



A Comprehensive Analysis of Children's Rights in Jordanian Youth Sports: Aligning with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Received: 26th Apr. 2025, Accepted: 17th May 2025, Published: xxxx

Accepted Manuscript, In press

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to investigate the implementation of children's rights in Jordanian youth sports through the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). By employing a mixed-methods approach, the research analyzes legal frameworks, policies, and parental awareness levels through interviews with 20 parents of young athletes. The findings reveal significant gaps in Jordan's compliance with UNCRC principles, particularly regarding the right to play (Article 31), protection from exploitation (Article 36), and non-discrimination (Article 2). Despite 75% of interviewed parents holding bachelor's degrees, only one was aware of the UNCRC, and fewer than 20% understood child abuse reporting procedures, highlighting failures in rights education. The paper identifies critical shortcomings in Jordan's Child Rights Law No. 17 of 2022, which lacks specific provisions for inclusive sports environments, safeguarding mechanisms, and equitable access for marginalized groups. By analyzing international models related to child safety in sports, practical paths for reform will be found. Key recommendations include legislative amendments to mandate child protection training, establish reporting protocols, and allocate resources to underserved regions. Additionally, the research underscores the need for parental education campaigns and monitoring systems to ensure UNCRC alignment. Through addressing these gaps, Jordan can transform its youth sports system into an inclusive, rights-based platform that prioritizes child well-being. This research contributes to global discourse on children's rights in sports while providing a roadmap for policy reform in Jordan and similar contexts.

Keywords: Children's Rights, Youth Sports, Jordan, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Child Protection, Coaching.

تحليل شامل لحقوق الطفل في الرياضة الشبابية الأردنية: ومواءمتها مع اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الطفل

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تاريخ التسليم: (2025/4/26)، تاريخ القبول: (2025/5/17)، تاريخ النشر: ****

الملخص: تهدف هذه الدراسة مسألة تنفيذ حقوق الطفل في الرياضة الشبابية الأردنية من خلال إطار اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الطفل (UNCRC). المنهجية استخدمت منهجية متعددة الأساليب، حيث يحلل البحث الأطر القانونية والسياسات ومستويات وعي أولياء الأمور من خلال مقابلات مع 20 ولي أمر لأطفال رياضيين. النتائج: كشفت عن فجوات في امتثال الأردن لمبادئ الاتفاقية، خاصة فيما يتعلق بالحقوق في اللعب (المادة 31)، والحماية من الاستغلال (المادة 36)، وعدم التمييز (المادة 2). على الرغم من أن 75% من أولياء الأمور الذين تمت مقابلتهم يحملون شهادات بكالوريوس، إلا أن واحداً فقط كان على علم بالاتفاقية، وأقل من 20% فهموا إجراءات الإبلاغ عن إساءة معاملة الأطفال، مما يظهر إخفاقات في التوعية بحقوق الطفل. كما تبرز الدراسة أوجه قصور في قانون حقوق الطفل الأردني رقم (17) لسنة 2022، الذي يفتقر إلى نصوص محددة لبيانات رياضية شاملة، أو آليات حماية، أو وصول عادل للمجموعات المهمشة. التوصيات: وقد أوصت الدراسة بتعديلات تشريعية أو سن تشريعات تكميلية بخصوص حماية الطفل، وإنشاء بروتوكولات للإبلاغ عن إساءة معاملة الأطفال، وتخصيص موارد إضافية للمناطق المحرومة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يؤكد البحث على ضرورة حملات توعية لأولياء الأمور وأنظمة رصد لضمان المواءمة مع الاتفاقية. ويخلص البحث إلى أنه من خلال معالجة هذه الفجوات، يمكن للأردن أن يحول نظام الرياضة الشبابية إلى منصة شاملة قائمة على الحقوق تحسن من رفاهية الطفل. كما تساهم هذه الدراسة في النقاش العالمي حول حقوق الطفل في الرياضة، بينما تقدم خارطة طريق للإصلاح في الأردن والسياقات المماثلة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حقوق الطفل، الرياضة الشبابية، الأردن، اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الطفل (UNCRC)، حماية الطفل، التدريب الرياضي.

