

# 我が国におけるスポーツ指導者による子どもに対する虐待及び体罰の現状と子ども保護制度の必要性

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## The present state of abuse or corporal punishment involving children and sports authority figures and the necessity for a child protection system in sports in Japan

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### Abstract

In sports instruction, physical contact between sports authority figures and athletes is unavoidable. Therefore, sport engenders situations where abuse and violence tend to occur. Moreover, sports authority figures tend to place greater priority on victory than on players' human rights. Abuse and corporal punishment inflicted by sports authority figures on children in sport have been designated as human rights issues in Article 2 of the Sports Fundamental Act (2011) in Japan.

International responses to this problem include the following. First, the IOC issued a statement regarding elite child athletes (2005), and a statement on sexual harassment and abuse in sports (2007). Second, UNICEF published a report on child protection in sport in 2010. Third, Paul David, of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has proposed a “(child-centered) sport system” (2005).

For this study, a questionnaire about their experience of corporal punishment or abuse in school athletic clubs' activities, or physical education classes prior to entering university, was given to undergraduate students in their third and fourth year at the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya (NIFS), Japan. The results were as follows. First, one in five respondents had experienced corporal punishment or abuse. Second, corporal punishment had occurred in both individual events and in group sports. Third, the athletes who had experienced corporal punishment or abuse were at slightly lower levels in international competition for top athletes. Fourth, about half (46%) of respondents agree with the affirmation theory of violence in sport instruction. Fifth, 62% of respondents who had experienced corporal punishments indicated that they believed corporal punishment to be necessary to some extent in sport. Finally, 62% of respondents think that child protection is necessary.

Consequently, it is evident that there is a need to consider how to safeguard children from abuse or violence by authority figures in sports in Japan. The UK system for child protection in sports is very informative for considering this in Japan. The UK system has the following characteristics:

(1)Comprehensiveness of the system; (2)Division of abuse into five types; (3)Modelling of good practice by the

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sports coaches; (4) System checks by the DBS; (5) CP guidelines of each sports organization in the UK contain unique content and characteristics; (6) Instructional guidelines for sports authority figures; (7) Link to a certification system for coaching; and (8) Protection of sports authority figures themselves.

These characteristics have created an effective system in the UK. A child protection system similar to the UK system, should be introduced for sport in Japan. It would be useful for Japan to monitor recent international movements to standardize the safeguarding of children in sport.

**Keywords** : child protection, child abuse, corporal punishment, coach, authority figure, guideline

## 要旨

スポーツ指導においては、指導者とアスリートの身体的接触が不可欠なため、虐待や体罰が発生しやすい状況がある。また、スポーツ指導者は、商業主義や勝利至上主義により、アスリートの人権よりも勝利を優先しがちである。スポーツ基本法（2011年）第2条の趣旨から、スポーツ指導者による子どもに対する虐待や体罰は人権問題とみなされる。

この問題に対する国際的な対応として、次の三つのことが挙げられる。まず第一に、IOCによるエリートの子どものアスリートのトレーニングに関する声明書（2005年）とスポーツにおけるセクシュアルハラメントに関する声明書（2007年）の策定である。第二に、ユニセフがスポーツにおける暴力からの子ども保護に関する報告書を2010年に出版したことである。第三に、国連人権高等弁務官事務所のパウロ・デイヴィットが、子ども中心のスポーツシステムを提唱したこと（2005年）である。

本研究のため、鹿屋体育大学の学部3年生以上の学生に対して高校までの部活動及び保健体育授業における体罰の経験等についてアンケート調査を実施した。その結果、次のことがわかった。まず第一に、5分の1の学生が体罰の経験がある。第二に、個人種目、チームスポーツの区別なく、体罰は発生している。第三に、競技レベルでは、国際大会入賞・出場レベルの次のレベルのアスリートが体罰を経験している。第四に、体罰容認論に46%の賛成意見があった。第五に、62%の回答者がスポーツに体罰はある程度必要であると回答した。第六に、62%の回答者がチャイルド・プロテクションの必要性を認めた。

これらの結果から、日本においても、スポーツにおける指導者からの虐待や暴力から子どもをどのようにして保護するかを考えるべきである。イギリスにおけるスポーツにおける子ども保護の制度は、日本における問題を考察するために非常に参考になる。そのようなイギリスの子ども保護制度は、次のような特徴を有している。

