Organizing and ownership in sport – Nordic focus

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The 20th century paved the way for the growth, development and professionalization of a number of sports such as athletics, football (including different codes in different countries), ice hockey, tennis, golf, motor racing, equestrian/riding sport and so forth as part of societies and humanity. Tied to this there has been increasing number of stakeholders like sporting clubs/bodies, players/athletes, championship associations, sponsors, organizations, governments, media and communities and their significance and influences in the sports industry. Considering the world being more interconnected and thereby knowledge flows between individuals/communities in the context of technologically interdependent societies, there is vast creation, expansion and mobility of resources available for different stakeholders in contemporary sport.

Due to the burgeoning of audiences’ interests, improved professionalism and continuing demands of high-performance/standards in different aspects of managing and playing sport, there is a need for deeper contextual knowledge and understanding of how individual sport/s, leagues and clubs are organized and owned/managed from local to national to international settings. While there is literature on the role of sport professionals (i.e. players, athletes, managers, club owners, sport engineers, scientists, psychologists, coaching staff, operations staff etc.) in today’s sports industry, there seem to be less evidence in the existing literature on the significance and role of organizing/organization and ownership in sport, particularly in the Nordic region. This track invite theoretical and empirical studies, with several sub-topics in the field of sport management organization and ownership.

Examples of specific themes

- How are different sports and associated leagues organized and owned in the sports industry? Do they organize better and/or learn from other league exemplars (e.g. football, ice hockey, motor racing etc.) in Europe and rest of the world?
- What is the relationship between club performance outcomes (i.e. winning trophies) and managerial power to make player decisions and trading?
• How do clubs (e.g. football context) in the Nordics compare/similar with English premier league clubs regarding club ownership and commercialization strategies?

• Are there tensions between organizational logics as voluntary logic vs business logic in the context of commercialization of sporting clubs?

• Comparative studies regarding different sports' club leagues in terms of foreign ownership and organization structures in contemporary sports industry.

• Why there are distinctions in the organization and ownership structures and competitiveness among many sporting leagues in Europe? For example, in English premier league contexts standards (in terms of football clubs' performances and structures) seems comparatively high than most other football leagues (i.e. Italy, Spain or Germany where three to four clubs is in the top at the European Continent level and the rest is less competitive).

• Sports entrepreneurship related to sport organizations' innovation processes in a globalized sports industry, but also professional athletes turning into entrepreneurs and their own businesses in the context of increasing commercialisation of athletes and how this is organized.