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Introduction

Youth sports hold a significant place in Jordanian culture, serving as platforms for physical development and instilling important values like teamwork, discipline, and leadership. However, their potential as transformative developmental tools remains constrained without proper alignment with the UNCRC. This research examines the implementation of children's rights in Jordanian youth sports through the UNCRC framework, addressing two key research questions: To what extent are Jordanian laws aligned with the UNCRC principles concerning children's rights in youth sports. Moreover, what are the main challenges facing the implementation of children's rights in Jordanian sports programs?

Jordan's rich cultural heritage has long emphasized sports as vehicles for community engagement and moral development. Historically embedded in social life, sports have fostered unity and discipline, with modern programs continuing this tradition through institutions like the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the Jordanian Olympic Committee. These organizations facilitate talent identification, event organization, and training provision, building on Jordan's strong sporting traditions. Initiatives by the Jordan Paralympic Committee and the Olympic Values Education Program demonstrate growing commitments to inclusivity, promoting values like teamwork and fair play. However, significant structural challenges persist, particularly in underserved areas where resource disparities limit access for marginalized groups, including girls and children with disabilities.

The research relies on a mixed approach that combines qualitative interviews with parents, analysis of the Jordanian legal framework, and analysis of international models related to child safety in sports. Interviews with 20 parents revealed alarming awareness gaps - only one participant knew about the UNCRC, and fewer than 20% understood abuse-reporting procedures. While the sample size of 20 parents offers preliminary insights into parental awareness and CRC implementation in Jordan, we recognize that broader quantitative studies would strengthen generalizability; however, these findings provide a foundational perspective for future research on barriers to CRC engagement in youth sports. Future studies could expand on these themes with larger, nationally representative samples. These findings highlight systemic failures in child rights education that undermine UNCRC implementation.

Previous research by scholars like Green and White (2019) has demonstrated the transformative potential of inclusive sports programs, while studies by Ali and Zaid (2017) and Hassan and Khaled (2019) have identified specific cultural and accessibility barriers. However, existing literature has primarily focused on individual-level challenges rather than systemic policy gaps. This research contributes by examining the complex interplay between cultural norms, legal frameworks, and structural factors that hinder full UNCRC implementation.

The persistent disparities in Jordan's youth sports landscape reveal a troubling gap between international standards and local realities. While Australia's model demonstrates effective practices through mandatory child protection training and enforced reporting mechanisms, Jordan struggles with translating UNCRC principles into actionable strategies.

The Australian and UK models are particularly relevant for Jordan because they offer proven, structured frameworks for child protection in sports—including mandatory training, clear reporting mechanisms, and accountability measures—all of which address gaps observed in Jordan's current ad hoc approach. These systems prioritize prevention and enforcement, aligning with UNCRC principles by embedding child rights into policy and practice. By adopting such evidence-based models, Jordan could leverage their scalability and adaptability to local contexts while ensuring systemic compliance with international standards.

This paper systematically analyzes these challenges through historical and cultural context, legal framework evaluation, and empirical findings. Ultimately proposing concrete recommendations to bridge this implementation gap and create more inclusive, rights-based youth sports programs.

Findings from Parent Interviews

This study employed qualitative methods, including interviews and content analysis, to gather and interpret data. Twenty parents in northern Jordan were randomly interviewed to assess their awareness of children's rights in youth sports. The interviews addressed four key questions: awareness of the UNCRC, knowledge of how and where to report child abuse, and understanding of when such incidents should be reported. Findings revealed limited awareness, emphasizing the need for targeted education campaigns.