すなわち、①制度の包括性、②虐待の5類型を定義している、③スポーツ指導者による「良い実践」を提示している、④DBSによる子どもと関わるのに不適切な大人を排除する制度、⑤各スポーツ団体独自の内容・特徴を有している、⑥スポーツ指導者による指導の仕方と関連付けている、⑦コーチングの資格制度と関連付けている、⑧スポーツ指導者自身を保護する意義を有している。

このようにイギリスの制度は実効性のある制度となっており、日本においても近年スポーツ団体による対応が進んでいるが、イギリスの制度を参考にして、日本にもスポーツにおける子ども保護制度を導入すべきである。子ども保護制度の国際標準化の動向にも今後注視していきたい。

## Introduction

In sports instruction, physical contact between sports authority figures and athletes is unavoidable. Sports engenders situations where abuse and violence tend to be generated.

Moreover, sports authority figures tend to place priority on victory over players' human rights through commercialism principles, and a victory-at-all-costs philosophy.

The Sport Fundamental Act, enacted in Japan in 2011, states in article 2 that for children, who are growing in mind and body, sports increase physical strength and significantly influences character formation, such as the cultivation of attitudes and spirit that respects justice and order. In addition, sports cultivate a healthy heart and body, and playing sports can create the foundation for a rich life. Therefore, corporal punishment and abuse by sports authority figures contravenes this healthy development, and conflicts with securing a child's human rights in sports. For this reason, corporal punishment and abuse perpetrated by sports authority figures on children in sports have been regarded as human rights issues.

The international responses to this problem were as follows. Firstly, in 2005, the IOC issued the 'Consensus Statement on Training of the Elite Child Athlete' regarding the training of elite child athlete. (IOC 2005) The committee also issued the 'Consensus Statement on Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport' concerning sexual harassment in sports in 2007. (IOC 2007) Secondly, in 2010, UNICEF published a report on child protection in sport 'Protecting Children from Violence in Sport - a Review with a Focus on Industrialized Countries'. (UNICEF 2010) Thirdly, Mr. Paulo David who belongs to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has proposed 'the (child-centered) sport system'- as a concrete method to achieve human rights approach (Paulo David, 2005: 237-240).

In the United Kingdom, which is one of the most advanced countries in the world in safeguarding children in sports, a special organization called the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) was established by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and Sport England in 2001. As we will explain later, the child protection system in the UK has much more instructive points for the prevention of violence involving children in sports compared with the Japanese system.

## Discussion and Results

This work, while considering the statements of the IOC, the report of UNICEF, and previous works by Mr. Paul David, Japanese researchers and others, introduces research that considers the present condition of child athlete human rights protection, and the necessity for a child protection system in Japan based on all the results of a questionnaire administered to undergraduate students of the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya (NIFS), Japan.

Although there have been many studies which have investigated the use of corporal punishment in Japan by physical education teachers or coaches in school athletic clubs, this questionnaire attempts to investigate abuses by physical education teachers or coaches in school athletic clubs.

Consequently, this study may be the first of its kind to investigate such abuses.

For this study, we administered the questionnaire as follows.

Period of Administrations : from January to February, 2012

Subjects : NIFS undergraduate students in their third year and fourth year

Contents: Regarding their experiences prior to entering university

Method : The questionnaire was administered it during the students' "Sports Law and Theory of

## Safety" class

Number of responses : 89 (rate of response: 45.9%).

Results : The results of the questionnaire are as follows.

The results of the questionnaire are outlined in the six points below.

1. One in five respondents answered that they had experienced corporal punishment, and one in five (18%) indicated that they had observed corporal punishment. (Table1)
2. The results indicate that corporal punishment has occurred regardless specific individual events, group games, etc. According to the results of this questionnaire, the sports events of which more than one-third of the respondents indicated that they had experienced physical punishment during the club activities prior to entering university were gymnastics, windsurfing, kendo, volleyball, and basketball.(Table 2)
3. The competition ability levels of athletes who have experienced corporal punishment are on a little bit lower level than the level of International

Convention winning-a-prize / participation.

