



## Analysis of Fair Play Violations in Badminton Matches (Case Study: Sirnas B Kepulauan Riau 2025)

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### Abstract

*This study aims to analyze violations of the principle of fair play in badminton matches at the 2025 Sirnas B Kepulauan Riau tournament. The cases discussed involve unsportsmanlike conduct that occurred during the matches. The method used is normative legal research with a regulatory and case study approach. The results of the study indicate that such actions are inconsistent with the principle of fair play and also violate the rules applicable in badminton. This behavior not only harms opponents but also undermines the values of fairness in sports. Therefore, stricter enforcement of the rules is necessary to ensure that matches remain fair and sportsmanlike.*

## A. INTRODUCTION

In the world of sports, particularly badminton, sportsmanship is a fundamental principle that every athlete must uphold. Sportsmanship is not merely about striving for victory; it also embodies honesty, fairness, and respect for opponents in every match. This value serves as a crucial foundation for ensuring that sports remain healthy and conducted with integrity. Therefore, any action deviating from the principle of sportsmanship can lead to problems, both from an ethical standpoint and within the context of sports law.<sup>1</sup>

However, during the 2025 Riau Islands National Circuit (Sirnas) B tournament held in Batam, an incident occurred that drew public attention and sparked debate regarding competitive ethics. The incident involved allegations of shuttlecock manipulation by one of the athletes prior to serving. This incident garnered attention because it occurred in an official competition that is supposed to uphold rules and the values of sportsmanship.

This issue has garnered increasing attention following the circulation of a video on social media showing a player squeezing the shuttlecock before serving, particularly during critical moments in a match. This action is suspected of being intended to influence the shuttlecock's speed or direction, thereby giving the player an advantage. Under such circumstances, the opponent may struggle to anticipate the shuttlecock's trajectory, disrupting the balance of the match.

From a rules perspective, this issue is particularly noteworthy because there are currently no explicit regulations explicitly prohibiting such actions in official matches. This creates a sort of regulatory gap, where an action considered unsportsmanlike from an ethical standpoint may not necessarily be subject to sanctions because it is not explicitly addressed. This situation highlights a discrepancy between written rules and the values of sportsmanship that should be upheld in sports. In practice, this can lead to uncertainty in rule enforcement.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, the referee's role in the match is a point of concern. The referee did not issue a warning for this action, likely due to the absence of a rule explicitly addressing it. This indicates that, in practice, rule enforcement remains heavily reliant on written

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<sup>1</sup> Sigmund Loland, *Fair Play in Sport: A Moral Norm System* (Routledge, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Simon Gardiner et al., *Sports Law* (Routledge, 2012).

regulations. When an action falls into an area not clearly defined by the rules, referees tend to struggle to make decisive calls.<sup>3</sup>

Based on this, a problem has arisen regarding actions suspected of violating the principle of fair play in badminton matches, particularly concerning shuttlecock manipulation, which is not clearly addressed in the current regulations. This situation creates uncertainty in determining whether such actions can be categorized as violations under sports law. Therefore, this study aims to analyze forms of fair play violations in badminton matches in the case of the 2025 Sirnas B Riau Islands tournament and examine them from a sports law perspective.

## **B. RESEARCH METHODS**

This study employs a normative legal methodology, which focuses on the analysis of legal regulations and concepts related to the research problem. The approaches used are the statutory approach and the case approach.

The statutory approach involves examining regulations related to the principle of fair play in badminton, such as those established by the Badminton World Federation and applicable national regulations. Meanwhile, the case approach involves analyzing events that occurred during the 2025 Sirnas B Riau Islands tournament.

The legal materials used consist of primary legal materials in the form of relevant regulations, as well as secondary legal materials such as books and journals discussing sports law and the principle of fair play. The collection of legal materials was conducted through a literature review, while the analysis was performed qualitatively by describing and connecting existing regulations with the case under study.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

During the Riau Islands National Circuit (Sirnas) B tournament, an incident occurred that drew public attention regarding unsportsmanlike conduct in a badminton match. The incident began when one of the competing athletes allegedly engaged in behavior inconsistent with sportsmanship.

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<sup>3</sup> James A.R. Nafziger, *International Sports Law* (2004).