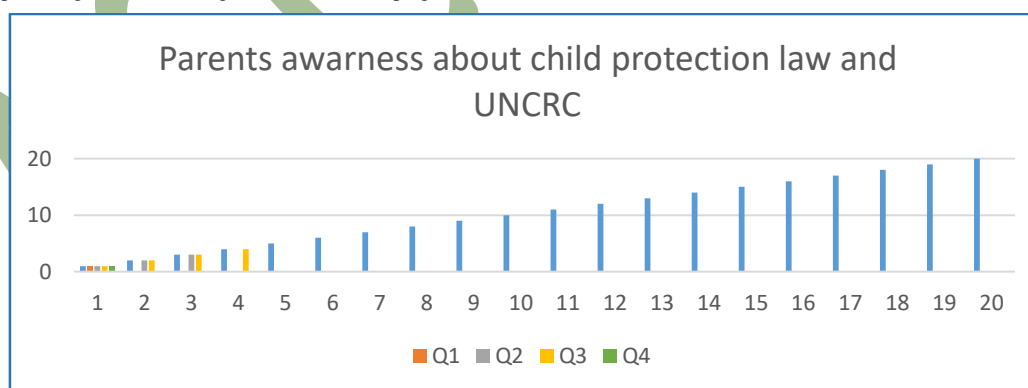


Figure (1): Source: Created by the authors.

Table (1) Interview questions and the number of parents had answered each question. (N=20).

Q1	1:20 One of twenty has answered: if they heard about the UNCRC?
Q2	3:20 Three of twenty have answered: how to report the incident?
Q3	4:20 Four of twenty has answered: where to report the incident?
Q4	1:20 One of twenty has answered: when they must report the incident?
15 of parents are educated, holding Bachelor degree!	

Parental awareness of children's rights in sports emerged as a critical issue, of the 20 parents interviewed:

- Only one parent was aware of the UNCRC.
- Three parents knew how to report child abuse incidents.
- Four parents understood where to report abuse.

- Only one parent knew when such reports should be made.

These results underscore the urgent need for awareness campaigns targeting parents, who are key stakeholders in advocating for their children's rights. Enhancing parental engagement and understanding can significantly improve the safeguarding and promotion of these rights.

Advancing Inclusive Youth Sports in Jordan through the UNCRC Framework

The UNCRC establishes an indispensable framework for safeguarding children's rights in all spheres of life, including youth sports. As Jordan seeks to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable sports culture, the UNCRC provides a critical blueprint for reform. This paper adopts the Convention's principles as a foundation to analyze current gaps and propose actionable strategies for transforming Jordan's youth sports landscape into one that truly upholds children's rights to protection, participation, and development.

At the heart of this transformation are five core UNCRC articles particularly relevant to youth sports: Article 31 (right to play), Article 3 (best interests of the child), Article 2 (non-discrimination), Article 36 (protection from exploitation), and Article 28 (education). While Article 28 of the CRC emphasizes the right to education broadly—and sport may complement educational outcomes—its primary focus is not 'education through sport,' aligning it thematically with other key articles like 31, 3, 2, and 36 in the context of youth sports. Together, these mandate that sports environments must be safe, inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and free from discrimination. However, Jordan's current implementation of these principles remains inadequate, as evidenced by limited parental awareness, disparities in access for marginalized groups, and insufficient legal protections in sports settings.

The significance of this rights-based approach is underscored by alarming findings from our study. Furthermore, Jordan's Child Rights Law No. 17 of 2022 contains only superficial references to sports, lacking concrete provisions to ensure inclusive facilities, trained coaches, or child participation mechanisms as required by the UNCRC.

This paper argues that meaningful reform requires embedding UNCRC principles into every level of Jordan's youth sports ecosystem. Through examining both the Convention's mandates and Jordan's current shortcomings, it identifies three priority areas for action: (1) strengthening legal frameworks to explicitly incorporate UNCRC sports provisions, (2) implementing comprehensive education programs for parents, coaches, and officials on child rights protection, and (3) developing monitoring systems to ensure compliance with international standards. The subsequent analysis will demonstrate how this approach can aligning Jordan's practices with global benchmarks like Australia's child-safe sports policies.

Through this UNCRC-centered lens, the paper shifts the paradigm of youth sports in Jordan from privilege to right, from exclusion to inclusion, and from vulnerability to empowerment. In the following, an analysis of the relevant legislation in Jordan will set the context for suggesting constructive changes.

