

LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PREPARATION OF PADANGSAMBIAN GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS	
I Wayan Werasmana SANCAYA ^{1*} , I Gede Wira DARMA ² , IB Gede Agustya MAHAPUTRA ³ , I Made Aditya Mantara PUTRA ⁴	
^{1,2,3,4} Directorate of Research and Community Service (DPPM) Warmadewa University	
Abstract: The legal assistance program for drafting regulations of the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival was conducted to strengthen the governance of community-based football competitions through a participatory legal approach with a child protection perspective. A common phenomenon found at the community level is the absence of written regulations, which leads to potential conflicts, uncertainty in referee decisions, and weak protection of young players. Using the community-based legal drafting method, this program involved organizers, coaches, participants, and parents in drafting adaptive regulations with social legitimacy. The results indicate an increase in community legal awareness and the establishment of a regulation document that includes child protection clauses, dispute resolution mechanisms, and the formation of a Match Ethics Committee as a structured mediation body. This initiative also produced a significant social impact by reinforcing a culture of deliberation and legal literacy within the local sports community. The approach has proven effective and is recommended for replication by other grassroots sports communities as a model of participatory legal governance in amateur competitions.	Article History: Received: 2025-09-04 Revised: 2025-10-02 Accepted: 2025-11-15 Vol 3 Issue 1 2025 Corresponding Author* (wayansancaya@warmadewa.ac.id) 
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INTRODUCTION

Community football, or grassroots football, has become a crucial social space for developing the character of young people at the local level. Activities like the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival serve not only as a competitive arena but also as a platform for development, education in sportsmanship, and strengthening social solidarity. However, despite this positive dynamic, legal challenges arise related to the development of competition regulations, which often lack a clear normative basis. Many community-based sports activities operate with improvisational governance and rely on informal agreements, making them prone to conflict between teams, committees, and even parents of young athletes (Fauzan, 2021). In this context, legal assistance becomes relevant as an effort to strengthen the governance of competition regulations to align with the principles of justice, child protection, and ensure the safety of tournament participants. According to Law Number 11 of 2022 concerning Sports, all sporting activities, both professional and amateur, are required to prioritize the principles of legal protection and participant safety (Siregar & Widodo, 2022). Unfortunately, implementation of this legal norm remains minimal at the community level due to limited legal understanding by local organizers. This is exacerbated by the lack of written guidelines regarding competition dispute resolution mechanisms or standards for the protection of young athletes (Hidayat, 2020).

Community-based sports festivals often face issues such as unclear authority over the committee's sanctions, differing interpretations of violations, and external intervention that can potentially lead to horizontal conflict. Regulations developed without legal support often imitate the format of professional competitions without considering local socio-cultural characteristics. Effective regulations for community activities must accommodate family values while ensuring legal certainty for all participants. (Sancaya & Widiawati, 2023).

Padangsembian, a region with high community participation in youth sports activities, particularly through its Football School (SSB PESPA), has great potential to become a model for organizing equitable community-based tournaments. However, without a clear regulatory framework, tournaments can become an arena for conflict, especially when there is dissatisfaction with referee or

committee decisions. A study by Putra and Mahardika (2021) found that most conflicts in local tournaments stem from unclear written rules and the lack of accessible appeals mechanisms for participants. Therefore, the development of match regulations accompanied by legal assistance is an urgent need.

Furthermore, legal assistance activities involve more than just providing legal experts to draft regulatory documents, but also building legal awareness among committees, referees, and participants. According to Soekanto (2019), legal effectiveness is determined not only by written norms but also by the awareness of legal subjects in implementing those rules. Therefore, the success of a competition regulation equivalent is measured not only by the formulation of the regulatory document but also by the understanding and commitment of the local sports community to comply with it.

Activities such as the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival, which involve young children, also require special legal protection based on a child rights perspective. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Indonesia through Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990, affirms that every child has the right to protection from exploitation, violence, and psychological pressure in sporting activities (UNICEF, 2020). Without clear regulations, community sports activities have the potential to violate this principle, for example, in cases of excessive competitive pressure or the use of abusive language by coaches and parents on the field (Wijaya, 2022). Therefore, legal assistance serves to ensure that competition regulations not only regulate the technical aspects of competition but also encompass the ethics of child protection in sport.

Furthermore, the existence of regulations drafted using a participatory legal approach can strengthen the social legitimacy of the tournament. According to the theory of community-based legal drafting, rule-making involving the community will produce norms that are not only formally valid but also accepted and consciously implemented by the community (Rahardjo, 2018). Therefore, legal assistance at the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival must prioritize a dialogic approach, involving community members, local leaders, coaches, and parents of participants.

