commitment to implementing policies well (Colquitt et al., 2013). At a fundamental level, values such as fairness provide the basis for public policy. Policy designs are usually judged on fairness first, and then judged against a set of general policy criteria derived from legacy and intuitive emotional responses to policy alternatives (Oxley, 2010).

When viewed from the process of making national sports policies, it can actually be said that the Ministry of Youth and Sports as the policy maker has implemented these principles. This can be seen based on Law no. 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure in which the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which is qualified as a public body, has the responsibility to organize affairs in the field of sports and has the obligation to provide access to the availability of information for sports stakeholders, including in the construction of the preparation and/or making of sports policies. This is also in accordance with the mandate of the provisions of Article 77 paragraph (1) of Law No. 3 of 2005 concerning the National Sports System where the Central Government and regional governments guarantee the availability and dissemination of information to the public for the benefit of fostering and developing national sports.

In addition, the national sports policy drawn up by the Ministry of Youth and Sports already has the principle of justice in it. This is stated in Article 75 paragraph (1), Paragraph (2) and Paragraph (3), Law No. 3 of 2005 concerning the National Sports System, the community is given the widest role in sports activities including the preparation/making of policies through public assessment instruments/conveying aspirations/public consultation or other media. The Sports Policy also explicitly regulates the duties of the Central Government and Regional Governments as regulated in the provisions of Article 12. The existence of these two principles can increase public confidence, especially sports practitioners, because they

are involved in the policy-making process. On the other hand, the policies made can also accommodate needs and solve problems that arise related to sports.

However, there has never been an in-depth study whether the application of these two principles to national sports policy is really felt by sports practitioners. In fact, with the increasing understanding of sports practitioners towards the emergence of these principles in national sports policies, the confidence of those who feel the impact directly from the issuance of policies will be better. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the extent to which the perception of sports practitioners regarding the application of the principles of transparency and fairness in national sports policies in order to become an input for policy makers so that it can be known whether sports practitioners have experienced the application of these principles or not, especially national sports policies. currently undergoing an update. This research will also be used as an evaluation of the communication between policy makers and policy actors.

## **METHODS**

This quantitative descriptive research was conducted using a survey method where data were taken from sports practitioners from 34 provinces in Indonesia. The questionnaire given uses a variation of the Likert scale, namely asymmetric Likert to avoid neutral choices (Joshi et al., 2015) so that the answers obtained consist of four choices, namely strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. This questionnaire, which has been validated by public policy experts, was prepared using two variables, namely transparency and fairness. In addition, the questionnaire also seeks to find out the respondent's position in the field of sports with several choices of sports practitioners according to Law No. 3 of 2005, such as athletes and coaches, sports organization administrators, academics, and government employees. The questionnaire also collects data on the length of time respondents have participated in sports with a choice of time spans that are adjusted to the rules for the management period of sports organizations,

namely 1) less than 1 year; 2) 1-4 years; 3) 5-8 years; and 4) more than 8 years.

With a sampling technique using purposive sampling, there are 455 respondents who have filled out a questionnaire via google form with respondent criteria, such as 1) sports practitioners (athletes and coaches, sports organization administrators, academics in sports, and government employees in sports); 2) willing to be a respondent and fill out a willingness sheet; 3) know and/or understand national sports policies (Law No.3 of 2005, Government Regulation No.16 of 2007, Government Regulation No.17 of 2007, and Government Regulation No.18 of 2007). The data that has been obtained is then processed using percentages to determine the extent to which the application of these two principles is felt by sports practitioners.