This agrees with the analysis results of previous research. (Table 3)

4. About half (46%) of the whole respondents including consent in part agree with the affirmation theory of violence. (Table 4).
5. 62% of respondents who had experienced corporal punishment indicated that they believed corporal punishment to be necessary to some extent in sport. Moreover, the percentage of respondents who believed that corporal punishment by sports authority figures was effective was 17%.(Table 5)
6. About 62% of the respondents think that child protection is necessary. (Table 6)

As these results of our questionnaire indicate, many respondents responded that they had experiences of corporal punishments prior to entering university in

Table 1. Experience of corporal punishment

Result	Responses	Percentage
Yes	16	18
No	73	82

Table 2. Corporal punishment experience according to primary sport played

Sports	Incidents (No.) of corporal punishment		Percentage
	Yes	No	
Baseball	1	8	11.1
Football	1	19	0.5
Swimming	1	3	25.0
Volleyball	3	5	37.5
Tennis	0	3	0.0
Kendo	2	3	40.0
Judo	0	4	0.0
Rowing	0	1	0.0
Windsurfing	1	1	50.0
Canoe	0	8	0.0
Bicycle	0	1	0.0
Gymnastics	2	0	100.0
Basketball	3	5	37.5
Yacht	0	2	0.0
Rugby	1	3	25.0
Track and field	1	5	16.7
No entry	0	2	0.0

Table 3. Experience of corporal punishment according to level of competition

Level of competition	Number of experience		Percentage
	Yes	No	
Prizewinner at international competition	0	2	0.0
Participant in international competition	0	3	0.0
Prizewinner at national competition	6	17	26.1
Participant in national competition	6	17	26.1
Participant in competition held in province	4	20	16.7
Participant in competition held in prefecture	0	10	0.0
Participant in lower level competition	0	4	0.0

Table 4. How to think about a theory of affirmation of violence

Contents of answer	Answers	Percentage
Agreement with violence affirmation	1	1.1
Agreement in part with violence affirmation	40	44.9
Cannot agree with violence affirmation	47	52.8
No entry	1	1.1

Table 5. Reason for confirmation

Contents of answer	Answers	percentage
Necessary in coaching sports to some extent	26	61.9
Corporal punishment by coaches is effective	7	16.7
Corporal punishment were done usually	1	2.4
Others	8	19.0

Table 6. Necessity for child protection

Contents of answer	Answers	percentage
Necessary	55	61.8
Not necessary	10	11.2
Not sure	24	27.0

Japan. Consequently, it is evident that there is a need to consider how to safeguard children from abuse or violence by authority figures in sports in Japan. As mentioned above, the UK system for child protection in sports is very informative for considering this issue in Japan.

In creating a safe sports environment for children, and protecting them from harm, the CPSU devised the standard second edition regarding child protection in sports (the abbreviation "CPSU standard" stands for it as follows) as a standard for child protection in sports in 2002. This guideline has become the standard for

sports organizations in the UK.

The CPSU-based standard child protection system of British sports organizations has the following characteristics.

### 1. Comprehensiveness of the system

CPSU requires the implementation of child protection guidelines by every sports organizations subsidized by the UK government.

### 2. Division of abuse into five types

In the guidelines issued by each sports organizations, five types of abuses are detailed, namely, physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological

abuse, neglect, and bullying. Of these, physical punishment by a sports authority figure on a child is included under "physical abuse", sexual harassment of a child by a sports authority figure under "sexual abuse", abusive words to a child by a sports authority figure under "psychological abuse", and abandonment or omission of instruction to a child by a sports authority figure is classified as "neglect".

### **3. Modelling of good practice by sports coaches**

The Sports Coach UK, a national coaching organization in the UK, issued a model for sports coaches entitled the "Code of Practice for Sports Coaches", within which measures for the prevention of child abuse in sports instruction are contained. In addition, each sports organizations in the UK creates a guideline outlining "good practices" and "bad practices" for sports coaches to safeguard children of their instruction in accordance with the Sports Coach UK guidelines.

### **4. System checks by the DBS**

The DBS system is a system performed before by the Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) to remove persons holding a criminal record associated with child instruction in sport. However, since the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) was established in November 2012 as an authority possessing the functions of the CRB and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), the check system of the CRB was shifted to the DBS. In this system, sports authority figures, including volunteers, are required to receive a check every three years.

