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# THE CONTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS IN ALGERIA

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## ABSTRACT

This article aims to highlight the role of legislative and financial regulations in the success of professional sports in Algeria, considering it a strategic option for developing national sports and enhancing its competitive level. The article addressed the legal framework governing professional sports, highlighting the importance of laws and regulations in organizing professional contracts, transforming clubs into legal entities, and ensuring the rights of various stakeholders in the sports system. It also addressed the financial requirements and their pivotal role in supporting professionalism, by providing stable funding sources, encouraging sports investment, and achieving financial sustainability for clubs. The article highlighted the existing integration between the legislative and financial aspects in achieving administrative and financial stability, improving the sports work environment, and enhancing competitiveness both locally and internationally. Moreover, it concluded that the success of professional sports in Algeria depends on the effective implementation of sports legislation and the development of financing and investment mechanisms, ensuring a genuine and sustainable professionalism that contributes to the development of sports performance and the achievement of comprehensive sports development.

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## KEYWORDS

Legislative Regulations, Sports Financing, Sports Professionalism

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**Introduction and Issue Statement of the Study:**

Sports have become a multi-dimensional socio-economic phenomenon in the modern era, transcending their status as mere recreational or physical activities to transform into a vital sector closely linked to economic development, investment, marketing, and the international image-building of countries. In this context, professional sports are considered one of the most significant transformations in the sports field, due to their effective role in enhancing performance levels, organizing sports practice according to professional and legal foundations, and ensuring the rights of athletes and various actors within the sports system. This shift toward professionalism has compelled countries to adapt their legal and financial systems to meet the requirements of modern sports, by enacting clear legislation, establishing effective funding mechanisms, organizing contractual relationships between clubs and players, and encouraging sports investment. The existence of a comprehensive legislative framework and a stable financial system is considered one of the essential conditions for the success of professional sports and ensuring its sustainability. It is impossible to talk about true professionalism in the absence of laws regulating sports activities or the lack of financial resources that hinder the implementation of those laws on the ground. In Algeria, the adoption of the professional sports system came in response to global transformations in the sports field, and to improve the level of national sports, especially in team sports, with football at the forefront. The Algerian state has worked on establishing a set of laws and regulations, the most notable being the Law on Physical Education and Sports, with the aim of regulating the practice of professionalism, organizing sports clubs, and transforming them into legal entities capable of management according to a professional economic logic. However, this path still faces many challenges, both at the legislative and financial levels, raising the question of how much these regulations contribute to achieving the desired sports professionalism. Based on that, the importance of studying the requirements of legislative and financial regulations and their role in the success of professional sports in Algeria emerges, through analyzing the effectiveness of the existing laws, the efficiency of financing and investment mechanisms, and the extent to which this reflects on the performance of clubs and athletes. This study also seeks to highlight the complementary relationship between the legal framework and financial resources in building a professional system capable of achieving administrative and financial stability, enhancing sports competitiveness, and contributing to sustainable sports development.

The current urban development necessitates working on the development and programming of sports structures and facilities capable of accommodating the largest possible number of practitioners and providing the means for the success of any physical and sports activity "through organized and semiprofessional methods, and with various recovery means in sports facilities (Yakoubi Adma, 2005, p.1).

Football clubs in Algeria remain distant from the dynamics of the economy and its interactions, as most clubs rely on government funding, support from club fans, and stadium revenues. They benefit from selling players to wealthier teams and from television broadcasting revenues. However, this is often insufficient, and most clubs are in a constant struggle with limited resources. They often find themselves unable to pay players' salaries, let alone acquire players to enhance the team, or to provide the necessary sports activity supplies and cover the expenses of an entire season, including transportation and sports equipment.

The latter, around which this study revolves, leads us to pose the general question: To what extent do the requirements of legislative and financial regulations contribute to the success of professional sports in Algeria?

**Partial questions:**

1. To what extent do legislative requirements contribute to the success of the professional sports system in football?
- 2- Does the absence of financial requirements constitute one of the obstacles facing the football sports system in successfully implementing the professional sports project in Algeria?

**General hypothesis:** The extent to which the requirements of legislative and financial regulations contribute to the success of professional sports in Algeria.

