



## PROFESSIONALISM, A CHOICE OR AN OBLIGATION?

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### **Abstract:**

In this study, we aim to shed light on the field of sports professionalism in the world, showing the difference between amateur sport and professionalism. The question was: Is sports professionalism a choice or a necessity? This is due to the transformation of sport from the activity of amateur and enjoyed by the masses of spectators to industry based on scientific foundations specialized in the promotion of media and professionalism, which generates hundreds of billions of dollars. Professional club, has become one of the most attractive areas of capital and the attention of economic forces, Represents a driving force for developing players' skills and improving the status of clubs and players.

**Keywords:** professional sport, amateur sport, performance

### **1. Introduction**

Amateur sports are sports where participants are entirely engaged without any form of remuneration. This kind of sport was seriously guarded in the 19th century by the rich people though in the 20th century it was faced-out as a result of continued growth in professional sport. Currently amateur sports are held by a few organizations that govern sports. Professional sports developed in the 19th century, this was spear headed by the US and the United Kingdom. By then sporting culture was strong in the institutions of learning for example colleges and universities. As a result, middle class and upper class men who were students at these institutions played as amateurs. People who were working were limited in participating in the games due to their busy

schedule though one's in a while they could be given an afternoon-off in order for them to take part in the sport that was then available.

## **2. A historical approach to professionalism in the field of sports**

To understand the phenomenon of professionalism in the modern world, particularly if the talk of professionalism in sport must be a systematic approach of a historic attempt to identify the historical origins of this phenomenon.

In Athens in 580 B.C. he professionalism that emerged in the form of a law for all technical winners at the Olympic Games with a grant (500 &), this law is designed to encourage the athletes to the professionalism, known for a presence massive in ancient Greece. It can be emphasized that money is a new because studies show that the Golden Crown and which characterize the hero and that hold the upper color, and that the athlete transitions from one quarter to another Were known at that time, because much of the citizens of the fans involved sometimes violently, which gives them pleasure and enjoyable. The same phenomenon was present in ancient Rome, where a significant amount of money was given to athletes.

In 1527, the King François I Issued the professional sports laws, it taken formalized in France by letters patent in particular the tennis. This legal text had effect on the profit level in tennis; the number of professional players playing professional tennis mid-1780 was 29 players in Paris. The year 1846 saw the professionalism of sports teams: cricket. An English professional club was also created "all-England". Allowing the promotion of the game in the United States, in 1864 appeared the first case of professionalism: when a player receives a salary when he left the Philadelphia to join the Brooklyn. In the same period almost March 1869, appeared the first contract for baseball.

Since 1850, British golf tournaments have become offering cash prizes. In France, it became the prize money offered at the races winners since 1853. In the Middle 1880 (Georges de Saint Clair and Ernst) launched a campaign called the "purification of athletics", led to the ban on shopping with cash prizes, it has implemented the professional association of Athletics federation in Paris.

The year 1876 saw the first case of professionalism in football premiership in Sheffield with Peter Andrews (Club of Sheffield) and (Janusz Lang). In 1882, the French federation authorizes the reimbursement of expenses related to the players from the union cup English.

When professional teams started to emerge some clubs could willingly pay players in order for them to take some time off from their profession and take part in sports. This served as an incentive to increase the number of attendances and also it

made players to fully concentrate on their sport. This provided a good opportunity for the people who were against amateur sport to flourish and expand. The influence of money and its effect on sport brought the change in sports from amateurs to professional since it was in the main interest of professional to give the highest possible amount per unit of performance.

The upper class and middle class men who dominated this sport had a theoretical preference as well as a self interest in preventing the sport from being professionalized. As a result, this threatened the participation of the working class in the sport who did not understand why they should not be paid for taking part in the sport. This led to competing interests between the two involved parties since we had a group that wanted sports to be open for all while the amateurs feared that professionalism would destroy the Corinth spirit. The conflict between the two parties lasted for about a century during which sports like golf took it relatively easy and tolerated the competition between the two while others were traumatized by the happenings and they therefore helped the preceding generations to come in terms with professionalism.

### **2.1 Economic and cultural aspect of sports**

Sport has been used and it's still being used to raise income, this can be referred to as sport commoditization. Commercialization of sport is not considered as cultural but rather out of the necessity due to economic circumstances. In the colonial time sports were unstructured, spontaneous activities which were coordinated and organized by the participants. This is not the case at the moment since sports are being well organized in order to attract many people from all spheres of the world with different financial status in order to raise a lot of money. At the moment professional sport has grown rapidly and it has become a booming business. Athletes, support personnel and sport team owners have benefited handsomely from sport fans that pay to watch their games and also purchase commodities endorsed by them.