Based on this description, legal assistance in developing the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival competition regulations is a strategic step towards creating a fair, transparent, and child-protection-oriented competition system. With a structured and participatory legal approach, this festival serves not only as a sporting event but also as a platform for legal education and the development of a healthy competitive culture at the local level.

Activity Objectives. The legal assistance activities in drafting the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival competition regulations have several strategic objectives, namely:

- 1) Drafting competition regulations that have clear norms and legal certainty, so that they can become official guidelines for implementing the festival.
- 2) Provide legal education to committees, referees, coaches and participants so that they understand the rights and obligations of each party in the community competition space.
- 3) Prevent potential conflicts and match disputes by implementing a structured, deliberation-based dispute resolution mechanism that has legal legitimacy.
- 4) Integrate child protection principles into community sports so that the festival not only emphasizes the competitive aspect but also upholds educational values and participant safety.
- 5) Building a regulatory model that other sports communities can replicate as a good practice for organizing community-based tournaments with a participatory legal approach.

Theory of Legal Certainty. According to Gustav Radbruch, good law must fulfill three elements: justice, utility, and legal certainty (Radbruch, 2006). In the context of community tournaments, legal certainty is realized through written regulations that are understandable to all parties. Without legal certainty, decisions by the committee or referees can potentially be perceived as subjective and give rise to horizontal conflict.

Child Protection Theory in Sports. Satjipto Rahardjo (2018) emphasized that the level of legal awareness greatly influences the effectiveness of law in society. In community tournaments, legal

awareness is built not through a repressive approach, but through education and direct involvement in the formulation of regulations. Legal assistance serves as a transformative tool to encourage the public to understand the function of regulations, not as barriers, but as protectors.

Community-Based Legal Drafting Approach. This theory emphasizes that participatory regulation-making will result in regulations with social legitimacy and a higher level of compliance (Rahardjo, 2018; Mahardika, 2022). In the context of the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival, regulation-making should not be elitist but should open up dialogue between the committee, coaches, parents, and participants.

METHODS

The method used in this legal assistance activity is a community-based participatory approach. This approach was chosen because the development of competition regulations cannot be done top-down but must directly involve community sports stakeholders. According to Mahardika (2022), regulations born from community deliberation and agreement have a stronger social binding force than those developed solely by external parties.

Mentoring is carried out by combining three approach models, namely:

- 1) Legal socialization provides a basic understanding of the urgency of regulations, child protection in sports, and mechanisms for resolving match disputes.
 - 2) Facilitation of regulatory drafting, namely the technical assistance process in designing regulatory structures, protection clauses, and sanction and appeal mechanisms.
 - 3) Simulation and trial of regulations, through mock sessions before the festival is held, to ensure that the rules drawn up can be understood and applied without causing double interpretations.
- Stages of Legal Assistance Activities.

To ensure that the implementation of activities runs systematically, the stages of legal assistance are carried out as follows:

Problem Identification Stage. In the initial phase, the support team conducted field observations and brief interviews with the committee, trainers, and participant representatives. The identification results revealed several key issues, such as:

- 1) No written regulation binds all parties.
- 2) Referee decisions are often disputed as there is no formal objection mechanism.
- 3) Lack of understanding about child protection in sport, particularly regarding violent language and competitive pressure.
- 4) There is no ethics body or internal match commission that can handle non-technical disputes or violations.

Legal Socialization and Education Stage. At this stage, a legal discussion session was held using a dialogical approach. The material presented included:

- 1) Basic principles of fairness and sportsmanship in match regulations.
- 2) Legal protection for children in local sports activities.
- 3) Rights and obligations of the committee, referees, participants and parents.
- 4) Simulation of match dispute cases and their resolution methods is based on deliberation but still has normative legitimacy.

Regulation Drafting Stage. This stage focuses on preparing regulatory documents with the following structure:

- 1) Opening and legal basis.
- 2) Definition and scope of the competition.
- 3) Rights and obligations of participants, committee and officials.
- 4) Principles of child protection and prohibition of exploitation.
- 5) Sanction mechanisms include warnings, disqualification, and appeals.

6) Establishment of the Match Ethics Committee as a deliberative body for dispute resolution.

In this process, participants are given space to provide input so that regulations are not only normative but also adaptive to local Padangsembian culture.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Legal assistance activities in the preparation of Padangsembian Grassroots Festival regulations showed a number of strategic achievements that not only impacted the technical aspects of organizing the competition but also increased legal awareness of the local sports community.