Analysis of Jordan's Legal Framework and UNCRC Shortcomings

Jordan's legislative approach to youth sports reveals systemic gaps in upholding children's rights as defined by the UNCRC. The primary legal instrument, the Child Rights Law No. 17 of 2022, contains only perfunctory references to sports participation. Article 18(a) vaguely states, "Children shall have the right to participate in recreational activities" without specifying implementation mechanisms or accountability measures (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 2022). This contrasts sharply with UNCRC Article 31's comprehensive guarantee of "the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities" (United Nations, 1989).

The Jordanian Constitution's Article 6 commits broadly to childhood protection but fails to address sports specifically. Jordan's Constitution (1952) provides a general framework for rights that indirectly supports CRC obligations—such as Article 6 (equality) aligning with CRC Article 2 (non-discrimination), and Article 20 (education) reflecting CRC Article 28—but lacks explicit provisions for child-specific protections in youth sports (e.g., play under CRC Article 31 or safeguarding under Article 36). While constitutional amendments could strengthen compliance, Jordan's immediate pathway lies in secondary legislation (e.g., regulations under the Child Rights Law 2021 or ministerial directives) to enforce CRC standards—mandating safeguards in sports programs, ensuring inclusive access, and establishing monitoring mechanisms—without requiring primary legal reforms. This approach would operationalize CRC commitments pragmatically, bridging the gap between broad constitutional principles and actionable child protections in youth sports. This omission becomes particularly problematic when examining four cases of non-compliance with the UNCRC:

First, regarding Article 31 (Right to Play), municipal laws contain no requirements for sports facility development. The 2021 National Youth Strategy reported that 72% of Jordanian municipalities lack dedicated youth sports spaces, with rural areas particularly disadvantaged (Ministry of Youth, 2021). No legal standards exist for equipment safety, coach-to-child ratios, or emergency preparedness in youth sports settings.

Second, concerning Article 2 (Non-Discrimination), the 2017 Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law (Article 24) mandates accessibility but contains no sports-specific provisions. Consequently, only 8% of public sports facilities meet basic accessibility standards (Jordanian Paralympic Committee, 2022). Similarly, while the Education Law No. 3 of 1994 guarantees equal educational access, its implementation guidelines exclude sports participation, contributing to stark gender disparities where only 14% of youth athletes are female (Jordan Olympic Committee, 2023). Despite progress through initiatives like the Jordan Paralympic Committee, children with disabilities continue to face systemic barriers in sports participation. These challenges align with broader concerns raised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), particularly Article 30 (Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure, and Sport), which obligates states to ensure equal access to sports (United Nations, 2006). In Jordan, infrastructural inaccessibility, limited adaptive equipment, and societal stigma often exclude children with disabilities from mainstream programs (Al-Hussein & Al-Widyan, 2020). While the UNCRC (Article 23) and UNCRPD (Article 7) emphasize the rights of children with disabilities to inclusion and development, implementation gaps persist. For instance, rural areas lack specialized training for coaches to accommodate diverse needs, undermining the potential of sports as a tool for empowerment (Abu Ghazaleh & Al-Hendawi, 2021). Addressing these disparities requires targeted policy reforms, aligned with both the UNCRC and UNCRPD, to transform Jordan's sporting landscape into one of genuine equity.

Third, Article 36 (Protection from Exploitation) remains particularly neglected. Jordan's Penal Code criminalizes child abuse generally but fails to address sports-specific exploitation like forced training regimens or corporal punishment by coaches. The Sports Law No. 19 of 2009 regulates professional sports but omits youth protections entirely.

Finally, Article 28 (Education) suffers from weak implementation. While the Jordanian Education Law mentions physical education, no legal standards govern curriculum content, instructor qualifications, or minimum weekly hours. A 2022 Ministry of Education audit found 63% of schools failed to meet even basic physical education requirements (Al-Rabadi & Hussein, 2022).

Jordan's Education Law No. 3 of 1994 establishes the framework for compulsory education but does not explicitly address children's rights in youth sports or align with CRC principles such as Article 31 (right to play). While physical education is part of school curricula, the law lacks enforceable

provisions ensuring equitable access, protection from discrimination, or sports participation as a guaranteed right. This legal gap underscores the need for reforms that integrate CRC standards into national education and sports policies, ensuring youth sports programs uphold children's rights systematically rather than as discretionary activities.