**Partial hypotheses:**

- 1- Legislative requirements contribute to the success of the professional sports system in Algerian football.
- 2- The absence of financial requirements is considered one of the obstacles facing the football sports system in the success of the professionalization project in Algeria.

**Study objectives:**

- 1-Identifying the extent to which legislative requirements contribute to the success of the professional sports system in Algerian football.
- 2- Identifying the extent to which clubs adhere to the terms and obligations in the field of sports marketing and financing.
- 3- Understanding the importance of financial requirements in the success of the professional system in Algeria.

**Defining concepts and terms:****The concept of sports professionalism:**

**Linguistically:** To be skilled, to become skilled, to be a professional, a term from professional sports, a way of earning from a profession (Al-Munjid Arabic Dictionary in Language and Media: 1984, p. 41).

**Terminologically:**

Professionalism in its general sense means a person practicing their activity as a craft, by engaging in it regularly and continuously with the aim of achieving a reliable income as a means of living (Abdul Fadir Muhammad Ahmed: 1991, p. 90).

**Operational definition:**

We mean by sports professionalism in the sports context, that it is a profession carried out by the player regularly and continuously through the practice of a specific sports activity. There is a contract concluded between the player and the club that both parties must adhere to achieving the desired goal.

**Project:****A- Linguistically:**

The word "Project" in Arabic is derived from the verb "to project" and its plural "projects". In the dictionary of meanings, it means a justified work, something that has been initiated or presented as a new project. What is prepared in the field of economics or industry and presented in the form of a project or plan to be studied and decided upon with the aim of implementation.

([https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/29/03/2017\\_at\\_20:19](https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/29/03/2017_at_20:19))

**B- Terminologically:**

It is a set of related and overlapping activities that occur simultaneously, involving the use of various available resources to achieve certain benefits in the near future. Ali Sharif: 1998, p. 209).

**C-Procedurally:** It is a set of laws and regulatory regulations established by the Algerian Football Federation, with 2011 set as the final deadline for compliance, in accordance with what was stipulated by the International Football Federation (FIFA), under the penalty of not participating in international competitions. And entering the world of professionalism through it, represented by the conditions and obligations that must be undertaken by sports clubs.

The concept of the sports professionalism project can be understood from three dimensions: the professionalism of sports clubs, the professionalism of actors in the sports field, and the professionalism of sports activities.

**Linguistic definition:**

\* Financing: Funded by money, and its meaning is known as what you possess of things. (Jamal al-Din Muhammad ibn Manzur al-Afriki, 1968, p. 635).

\*Funding: means the man has increased his wealth, funding wealth means he has taken it for himself (Ali Belhadia, 1976, 222).

**Terminological definition:** Works related to trade and marketing have been discussed (sponsoring) as a means of communication linked to a specific event, through which the desired goal is determined, such as funding a sport or event while promoting the intended product and then benefiting from the advertising amount.

**Operational definition:** Financing is the set of actions and measures through which an institution can meet its capital needs to initiate or develop a project.

**C- Sports financing:** The concept of this term has gradually expanded to the actual assistance of a phenomenon as we hear about it today.

The concepts of this term have varied in the literature, and we choose the concepts of "Goossens.I" and "Paul.F".

Sports financing is an agreement between two parties:

The first party, called the (financier), provides money or significant loans to the second party.

As for the second party (the financier), they provide services that include communication capabilities or the compensation requested by the financier, which directly results from practicing sports. (Al-Saadani Khalil Al-Saadani, Kamal Darwish, 2006, p. 157).

It is a collection of financial and in-kind resources that a non-profit organization obtains, whether they are self-generated revenues, private donations, or government grants.

Pierre Shanoundefines it as a means of communication that allows for a direct connection or branding with a sporting event or competition followed by viewers. Ghadban Ahmed Hamza et al., 208).

**Financial obstacles:** These are the obstacles related to financial aspects, particularly in determining the budget of the professional sports club, especially regarding the entitlements of human resources (players, coaches, administrators) and all the club's expenses, as well as resources represented in funding sources, marketing and advertising, broadcasting rights, sports competition expenses, and the construction and maintenance of sports facilities affiliated with the professional sports club.