### **2.2 General concepts about sports as a hobby and as a professional**

Sport is between passion and professionalism, they cannot speak of a practice of sport amateur in a climate of professionalism (Sébastien Fleurie, 1997) see that high-level sport and elite sport do not have the same issues and that it is ones not the same orientation. Elite Sport and high level sport do not cover the same issue, and discrimination is an essential condition to understand each other. At the same trend almost believes (F. Bauduer, C. Monchaux and J.-P. Mathieu, 2006) that, until recently the rugby represented traditionally the regions was a striking example of the amateur sport. Recently changed to professional character, because of the pressure imposed by

the media and groups of commercial pressure, and has led to dramatic changes in the extent of humanity and the psychological characteristics of players and same place of this sport in society.

Professionalism tendency results not only from previous reasons, but also the means to inform have a role to be played because technologies of communication by various media have a deep influence of forms of participation in rules of the game as shows it a comparison of representation of sports in the press, radio and television, then in media. Sports Club is an institution structured athletes, consists of a number of members can be compared to a miniature society, as it consists of sports frames as trainers, doctors, bringing the physical, specialists in Sport Psychology, many athletes. The sports club is interested in a particular sport such as football or basketball, or is interested in a full sports family such as athletics, cycling, or can take care of a variety of sports.

The sports club is not considered an institution like other institutions. Its internal culture is based on special sports values. Its results are random compared to other sectors. It is dependent on its competitors. And its human resources are volunteers and those who do not have a stable income.

### 2.3. Relationship between sport and professionalism

It is possible to understand the indicators of the inter-relations between sports and professionalism by reading the figures that represent the capitals invested in the field of sports, as the budgets of some European sports clubs or the United States of America to weaken the budgets of entire countries, as shown by the following figures

**Table 1:** The most important football clubs in terms of capital in the world 2006

Rank	Team	Value (millions euros)
1	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	292,2
2	<a href="#">FC Barcelona</a>	259,1
3	<a href="#">Juventus</a>	251,2
4	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	242,6
5	<a href="#">AC Milan</a>	238,7
6	<a href="#">Chelsea FC</a>	221,0
7	<a href="#">Inter Milan</a>	206,6
8	<a href="#">Bayern Munich</a>	204,7
9	<a href="#">Arsenal FC</a>	192,4
10	<a href="#">Liverpool FC</a>	176,0

**Table 2: Baseball (MLB, 2006)**

Rank	Team	Value (millions dollars)
1	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	1302
2	<a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	234
3	<a href="#">New York Mets</a>	217
4	<a href="#">Los Angeles Dodgers</a>	211
5	<a href="#">Chicago Cubs</a>	197
6	<a href="#">Los Angeles Angels</a>	187
7	<a href="#">Saint-Louis Cardinals</a>	184
8	<a href="#">San Francisco Giants</a>	184
9	<a href="#">Houston Astros</a>	184
10	<a href="#">Atlanta Braves</a>	183

**Table 3: American football (NFL, 2006)**

Rank	Team	Value (millions dollars)
1	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	1.302
2	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	255
3	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	242
4	<a href="#">Houston Texans</a>	225
5	<a href="#">Philadelphia Eagles</a>	224
6	<a href="#">Miami Dolphins</a>	215
7	<a href="#">Denver Broncos</a>	212
8	<a href="#">Chicago Bears</a>	209
9	<a href="#">Cleveland Browns</a>	206
10	<a href="#">Baltimore Ravens</a>	205

**Table 4: Basket-ball (NBA, 2006-2007)**

Rank	Team	Value (millions dollars)
1	<a href="#">New York Knicks</a>	196
2	<a href="#">Los Angeles Lakers</a>	170
3	<a href="#">Chicago Bulls</a>	161
4	<a href="#">Detroit Pistons</a>	154
5	<a href="#">Cleveland Cavaliers</a>	152
6	<a href="#">Houston Rockets</a>	149
7	<a href="#">Phoenix Suns</a>	145
8	<a href="#">Dallas Mavericks</a>	140
9	<a href="#">Miami Heat</a>	131
10	<a href="#">San Antonio Spurs</a>	131

## 2.4 List of the most valuable sports teams

The world's most valuable sports teams, as ranked annually by the American magazine [Forbes](#), include teams from [football](#), [American football](#), [baseball](#), and [basketball](#). [National Football League](#) franchise [Dallas Cowboys](#), valued at \$4 billion, was named the world's most valuable sports team of 2016, becoming the first non-association football team to top Forbes' ranking since its inception in 2010. English club [Manchester United](#) (2010–12) and Spanish club [Real Madrid](#) (2013–15) have previously each been named the most valuable team three times.