Such behavior was evident in deliberate attempts to slow down the match in various ways, such as delaying serves, taking excessive rest breaks, and making body gestures reflecting dissatisfaction with the referee's decisions. Additionally, there were indications that the athlete did not fully respect their opponent, both through expressions and actions on the court.

This situation then triggered a reaction from the opposing side, who felt wronged, leading to a tense atmosphere during the match. Spectators watching the match also reacted, further escalating the tension. Although the referee attempted to control the flow of the match to maintain a conducive environment, the incident remained a focal point as it was deemed contrary to the values of sportsmanship.

In the end, the match continued until completion in accordance with the applicable rules. However, this incident serves as an important reminder of the need for stricter enforcement of fair play values in every sports competition, particularly at the national level.

From the perspective of fair play, the behavior exhibited in this case can be categorized as a violation of the fundamental principles of sports. Fair play is not merely defined as adherence to written rules, but also encompasses moral values such as honesty, respect for opponents, and acceptance of the referee's decisions.

Time-wasting tactics employed by athletes constitute an unethical strategy aimed at disrupting the opponent's rhythm of play. Although such actions do not always explicitly violate technical rules, they remain contrary to the spirit of fairness in competition. Similarly, a lack of respect for the referee's decisions indicates a violation of the ethical norms in sports that every athlete should uphold.

Furthermore, such behavior reflects a lack of internalization of the values of sportsmanship within the athlete. In the context of modern sports, athletes are not only required to possess good technical skills but also high moral integrity. When an athlete disregards these values, it not only harms the opponent but also damages their own image as well as the institution they represent.

Thus, it can be concluded that the actions in this case constitute a violation of fair play both substantively and ethically, as they do not reflect the principles of honesty, fairness, and respect that form the foundation of sports.

From a sports law perspective, this case falls under the category of disciplinary violations as defined in badminton competition regulations. The rules governing this sport are based on provisions established by the Badminton World Federation as the international governing body, and at the national level, they are regulated by the Indonesian Badminton Association.

These regulations state that every player must maintain a sportsmanlike attitude and refrain from actions that could disrupt the flow of the match. Behaviors such as intentionally stalling, showing disrespect toward the referee, or other actions that hinder the smooth progress of the game can be categorized as violations.

The penalties imposed for such violations are tiered, depending on the severity of the offense. At the initial stage, the referee may issue a warning as a form of reprimand. If the violation persists, a penalty in the form of awarding points to the opponent may be imposed. In more serious cases, a player may even be disqualified from the match. Additionally, the federation or event organizer may impose further administrative sanctions, such as a ban on competing for a specific period.

In the study of sports law, this violation falls under the scope of *lex sportiva*, which is the legal system specifically applicable to the world of sports. Therefore, it is resolved through the internal mechanisms of the sports organization, rather than through the general court system. This differs from the concept of breach of contract in civil law, as the violation in question does not relate to a contractual relationship, but rather constitutes a breach of the rules of the game and the ethics of competition.

Thus, the handling of this case underscores the importance of regulation and law enforcement in sports. Without the strict and consistent application of rules, the value of fair play will continue to erode and may negatively impact the sustainability and credibility of the sports world itself. This also demonstrates that the enforcement of rules does not rely solely on written provisions but also on athletes' awareness to uphold sportsmanship in every match.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the actions occurring during the 2025 Sirnas B Riau Islands badminton tournament constitute a violation of the principle of fair play, both ethically and within the framework of sports law. Behaviors such as time-wasting, disrespect toward opponents and referees, and alleged shuttlecock manipulation clearly deviate from the core values of honesty, fairness, and sportsmanship.

Even though some of these actions are not explicitly regulated in written rules, they remain contrary to the spirit of fair play that must be upheld in every sporting competition. This condition indicates a regulatory gap between formal legal provisions and ethical standards, which may create uncertainty in rule enforcement.

From a legal standpoint, such conduct can be classified as a disciplinary violation within the scope of *lex sportiva*, where resolution is handled through internal mechanisms of sports organizations. Therefore, more comprehensive regulations and consistent enforcement by referees and governing bodies are necessary.

Ultimately, strengthening the internalization of sportsmanship values among athletes is essential, as fair play depends not only on formal rules but also on moral awareness. Without firm enforcement and strong ethical commitment, the integrity and credibility of badminton—and sports in general—will be at risk.

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