The implementation of child rights obligations under international conventions like the CRC does not always necessitate amendments to primary legislation, such as Jordan's Education Law No. 3 of 1994. Instead, enforcement and operationalization can be achieved through secondary legal instruments—including regulations, ministerial directives, and executive decrees—which provide detailed mechanisms for compliance without altering the core text of the law. For instance, while Jordan's primary education law may not explicitly reference sports or child protection, secondary regulations could mandate school sports programs, establish child safeguarding protocols, or define accountability measures for violations. This approach allows for flexibility and adaptability in aligning national practices with international standards, even when primary laws remain broadly framed or outdated.

These legislative gaps perpetuate structural inequalities. The 2020 National Human Rights Report documented that children from low-income families have 83% less sports participation than wealthier peers, while refugee children face 91% exclusion rates (National Center for Human Rights, 2020). Thus, without legal mandates, inclusive programming remains discretionary rather than obligatory.

Legislative Pathways for UNCRC Alignment in Jordanian Youth Sports

To bring Jordan's youth sports framework into full compliance with the UNCRC, a comprehensive legislative overhaul should address four fundamental dimensions of children's rights. Each dimension requires targeted reforms that incorporate international best practices while remaining sensitive to Jordan's cultural and administrative context.

First, regarding the Right to Play (Article 31), Jordan should substantially revise its Child Rights Law to incorporate specific spatial and safety standards. Drawing from Australia's Youth Sports Safety Act (2011), amendments should mandate minimum space requirements of 3 m² per child in all sports facilities to prevent overcrowding and ensure safe play environments. The law should also require all coaches to obtain first aid certification, with mandatory refresher courses every two years. Furthermore, establishing minimum weekly access hours would guarantee children consistent recreational opportunities. These provisions would operationalize the UNCRC Committee's General Comment No. 17, which emphasizes that play spaces must be available, accessible, acceptable, and adaptable to children's needs (UNCRC, 2013). Complementary reforms to the Municipalities Law should mandate that 15% of local budgets be allocated to youth sports infrastructure, with specific quotas for underserved rural communities and urban poverty zones.

Second, concerning Non-Discrimination (Article 2), Jordan's legal framework requires substantial strengthening to remove participation barriers for marginalized groups. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law should also be amended to include detailed sports-specific accessibility standards, such as requiring wheelchair ramps with slope ratios not exceeding 1:12 and tactile guidance systems for visually impaired athletes. Inspired by Canada's Accessible Act (2019), the revised law should establish mandatory accessibility audits for all sports facilities. To address gender disparity, a quota system should require sports clubs to maintain an acceptable level of female participation, supported by targeted scholarship programs. Additional measures should include special grant programs to promote sports participation among refugee children and those from low-income families. These reforms would implement the UNCRC Committee's directive in General Comment No. 20 that states must actively identify and remove barriers to inclusive participation (UNCRC, 2016).

Third, for Protection from Exploitation (Article 36), Jordan needs to develop robust safeguarding mechanisms modeled on the UK's comprehensive system. The proposed reforms should mandate rigorous background checks for all sports personnel, including volunteers, with continuous monitoring through a national database. Following the UK's Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006), Jordan should establish independent reporting mechanisms with guaranteed anonymity for whistleblowers and strict 24-hour response timelines for abuse allegations. The law should explicitly prohibit harmful practices prevalent in youth sports, including forced weight-cutting in combat sports, excessive training regimens, and corporal punishment. Additional provisions should regulate working hours for child athletes and establish mandatory rest periods to prevent burnout and overtraining.

Fourth, regarding Education Integration (Article 28), Jordan's education laws require substantial revision to fully incorporate sports as a developmental instrument. Following Finland's exemplary Basic Education Act (2014), reforms should legislate daily 45-minute physical education requirements for all school grades, with adapted programs for children with special needs. The Ministry of Education should develop national sports pedagogy standards that align physical activities with cognitive and social development milestones. A comprehensive monitoring system should track both participation rates and educational outcomes, including academic performance, school attendance, and behavioral indicators. These changes would implement UNESCO's (2015) Quality Physical Education guidelines that emphasize movement's role in holistic development. Additional provisions should foster school-community partnerships, enabling shared use of sports facilities and creating pathways for talented student-athletes.

