

Call for Papers to Session S20051

XVIIth World Economic History Congress, Kyoto, Japan, 3-7 August 2015

Economic History of Sport

The sports sector attracts large numbers of spectators, TV viewers, participants, media interest and is the beneficiary of a host of public policy concessions and subsidies. The day to day lives of large portions of the population across many countries are largely influenced by sport, in particular professional team sports and other elite competitions such as the Olympics and FIFA World Cup. The sector has increasingly fallen under the lens of economists, and the field of sports economics now attracts research across a wide variety of economic methods. Part of this lies in the peculiar nature of sports – namely the requirement for a rival to produce output. Hence, by its very nature, the sporting sector yields an unique style of competition rarely observed in other parts of the economy. Sports also, partially as a result of this feature, also are characterized by a range of public policy exemptions which permit restrictive labour practices (salary caps and player drafts) and exemptions from ant-trust laws. At least part of this is to maintain competitive balance between rivals. Moreover, its popularity and possible externalities lead to large public subsidies.

Despite the large and increasing volume of economic research in the area, the history of sport has attracted less attention from economic historians. However, modern spectator sports were established in the mid-nineteenth century. This session will host a variety of papers examining the history of sport.

The conveners are in the process of finalizing a publication with Edward Elgar on public policy and sport. Initial discussion with this publisher indicate that they are interested in publishing a conference volume in the Economic History of Sport based on this session, should it proceed.

Call for Papers

There are a limited number of spaces available for presenters in the session. Abstracts of up to 500 words are invited with submission by 10 February, 2015. Please send submission to the email below. Selected authors will be required to submit full versions of their paper by 1st April, 2015.

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