**Previous studies:**

Study by student Bou Salah Al-Nadhir, entitled: "*Sources of Financing Professional Football Clubs in Algeria*", Doctoral Dissertation, Institute of Science and Technology of Physical and Sports Activities, Sidi Abdallah, Algeria, 2014/2015.

The study aimed to identify the sources of self-financing in professional sports clubs, as well as to understand the main factors controlling self-financing and to know the strategic procedures for self-financing in professional sports clubs.

The researcher used the descriptive method as well as the questionnaire and interview as tools for data collection, and the study sample consisted of the presidents and members of the boards of professional sports clubs.

**The most important findings:** Considering the research objectives and questions, and the results and conclusions reached, the researcher recommended the following:

**The legislative authority:** This was represented by the legislative authority enacting a special law in the sports field that contributes to the funding of professional football clubs.

- Convincing that funding professional sports clubs is a source of income for both the state and the investor.

- Establishing laws and regulations that encourage individuals and institutions to invest in sports clubs, such as customs and tax exemptions.

**Professional sports clubs:** This was reflected in the necessity for professional sports clubs to be convinced of the importance of self-financing, which can eliminate the financial problems that clubs are struggling with.

- The necessity for the boards of directors of professional sports clubs to include specialists in management, investment, marketing, media, as well as legal aspects, information technology, and human resources management, to work on activating funding sources and seeking new ones.

- The necessity for professional sports clubs to adopt and implement modern management concepts such as total quality management, management by objectives, strategic management, electronic management, knowledge management, human resource management, and time management.

- Exploiting the financial grants provided by the state to undertake investments and projects to benefit from them.

**Economic institutions:** This involved working to attract economic institutions to invest in professional sports clubs and encouraging them to invest in the sports sector. And also, the acceleration of selling the club's shares to major economic institutions.

- The study by Trich Lahcen titled "Legal and Material Obstacles to the Success of the Professional Sports System in Algerian Football," a master's thesis in the Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports, Institute of Sciences and Techniques of Physical and Sports Activities - Mohamed Boudiaf University, M'sila, 2014, and among the most important findings are as follows:

- The weak application of legal texts does not contribute to the success of the professional sports system in Algerian football.

- The absence of a clear marketing strategy among sports clubs does not contribute to the success of the professional sports system in football.

- A third study, a master's thesis by: Abdulaziz bin Saad Abdulaziz Al-Aqeeli, College of Education, Department of Physical Education, Umm Al-Qura University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, (2014).

- Title of the study: Obstacles to Professional Management in the Saudi Professional Football League Clubs.

- The general objective of the study: To identify the main obstacles to professional management (administrative, financial, human) in the Saudi Professional Football League clubs.

**- Study questions:**

- What are the obstacles faced by the Professional Management in the Saudi Professional Football League clubs?

1- What are the obstacles related to the administrative aspect?

2- What are the obstacles related to the financial aspect?

3- What are the obstacles related to the human aspect?

The methodology: The descriptive method was employed.

- Study sample: It consisted of (115) individuals from club board members, the main professional committee, club professional managers, those working in the club's professional management, football team managers, and player agents. The research sample was selected intentionally.

- **Study tools:** They consisted of a questionnaire.

**- Study Results:**

- The researcher concluded that the first axis, "obstacles related to the administrative aspect," had the statement "the regulations for Saudi professionalism align with the regulations issued by the international federation" in the first rank. The statement "the regulations for Saudi professionalism align with those of advanced countries in the process of football professionalism" ranked second. The statement "the policies for managing the Saudi professionalism system are characterized by flexibility and modernity" ranked third.

The second axis "Obstacles related to the financial aspect" included the statement "Regular payment of the club's obligations facilitates the work of the professionalism management" and the statement "The start of privatizing clubs supports the professionalism management to achieve the goals of professionalism" and the statement "Balanced player contracts with the club's budget facilitate the work of the professionalism management," which ranked first. The second axis "Obstacles related to the financial aspect" ranked first among the axes of the questionnaire "Obstacles to Professionalism Management." The first axis, "Obstacles Related to the Administrative Aspect," ranked second in the survey axes "Obstacles to Professional Management." The third axis, "Obstacles Related to the Human Aspect," ranked third in the survey axes "Obstacles to Professional Management."