The proposed reforms require phased implementation, beginning with immediate amendments to the Child Rights Law, followed by complementary changes to education, municipal, and sports regulations. Successful adoption will depend on establishing cross-ministerial coordination mechanisms and allocating sufficient budgetary resources. While ambitious, these comprehensive reforms would finally provide Jordanian children with the sports rights guaranteed by the UNCRC but currently unrealized in national legislation. The estimated \$18 million annual investment represents a modest 0.3% of Jordan's education budget but promises substantial returns in improved child health, educational outcomes, and social cohesion (World Bank, 2021). Through systematically addressing all four dimensions of sports-related children's rights, Jordan can establish itself as a regional leader in rights-based youth sports policy while fulfilling its international obligations under the UNCRC.

International Frameworks

Australia's comprehensive child protection system provides an exemplary model for Jordan to consider. The National Principles for Child Safe Organizations (2022) establish a robust framework that could be adapted to Jordan's context. Principle 3 specifically requires organizations to ensure families and communities are actively informed about child safety policies and procedures, creating a shared responsibility for protection (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2022). Principle 5 mandates concrete measures to promote equity through inclusive practices, such as requiring all sports clubs to develop diversity and inclusion action plans. Perhaps most critically, Principle 7 establishes child-focused complaints processes that prioritize the needs and perspectives of young athletes throughout any investigation (Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2022). These standards have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness, with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2021) reporting a 37% reduction in sports-related child abuse incidents between 2015-2020 following their implementation.

Subsequent, the Victorian Child Safe Standards (2022) offer additional specific protections that Jordan could incorporate. Standard 4's requirement for annual staff training on grooming prevention techniques has been particularly impactful, helping coaches and administrators recognize early warning signs of predatory behavior (Victorian Commission for Children and Young People, 2022). Standard 6's mandate for comprehensive risk assessments of

all sports activities has reduced preventable injuries by 28% in youth programs (Sports Medicine Australia, 2021). Standard 1's cultural safety protocols for indigenous children provide a valuable template for Jordan to adapt in addressing the needs of refugee and minority populations, ensuring all children feel welcome and respected in sports settings (Clarke & Farrington, 2022). These measures have collectively created what researchers describe as a "culture of safety" permeating Australian youth sports (Gillett & Francombe-Webb, 2023, p. 215).

Next, the United Kingdom's Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) framework presents another proven model. Its multi-agency safeguarding partnerships (Chapter 2) create formal collaboration channels between sports organizations, schools, social services, and law enforcement, ensuring comprehensive protection (Department for Education UK, 2018). The framework's strict mandatory reporting timelines (Section 4.3) require all abuse allegations to be investigated within 72 hours, dramatically reducing case backlogs (NSPCC, 2021). Perhaps most innovative are the whistleblower protections (Annex A), which have empowered over 1,200 sports professionals to report misconduct without fear of retaliation since 2018 (Child Protection in Sport Unit, 2022). These measures have contributed significantly to the UK's 22% increase in girls' sports participation since 2010 (UK Sport, 2022), demonstrating how strong safeguards can actually enhance participation rates.

Following, these international models share several key features that Jordan could productively adapt. All three systems emphasize prevention through education, with mandatory training programs for staff at all levels (Brackenridge et al., 2021). They establish clear accountability mechanisms, including independent oversight bodies with investigative powers (Lang & Hartill, 2022). Perhaps most importantly, they position child protection as a shared community responsibility rather than just an institutional obligation (Owton & Bond, 2023). Research indicates this comprehensive approach yields significantly better outcomes than piecemeal interventions, with one meta-analysis showing integrated systems reduce abuse risks by 42-58% compared to single-measure approaches (Timpka et al., 2022).

