

Abstract – Liability and damages in football

Sport is nowadays considered an activity that contributes significantly to cultivation of human potential, namely its both physical and mental part. Together with a lot of undisputed positives it also brings certain inconveniences. The main and the most common of them is the fact that doing a sport can often lead to an annoying injury. And this is the exact moment to ask delicate questions: What about liability? Where are its limits? Who compensates the victim for the damage?

At the same time it is important to realize that legal liability in sport is not limited only to the sportsmen themselves. There are many cases in which founders of sports facilities, sports events organizers, their spectators, referees or officers were found liable. Since football is unambiguously the world's most mass-run sport, I have decided to focus solely on this sport branch in my thesis. I offer the view of this on one hand interesting, on the other hand very complicated issue from the player's, spectator's and organizer's point of view.

Although there are many cases in the Czech and especially foreign judicature in which courts dealt with the matter of liability for damage incurred of not only sportsmen, but also spectators and organizers, there cannot be set any general procedure that the persons involved should follow except that each case should be judged strictly individually. When judging liability of a footballer for an injury caused to an opponent the fact if the football rules were (or were not) violated should play an important role. Therefore the importance of the referee function comes into foreground, as he is the only person that has the authority to judge during a match which actions of players violate the football rules.

Just as important as internationally recognized football rules are also other internal football regulations, whether they are centrally issued disciplinary orders or visiting and operating rules of individual football stadiums. All of the mentioned regulations should play a fundamental role in the issue of judging civil liability in football.