

****Racism in Portuguese football: A new look****

Article. Neves, S., Topa, J., Borges, J., & Silva, E. (2023). Racism in football in Portugal: Perceptions of multiple actors. *Social Sciences*, 12

Link. [Racism in Football in Portugal: Perceptions of Multiple Actors](#)

Aim. This research set out to understand the extent and nature of racism within Portuguese football. Researchers wanted to know how common people believe racism is, what forms it takes, who is targeted, who is responsible, and how effectively it's being addressed. The study includes perspectives from a wide range of people involved in the sport, including players, fans, coaches, and journalists.

Methods. The study involved a large online survey of over 1680 people connected to Portuguese football. Participants, ranging in age from 13 to 61, answered questions about their experiences and opinions regarding discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. The researchers then used statistical analysis to identify trends and connections in the responses.

Key findings. The study revealed that a significant majority – nearly 60% – of those surveyed believe racism is present in Portuguese football. Verbal abuse was the most commonly reported form of racism, followed by more subtle forms of psychological and social discrimination. While anyone can be a target, male athletes were most often identified as those experiencing racism, and fans were frequently seen as the source of the problem. Notably, women were consistently more likely than men to recognize the existence of racism and to identify female athletes as victims. A key finding was that many people feel racism isn't taken seriously enough in Portuguese football, often being downplayed or going unreported. Participants widely agreed that stronger punishments for racist fans and increased education about the issue are crucial steps towards change. This research is important because it provides concrete data to support the need for action and can inform the development of effective policies to combat racism in the sport.

Limitations. It's important to remember that this study relied on people sharing their perceptions and experiences through a survey. This means the results reflect what people believe is happening, rather than directly observing racist incidents. While the survey included a diverse group of participants, it's possible the findings don't perfectly represent the views of everyone involved in Portuguese football, as participation was voluntary. Additionally, the study identified connections between factors, but couldn't definitively prove that one thing 'causes' another. Finally, people's understanding of what constitutes racism can vary, which may have influenced their responses.