**Table 5:** The most valuable sports teams (2010)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	1.83
2	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.65
3	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.60
4	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.55
5	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.36
6	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	1.32
7	<a href="#">New York Giants</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.18
8	<a href="#">Arsenal</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	1.18
9	<a href="#">New York Jets</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.17
10	<a href="#">Houston Texans</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.15

**Table 6:** The most valuable sports teams (2011)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	1.86
2	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.81
3	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.7
4	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.55
5	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	1.45
6	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.37
7	<a href="#">Arsenal</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	1.19
8	<a href="#">New York Giants</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.18
9	<a href="#">Houston Texans</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.17
10	<a href="#">New York Jets</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.14

**Table 7:** The most valuable sports teams (2012)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	2.23
2	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	1.88
3	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.85
	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	
5	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.56
6	<a href="#">Los Angeles Dodgers</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.4
	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	
8	<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	1.31
9	<a href="#">New York Giants</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.3
10	<a href="#">Arsenal</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	1.29

**Table 8:** The most valuable sports teams (2013)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.3
2	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	3.165
3	<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	2.6
4	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.3
5	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.1
6	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.635
7	<a href="#">Los Angeles Dodgers</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.615
8	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.6
9	<a href="#">New York Giants</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.468
10	<a href="#">Arsenal</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	1.326

**Table 9:** The most valuable sports teams (2014)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.44
2	<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.2
3	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	2.81
4	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.5
5	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.3
6	<a href="#">Los Angeles Dodgers</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2
7	<a href="#">Bayern Munich</a>	Football	<a href="#">Germany</a>	1.85
8	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.8
9	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.7
10	<a href="#">New York Giants</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	1.55

**Table 10:** The most valuable sports teams (2015)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.26
2	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	3.2
	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	
4	<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.16
5	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	3.1
6	<a href="#">Los Angeles Lakers</a>	Basketball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.6
	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	
8	<a href="#">New York Knicks</a>	Basketball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.5
9	<a href="#">Los Angeles Dodgers</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.4
	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	

**Table 11:** The most valuable sports teams (2016)

Rank	Team	Sport	Country	Value (\$B)
1	<a href="#">Dallas Cowboys</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	4
2	<a href="#">Real Madrid</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.65
3	<a href="#">Barcelona</a>	Football	<a href="#">Spain</a>	3.55
4	<a href="#">New York Yankees</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	3.4
5	<a href="#">Manchester United</a>	Football	<a href="#">England</a>	3.32
6	<a href="#">New England Patriots</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	3.2
7	<a href="#">New York Knicks</a>	Basketball	<a href="#">United States</a>	3
8	<a href="#">Washington Redskins</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.85
9	<a href="#">New York Giants</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.8
10	<a href="#">Los Angeles Lakers</a>	Basketball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.7
	<a href="#">San Francisco 49ers</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	
12	<a href="#">Bayern Munich</a>	Football	<a href="#">Germany</a>	2.68
13	<a href="#">New York Jets</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.6
14	<a href="#">Los Angeles Dodgers</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.5
	<a href="#">Houston Texans</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	
16	<a href="#">Chicago Bears</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.45
17	<a href="#">Philadelphia Eagles</a>	American football	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.4
18	<a href="#">Boston Red Sox</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.3
	<a href="#">Chicago Bulls</a>	Basketball	<a href="#">United States</a>	
20	<a href="#">San Francisco Giants</a>	Baseball	<a href="#">United States</a>	2.25

### 3. Conclusion

The reality of the Algerian sport requires a lot of planning and a lot of work on sound scientific basis to ensure that it progress. The current stage may be the most difficult



stage in the transition from amateur to professional, because changing ideas, beliefs, and the consequent change in customs and behaviors from the most difficult things for any society. Therefore, from the outset, it is possible to start the work of a special committee for professional affairs of the most important functions:

- Providing technical and administrative assistance to clubs to help them implement the professional system.
- Preparation of a mechanism and a platform for the dissemination of the concept and culture of professionalism in the Algerian clubs.
- Preparation and evaluation of programs to educate, evaluate and develop professional tools and organize the process of transformation from amateur to professional according to the adopted strategy.
- Coordination and follow-up with the federations and authorities concerned with the application of professionalism locally and externally.
- Raise ideas and initiatives and raise proposals and studies to evaluate the professional experience through practical application.

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