Implementation Considerations for Jordan

The successful adaptation of these models to Jordan's context would require several strategic considerations. First, any imported frameworks must be carefully localized to respect cultural norms while maintaining core protection principles (Khan & Ahmad, 2023). Second, implementation should follow a phased approach, prioritizing high-risk areas before expanding nationwide (UNICEF MENA, 2022). Third, adequate funding and training infrastructure must be established to ensure sustainability (Right to Play International, 2023). Finally, robust monitoring and evaluation systems should be built in from the start to measure impact and guide continuous improvement (Hassan et al., 2023).

These international examples demonstrate that comprehensive child protection systems can significantly enhance both safety and participation in youth sports. Through selectively adapting proven elements from developed countries while respecting local contexts, Jordan has an opportunity to leapfrog less effective approaches and establish itself as a regional leader in child-safe sports programming.

Conclusion and Recommendations for Advancing Children's Rights in Jordanian Youth Sports

This research has identified critical gaps in Jordan's youth sports framework, particularly in its alignment with UNCRC principles. The research revealed widespread parental unawareness of children's rights, systemic resource inequities, and insufficient legal protections—all of which hinder effective implementation. Despite these challenges, initiatives like Football for Girls demonstrate how culturally sensitive programs can foster inclusivity and transform societal perceptions. To bridge these gaps, Jordan should adopt a multifaceted approach that integrates legislative reforms, educational initiatives, and community engagement.

First, legislative reforms must expand the Child Rights Law to include detailed provisions for youth sports, emphasizing safety, inclusivity, and ethical standards. This includes mandating child protection training for coaches, establishing clear reporting mechanisms for abuse, and ensuring equitable access to sports facilities.

Second, targeted initiatives should prioritize underserved regions, marginalized groups, such as girls, children with disabilities, and refugees, through quota systems, and dedicated funding.

Third, comprehensive training programs must equip coaches with child-centric methodologies, while parental education campaigns should raise awareness of children's rights and reporting procedures. These measures would operationalize the UNCRC's mandate that sports participation is a right, not a privilege.

Fourth, robust monitoring systems must be implemented to ensure adherence to UNCRC principles, with regular assessments of program effectiveness and compliance.

Fifth, resource reallocation is essential to reduce regional disparities, ensuring that rural and low-income communities receive equitable access to quality sports infrastructure.

Sixth, educational integration should align sports programs with academic curricula, fostering holistic development as envisioned under Article 28 of the UNCRC. Seventh, advocacy campaigns must promote the benefits of youth sports, targeting policymakers, educators, and parents to build broad-based support for reform.

By adopting these recommendations, Jordan can create a youth sports culture that embodies the UNCRC's principles of inclusivity, safety, and empowerment. The success of initiatives like Football for Girls proves that transformative change is possible when policies are rooted in children's rights. Future efforts must focus on sustained monitoring and evaluation to ensure long-term alignment with international standards. Through these reforms, Jordan can set a regional precedent for integrating global child rights frameworks into local contexts, empowering its youth to thrive physically, emotionally, and socially. Ultimately, this will ensure that sports serve as a catalyst for social inclusion, personal development, and national progress.

Disclosure Statement

- **Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate:** This study obtained ethical approval, ensuring compliance with research integrity standards. Informed consent was secured from all participating parents and guardians, who are adults, prior to data collection. Confidentiality and voluntary participation were strictly maintained throughout the research process.
- **Availability of Data and Materials:** The datasets and materials used in this study are available upon reasonable request. The researchers are committed to transparency and will provide any additional relevant information to support further academic or policy-related inquiries.
- **Author Contributions:** Both researchers contributed equally to all phases of this study. Nehad Makhadmeh (first author) provided expertise in sports science and child rights in athletic contexts, while Khaled Khwaileh (second author) contributed legal analysis,

particularly regarding Jordanian legislation and UNCRC alignment. Collaboration ensured a multidisciplinary approach to data interpretation and policy recommendations.

- **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, that could influence the research findings or interpretations presented in this study.
- **Funding:** Supported by Yarmouk University. JORDAN.
- **Acknowledgments:** The authors thank decision-makers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and present this effort to the Ministry of Education and the Jordan Olympic and Paralympic Committee for their potential role in advancing child rights reforms in youth sports. Their leadership is crucial in translating research insights into actionable policies.

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