### **5. CP guidelines of each sports organization in the UK contains unique contents and characteristics**

For example, in the guidelines of the British Judo Association (BJA), examples of physical abuse include "the randori without mutual consent and technical justification". Moreover, the guidelines explicate that judoka do not partake in bullying as per

the Principle of Maximum Efficiency and Jita-Kyoei Mutual Welfare and benefit that Professor Jigoro Kano advocated. (BJA, 2007:12) In addition, the contents of the CP system of the Football Association(FA) are closely related to the Respect Programme promoted by the association, and the association also conducts online workshops for parents.(FA,2014 )

### **6. Instructional guidelines for sports authority figures**

Within the CP guidelines of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), the taking of performance enhancing drugs and overtraining are contained under "physical abuse".(ASA, 2009:11)

In addition, in Chapter 4 of the guideline (Information and guidance for coaches, teachers, and poolside helpers) , coaches should instruct children according to their age, maturity, experience, and ability, and follow the guidance of the ASA regarding coaching.

### **7. Link to a certification system for coaching**

When a coach instructs in a UK sports club, it is necessary for him or her to acquire level 2 or higher than UKCC (United Kingdom Coaching Certificate) which is a public certification for UKCC level 2 to participate in a certification workshop to learn the contents of child protection. Hence, the child protection system in the UK is a very effective system in its connection with the certification system for coaching.

### **8. Protection of sports authority figures themselves**

The primary function of the CP is as a system to protect children receiving instruction. However, it is also a significant system for sports authority figures they cannot be removed from sports instruction if they comply with CP guidelines. (M Turner, P McCrory, 2004:106)

As mentioned above, child protection in the UK is strong reference for consideration in introducing



a new system for the prevention of child abuse or corporal punishment by sports authority figures in Japan. However, prior to introducing such a system, we have to research how Japanese sports organizations currently prevent child abuse or corporal punishments by sports authority figures. This research has therefore attempted to clarify this situations. The results of the research can be summarized as follows.

In Japan, the Japan Association of Athletics Federations creates “the guidelines on ethics”. The guidelines state that “when touching an athlete’s body for a purpose, such as for instruction and condition management, with the comprehension of the athlete him-or herself, the coach touches the athlete’s clothes as much as possible, and requests assistance from a third party in ensuring that there is no misunderstanding to prevent sexual harassment”.

For the Japanese Schoolchild Volleyball League, “ethics regulations” state that “speech and conduct contrary to the soul of respect for human rights, such as corporal punishment, violence, abusive language, sexual harassment, individual discrimination, and other such actions which pretend to instruct athletes should be forbidden”. Moreover the league defers penal regulations on such an offender, such as the expropriation of the instructional qualifications, the post or league banishment, team dismissal among others.

Most Japanese sport organizations haven’t created child protection guidelines like these before.

Recently, some Japanese organizations have tried to reexamine their ethics regulations or disciplinary regulations to prevent child abuse or corporal punishments by sports authority figures. For example, the Japan Association of Athletics Federations issued the Declaration for Extermination of Acts of Violence in the Sports Fields in April 2013. The All Japan Judo Federation has also attempted to introduce a new qualification system for judo coaches and strength

disciplinary regulations to prevent child abuse or sexual harassment by judo coaches in recent years. In further support of these efforts, it appears that the research being done in the UK model may be a solid reference in creating a new child protection system in Japan.

## **Conclusion**

As this questionnaire and the previous research by Japanese scholars has shown in sports instruction in Japan, physical contact between a sports authority figure and an athlete is unavoidable, leading sports to engender situations where abuse and violence tend to be generated.

It also appears that sports authority figures tend to give priority to victory over player human rights through a focus on commercialism principles, and a victory-at-all-costs philosophy. There are also similar situations in Japan.

The statements by the IOC and the report by UNICEF noted in this paper’s introduction were issued for protection of child athlete human rights in sport, and the knowledge of the researchers of child protection is reflected in them.

As Mr. Paul David proposed, for the prevention from child athlete abuse in sport, a child-centered sport system needs to be constructed, and the protection of child athlete human rights based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child is necessary.

Likewise in Japan, it is necessary to introduce child protection and establish a special organization in charge of child protection in sport like the CPSU in the UK.

In recent years, international standardization for the safeguarding of children in sports has been initiated by UNICEF and the CPSU. (Celia H. Brackenridge and Daniel Rhind, 2014: 331 ; Melanie Lang and Mike Hartill, 2014: 5-6) It is difficult to predict whether this trial will be successful or not. However, the prevention

of child abuse or corporal punishment or sexual harassment by sports authority figures is a common international issue for sports worldwide so. I would like to observe this international movement more closely from now on.

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