**Field procedures for the study:**

**Exploratory study:**

The exploration study was conducted during the extended period in April 2025. An exploratory study was conducted on a sample of 12 managers from the board of directors of clubs active in the first professional football league, outside the main study sample. And from the study population, three professional teams are represented, active in the first professional league (CS Constantine, Paradou, and USM Alger), with an average of four managers from the board of directors of the clubs active in the first professional league.

The objective of the study was:

- Identifying the administrative and organizational procedures for implementing the questionnaire form.

- Understanding the extent to which the research sample comprehends and grasps the survey statements.

- Adjusting the study population and sample.

- Determining the most suitable method for selecting the sample.

- The possibility of collecting data in an objective manner that serves the research.

**Fields of study:**

The fields of study were as follows:

A- Spatial domain: The study was limited to professional sports clubs in the first league in Algeria.

B- B- Temporal scope: The study was conducted during the period of September 2025.

**- Psychometric properties of the study tool:**

**- Face validity:**

Apparent validity is the best method to extract the degree of measurement validity, as this type of validity is based on observing the measurement and its contents. Using the method of surveying the opinions of judges, we presented the questionnaire form, accompanied by the hypotheses and the problem, to a group of specialized university professors after its preparation. They unanimously agreed on the validity of the questionnaire in this study, confirming that it serves the purpose for which it was created. The questions approved by the teachers were adopted.

**Reliability coefficient:**

Reliability represents great importance in the process of constructing and standardizing tests, meaning that the test should be highly accurate and precise in what it is designed to measure. The reliability score is considered high the closer it approaches the value of one. According to the study requirements, the method of Cronbach's Alpha was used to ensure reliability.

**Table 1.** Shows the value of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the questionnaire axes

Questionnaire axes	Alpha Cronbach coefficient		Result
First theme: Legislative requirements contribute to the success of the professional sports system in Algerian soccer.	0,567	08	Stable
Axis2 -02- The absence of financial requirements is considered one of the obstacles facing the football system in the success of the professionalization project in Algeria.	0,357	08	Stable
All sections of the questionnaire	0,785	16	Stable

**- Study population:** Our research population is represented by the professional sports clubs in the first league, estimated to be 16 professional clubs.

**- Research sample and how it was selected:**

In this study, the sample was selected using a simple random method and consisted of 8 clubs active in the first professional league, where questionnaires were distributed to five members from each club. (The general manager, the chairman of the board, the chairman of the supervisory board, a member of the board, and an administrator) represent 8 clubs out of 16 clubs.

- The Professional First League: (Mouloudia Algiers, Saoura, CR Belouizdad, ES Sétif, Ittihad Khénchela, Chlef, Mouloudia Bayad).

**The methodology used:**

The descriptive method was used for its suitability to meet the requirements of this research.

**- Study tools:**

**First: The questionnaire:**

The questionnaire was used as a tool for collecting information and data due to its suitability for the nature of the study.

**-Statistical methods used in the study:**

We used some concepts related to descriptive and inferential statistics in data analysis, utilizing the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). V 25) and included:

- Cronbach's alpha test determines the reliability of the questionnaire items.

- Frequencies and percentages to analyze the responses of the study sample and identify their attitudes toward the questions and statements of the study tool.

- Results of the first hypothesis: which stated that legislative requirements contribute to the success of the professional sports system in Algerian football.

**Table 2.** Statements of the first hypothesis: Sports clubs have implemented the conditions and obligations in the field of sports and technical supervision for players and managers

No.	Football matches	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1	Your club has two qualified members in accordance with the rulebook.	60%	20%	20%
2	The club has coaches who hold the certificates specified in the rulebook.	95%	5%	0%
3	The club submits the coaches' contracts to the national federation for approval.	100%	0%	0%
4	Your club has a technical director who has the necessary qualifications specified in the rulebook.	70%	20%	10%
5	The club applies the legal provisions set out in the area of foreign workers.	95%	5%	0%
6	The club registers its players with the tax authorities and the pension authorities.	50%	40%	10%
7	The club's managers have a license from the federation.	60%	25%	15%
8	The club has training centers in accordance with the conditions set out.	40%	50%	10%