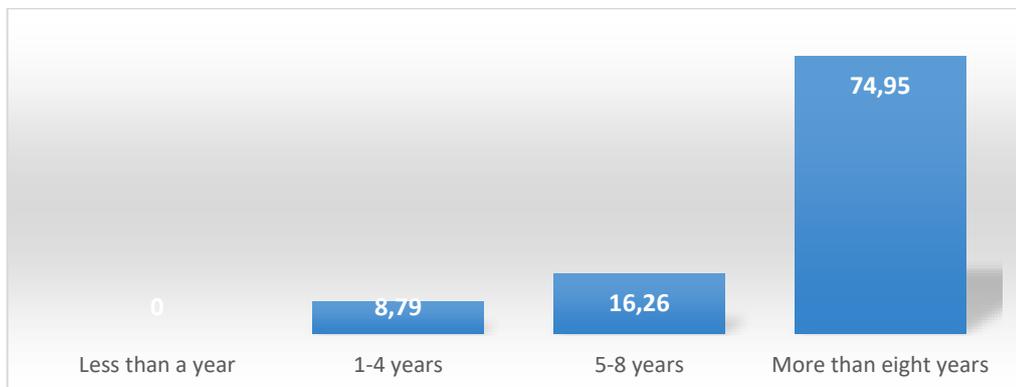
## RESULT

After the data is obtained, it can be seen that the demographics of the respondents can be divided into the position of the respondents in the field of sports and the length of time they have participated in the field of sports. If seen based on Figure 1, it can be seen that the distribution of respondents who answered came from athletes and coaches by 68.57% or 312 respondents.



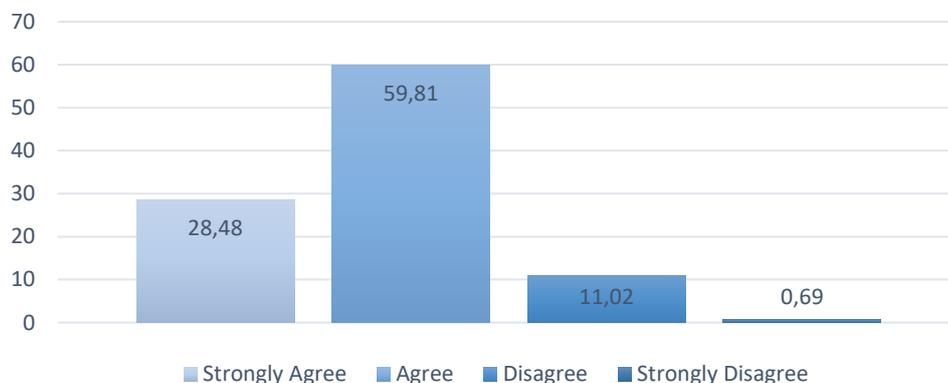
**Figure 1.** Demographics for Respondents Position in Sports

On the other hand, if you look at Figure 2, as many as 74.95% or 341 respondents have been in the field of sports for more than 8 years so they can be sure that they have experience with national sports policies.



**Figure 2.** Demographics for Respondents' Length of Participation in Sports

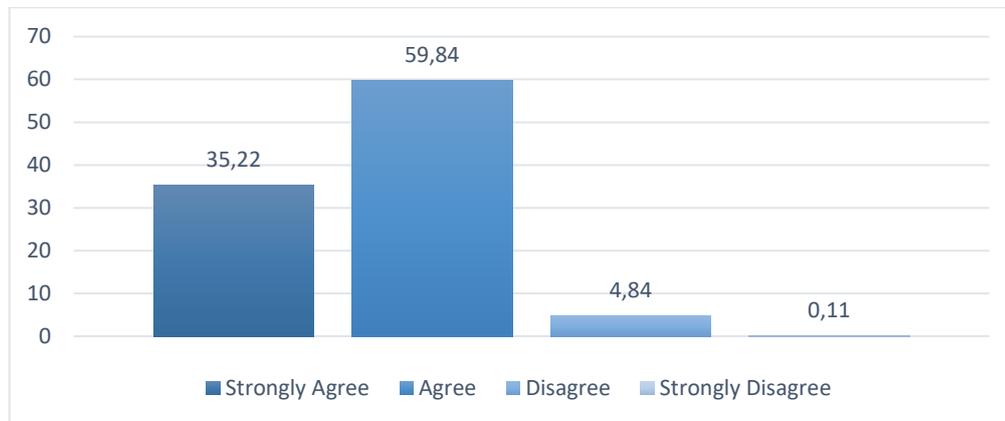
After analyzing the data, it can be seen that as many as 28.48% of sports practitioners stated that they strongly agreed if they had felt the application of the principle of transparency in sports policy. Meanwhile, 59.81% of respondents agreed that they had also experienced the application of the principle of transparency in the policy. This can be seen in the image below.