Increasing Legal Understanding of Local Sports Communities. Observations during the outreach program showed that prior to the mentoring activities, most committee members and coaches did not yet understand that community sports activities are subject to national legal principles, particularly regarding child protection and conflict resolution. Through a dialogical approach, participants began to understand that regulations are not merely technical rules of the game, but also instruments of protection and justice (Hidayat, 2020). This awareness is an important foundation for building a healthy and ethical competitive culture.

The Formation of Adaptive and Participatory Regulatory Documents. One of the main achievements of this mentoring was the development of a draft of match regulations, mutually agreed upon by the committee, coaches, and participant representatives. This document not only regulates match time limits, scoring systems, and technical sanctions, but also includes specific articles on:

- 1) Prohibition on the use of abusive or intimidating language towards young players.
- 2) The committee is obliged to provide an ethical complaint mechanism that is easily accessible to participants.
- 3) The committee is obliged to provide an ethical complaint mechanism that is easily accessible to participants.

This is in line with the concept of community-based legal drafting, where regulations are born from the needs and agreements of the community (Rahardjo, 2018).

The Emergence of a Formal Deliberation Mechanism Through the Match Ethics Committee. Before the mentoring, match conflicts were often resolved spontaneously, emotionally, and in an unstructured manner. After the mentoring, a Match Ethics Committee was formed, operating with a simple but legitimate mechanism:

- 1) Submission of a dispute report orally or in writing.
- 2) Summoning related parties for mediation.
- 3) Consensus-based decision-making with reference to written regulations.
- 4) Documenting the results of deliberations as a form of local legal record. This step reinforces the view that justice does not come solely from state structures but can be realized through community law based on deliberation (Sancaya, 2023).

Child Protection in Games Begins to Be Internalized. Previously, many considered intense competition a normal part of the sporting world. Following legal education on children's rights in sports, a new awareness emerged that competition at the early age level should prioritize educational value, not competitive pressure. Coaches and parents began to understand that sportsmanship and protecting children's mental health were more important than simply pursuing victory (UNICEF, 2020). This marked a significant leap in building a sports ecosystem that fosters character and humanism.

This legal assistance activity not only produced regulatory documents but also built collective awareness of the importance of fair governance in community-based social activities. This has generated several social impacts.:

- 1) The formation of a systematic culture of deliberation, not just a momentary verbal agreement.
- 2) A sense of ownership of the regulations arises because they are drawn up in a participatory manner.
- 3) Strengthening legal literacy in society, especially among youth and sports community activists.

- 4) Potential for replication of this regulatory model by other villages or sports communities, so that Padangsembian can become an example of good practice in drafting regulations based on legal assistance.

CONCLUSION

Legal assistance in drafting the Padangsembian Grassroots Festival regulations demonstrated that local communities have significant potential to develop fair, educational, and legally just sports competition governance when facilitated through a participatory approach. This assistance not only resulted in written regulatory documents but also transformed the community's legal awareness, particularly in understanding the importance of child protection, ethical conflict resolution mechanisms, and the legitimacy of regulations in community-based sports activities.

The establishment of the Competition Ethics Committee and regulations embodying child rights principles signal a paradigm shift from mere competition to character building and social legal literacy. This mentoring model is worthy of being a reference (best practice) and replicated by other sports communities at the sub-district or village level, particularly in the context of youth soccer development.

Based on the results of field activities and analysis, several strategic recommendations can be put forward:

For the Committee and Sports Community, Consistent enforcement of the regulations that have been drawn up is necessary to prevent a return to the old informal pattern. The Ethics Committee that is formed must be given a continuous education function, not only be tasked when a dispute occurs. There needs to be digital documentation or simple legal archives as a track record of local conflict resolution.

For Village or Sub-district Governments. Local governments can ratify these community regulations as village-level social legal products, in order to have administrative legitimacy. Support in the form of facilities, formal recognition, or education-based competition incentives can strengthen the sustainability of the program.

For Academics and Universities. This activity opens up space for ongoing community service programs, such as community sports law clinics or educational modules on child protection in sports activities. Universities can compile a community legal assistance manual based on Padangsembian's empirical experience to be used as a national reference.

For Other Sports Communities. This approach can be replicated with local culture-based modifications, because effective regulations must grow from the cultural roots of the local community. It is important to understand that regulations are not just written rules, but rather a medium for fostering sportsmanship, protection, and social justice.

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