**Analysis, discussion, and interpretation of the results of the first axis:**

Based on the results obtained from the responses of the sample individuals regarding the first axis, we find that the opinions of the study sample for items number (1/2/3/4/5/6/7) tend to agree with a relatively high percentage ranging from (60% to 100%). All of this reflects the positive outlook of sports club managers toward this axis, meaning that the clubs have qualified trainers according to the conditions and obligations stipulated in the specifications document, which mandated the presence of qualified trainers in sports clubs. Additionally, most clubs include coaches who hold the required certificates, and all clubs submitted the coaches' contracts for approval by the National Football Federation. This aligns with the specifications document, which emphasized the obligation of professional clubs to submit their coaches' contracts for approval by the National Football Federation.

We also find that most clubs apply the legal and regulatory provisions stipulated in the terms of reference, especially in the area of foreign workers. They have declared their players to the tax administration and the pension administration and have subscribed to social insurance for them with social insurance bodies. The previous results align with what researcher Jalal Salahuddin concluded in 2011, that the laws are still far from the requirements of professionalism.

**- Results of the second hypothesis:** which stated that sports clubs have implemented the conditions and obligations in the field of sports marketing and financing.

**Table 3.** The second hypothesis states that the absence of financial requirements is considered one of the obstacles facing the football sports system in the success of the professionalization project in Algeria

No.	Football matches	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
9	The club has various sources of funding according to the stipulated laws.	60%	20%	20%
10	The club can forgo government funding according to the laws.	17%	23%	60%
11	The club relies on marketing plans to increase revenues according to the stipulated conditions.	10%	15%	75%
12	The club benefits from broadcasting rights according to existing regulations.	12%	13%	75%
13	The club provides investment plans in player transfer contracts.	75%	25%	60%
14	Renting out the sports facility is considered one of the most important sources of funding.	25%	10%	65%
15	The club's managers have a license from the federation.	30%	10%	60%
16	There is a special marketing and finance department in your club.	5%	10%	85%

Analysis, discussion, and interpretation of the results of the second axis: Thru Table No. (03), it was shown that the opinions of the study sample for items No. (09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16) indicate that all respondents confirm their disagreement, with percentages ranging from 60% to 80% in their responses, meaning that professional clubs cannot dispense with government funding and rely solely on their own revenues.

We also conclude that there is no marketing strategy adopted by the professional sports club, nor do they have a specialist in the field of marketing. This can be explained by the lack of training for specialized personnel in this area.

The sample members also confirm that the professional club lacks an economic culture thru attracting investors as a source of funding, meaning they find it difficult to secure financing and their financial resources are insufficient to cover their activities. They cannot dispense with government funding (municipality, province, Ministry of Sports), which may be due to the difficulty of transitioning from the culture of an amateur club to a professional club that requires a joint-stock company to rely on itself for production, promotion, and marketing of its products, and to seek real investors. Additionally, we find that the sports facilities are not being optimally utilized to finance their activities. Sports clubs are forced to construct and build specific facilities and amenities to use in advertising and marketing operations.

- The previous results align with what researcher Triche Lahcen concluded in his master's thesis in 2014, that the funding policy adopted by the clubs does not contribute to the success of the professional sports system in Algerian football.

#### **Conclusions:**

- Clubs have implemented the legal rules specified for various contracts, whether for coaches or players.
- Professional clubs cannot dispense with government funding and rely solely on their own revenues, which contradicts what is stipulated in the terms of reference.
- The clubs do not implement laws to apply a clear marketing strategy to increase their financial revenues.
- Professional sports clubs do not have investment plans to increase the club's revenues according to the terms of the contract.
- Not relying on self-financing by encouraging investment and marketing in the sports field thru its various means to eliminate the financial deficit that most clubs suffer from.

#### **Recommendations and suggestions:**

- Establishing and constructing sports facilities and training centers at the club level with world-class specifications.
- Encouraging companies, commercial institutions, and investment firms to sponsor sports clubs.
- Monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the conditions and provisions of the professional regulations.
- Developing a strategy for the sports professionalism system in sports clubs.
- Giving importance to sports marketing and following its methods to achieve professional sports in sports clubs through advertising and promotion, television broadcasting, marketing of tournaments and matches, marketing of players, and marketing of sports facilities.

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