**Figure 3.** Percentage of Sports Practitioners' Perceptions in the Application of Transparency Principles in National Sports Policy

Similar to the principle of transparency, as many as 35.22% of respondents from sports practitioners stated that they strongly agreed if they had felt the principle of fairness in the implementation of national sports policies. This is also corroborated by 59.84% of sports practitioners who

agree that the principle of justice has been accommodated in the implementation of national sports policies, as shown in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** Percentage of Sports Practitioners' Perceptions in the Application of Fairness Principles to National Sports Policy

## DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the data analysis described above, it can be seen that sports practitioners, as parties who feel the impact of the existence of sports policies, have felt the principle of transparency possessed by these policies. This shows the efforts of policy makers in meeting the demands for increased transparency in relation to media exposure (Shaw & Plepinger, 2001).

If viewed in more depth, the principle of transparency must begin to be felt when policy making begins with the involvement of stakeholders in it to the implementation and evaluation process (Janssen & Helbig, 2018) to the ease of obtaining information related to national sports policies. This is in line with the definition of transparency which discusses the extent to which organizations can disclose information about policy-making processes, procedures, functions and performance of the policy itself (Curtin & Meijer, 2006; Gerring & Thacker, 2004; Welch et al., 2005). The ease of obtaining this information is in accordance with the explanation of the factors that must be met in transparency in (Michener & Bersch, 2013) research that transparency can be obtained if it meets two factors, namely the ease of obtaining information and data disclosure.

However, it should also be understood that in transparency, the ease of obtaining information and data disclosure cannot always be applied to various conditions (Michener & Bersch, 2013), because there are so many inaccurate understandings about transparency which then the level of transparency becomes too low or it can be said just a formality (Heald, 2012). Therefore, the implementation of the principle of transparency must be adapted to the conditions of the community, such as the ease of obtaining information, it is necessary to fulfill two elements, namely information is provided in full and documents can be accessed by all people with various platforms (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2013; Michener, 2011) because basically, transparency must be understood as a relationship that is built between policy makers and the community (Meijer, 2013).

In addition to the principle of transparency which has been implemented by sports practitioners, the principle of justice has also been proven to be felt by them. The application of the principle of justice is inseparable from the theory of equality (Dartey-Baah, 2014) so that in its application in national policy, policy makers must be able to translate it into the distribution of authority to every level of government. This means that local governments have the power to maximize their sporting potential and create regional autonomy to regulate budgets in fostering achievements more evenly, from the professional level to the grassroots level.

Justice that is formed from a balance between empathy and egoism of policy makers (Cory, 2003; van Winden, 2007), in fact, has two factors, namely what is obtained and how to get it (Colquitt & Rodell, 2011). These two factors are inseparable from the equality factor in awarding awards in each sport (Cook et al., 2013). Sports practitioners have a tendency to compare how much awards they receive with other sports because justice means equity (Esterhuizen & Martins, 2008). With the distribution of awards and sports coaching at various levels due to regional autonomy, sports practitioners feel satisfied and can maximize their abilities in fostering athletes (Komodromos, 2014; Rahimi et al., 2013) because when people feel that there is injustice from making a policy, then the community feels

that there is an injustice in making a policy. there will be a decrease in performance to the point of causing apathy towards the policy itself (Nekoranec, 2013). In addition, justice also has an influence on community satisfaction as an object of policy so that it will have an impact on public trust in policy makers (Khalifa & Truong, 2010).

However, from these results it is only known about the perceptions of sports practitioners towards transparency and fairness without discussing the extent to which they are satisfied with their implementation and whether this transparency and fairness increases the value of the feasibility of national sports policies. Whereas in the previous statements, many have implied that fairness and transparency bring satisfaction and give added value to the national sports policies that are made. Therefore, there is a need for further research related to the extent to which sports practitioners are satisfied with sports policy and how much it is feasible.

## **CONCLUSION**

Seeing from the various statements above, it can be concluded that the principles of transparency and fairness in national sports policies have been felt by sports practitioners. Various articles contained in the national sports policy have been widely applied at various levels of government, one of which is through the ease of obtaining information related to sports policies to the distribution of awards and coaching.

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