

RACISM IN SPORT

- Racism is the suggestion that one particular ethnic group is more superior than another on the basis of skin colour or religion.
- A different form of racism is racial stereotyping. This is whereby individuals are categorised into what they are/are not good at according to religion or skin colour.

Examples of racial stereotyping:

- the notion that black people are good athletes and are no good at swimming

Many parts of our modern society are afflicted with institutional racism.

- This is not necessarily a conscious discrimination against non-white people, but more a feeling by white people that certain situations and activities are based around white people.
- It is therefore a tradition that white people undertake these activities and exclude non-whites.
- Certain people also treat black people very stereotypically - this is also institutional racism.

What has happened in sport as a result of racism and racial stereotyping?

‘Stacking’

1. Whereby ethnic groups are pushed into certain sports, and maybe certain team positions due to opinions regarding strength /skills
E.g. Black men and sprinting, positions in American football teams/baseball teams. In American football, the position of quarterback is traditionally a ‘white’ position, yet there are plenty of black ‘running-backs’
2. Reduced participation – this is particularly the case with Female ethnic minority groups
3. There are very few ethnic minority coaches or managers

Why have these issues arisen?

- Perhaps the most apparent reason is the lack of role models for ethnic minorities in specific sports, and a lack of ethnic minorities in the management and coaching/administration of certain sports.
- For example, is the abundance of black track athletes a result of the large number of role models in this sport?
- Equally, there is a severe lack of Asian athletes within Premiership football

Racial Discrimination / Stereotyping: - are they factors in modern Sport?

- National teams in Athletics, Soccer have a high proportion of black Afro-Caribbean participants.
- Other sports like Rugby Union and League and Cricket have fewer.
- But these same sports have far fewer persons of Asian backgrounds, particularly women.
- Hockey, Swimming, Equestrianism, Rowing have relatively few black participants.
- This pattern probably reflects the class discrimination - lack of opportunity because of the expense of the sport, or its traditional class base.

Are ethnic minorities actually excluded from any sports? / do we have equal opportunities ??

- By law, it is illegal to prevent any individual from joining any club, society or team on the basis of skin colour or religion.
- However, it is perhaps fair to say that very often ethnic minority groups fit into the lower economic status. As discussed previously, having a low disposable income usually prevents individuals from participating in certain sports, so some ethnic minorities might not have equal opportunity.