

## **PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

In this article, at a time when the global COVID-19 pandemic is a concern for all industries and sectors today, the main issue is not only to protect the health of the world's population but also the importance of sports in ensuring their health. However, due to the pandemic, many sports facilities, sports clubs, as well as international sports competitions have been suspended. The impact of the pandemic on the activities of international and national sports competitions, as well as other areas, and its economic indicators were analyzed and scientific proposals and practical recommendations for the future development of the industry were given.

**KEYWORDS:** COVID-19 pandemic, quarantine, sports facilities, sports clubs, international sports competitions, International Olympic Committee, Olympic Games, National Olympic Committee.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

It is no exaggeration to say that the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the world has caused concern to all sectors and industries. In the context of the pandemic today, along with health and comprehensive social protection of the population, it has had an equal impact on national and international sports activities. It is one of the urgent issues to

study the impact of the pandemic on national and international sports activities and to analyze it on the basis of statistical data and take measures to mitigate it.

The advent of the coronavirus pandemic has also had a serious impact on the activities of all types of production and service entities. During the pandemic, all sporting events and competitions in all countries were suspended. Basically, the primary task facing states in the context of a pandemic was to focus only on these issues, such as food security and public health.

Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that today the impact of the pandemic on the organization and conduct of international and national sports competitions has shown its strength. In this regard, it is expedient to analyze the impact of the pandemic on international sports activities through the relevant economic indicators of the industry and make recommendations for the future development of the industry.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW:**

In his Address to the Oliy Majlis of January 24, 2020, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev also elaborated on the development of sports in our country, stating: In this regard, it is necessary to build new mass sports facilities in the regions for the population, especially our youth. This year

projects worth almost 500 billion soums will be implemented to build 269 football, volleyball, basketball and badminton courts, 178 boxing, wrestling, fitness and gymnastics gyms, and 32 tennis courts "(2020).

One of the specific strategic steps of the country in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 3, 2020 PD-5978 "On strengthening social protection and ensuring the sustainability of economic sectors in the fight against coronavirus infection." Resolution No. PP-4649 of March 26, 2020 "On additional measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (2020).

Based on the requirements of these regulations, the measures taken to declare a quarantine situation in all regions of the country and to protect the health of the population, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic are yielding positive results in practice.

## DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

At a time when the risk of coronavirus pandemics is growing in countries around the world, the pandemic has also had an impact on the development of sports activities. It is important to develop measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, to analyze the damage caused to global sports activities, to address the problems in the field and to reduce the risk of occurrence.

In the context of the global pandemic, it is likely that there will be a sharp decline in the volume of sports services worldwide. In this regard, the suspension of national and international sports competitions also posed a serious threat to the activities of sports clubs that provide sports services.

Following the spread of the coronavirus disease in Europe, revenues began to decline significantly economically due to the

cancellation of sporting events in various countries on Swedish television sports channels.

For example, in a survey in the U.S. in April 2020, 21 per cent of respondents found it convenient to return to the gym or workout for at least the next six or nine months. The reason is that gyms are concerned about the prevalence of the disease and the high risk of infection in public places.

While the broadcasts on Eurosport were watched by 99,000 people in the ninth week of 2020, the number of daily viewers of this channel in the 17th week of 2020 was only 28,000. A similar situation can be seen on the Swedish TV channel Sportkanalen, which during that time recorded a decline of about 80,000 viewers every day.

From the 18th to the 22nd week of 2020, the number of daily viewers of television sports stations increased slightly or remained almost stable. From June 1 to June 7, 2020, more and more people watched sports TV in Sweden.

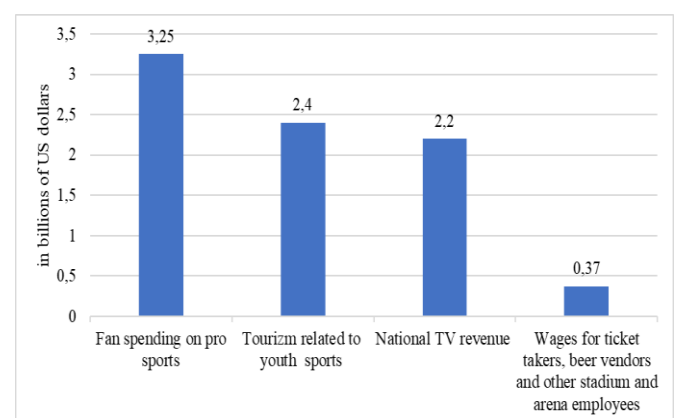


Figure 1. Dynamics of loss of sports revenue by segment by May 2020 due to coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) (in billions of US dollars)

Due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic around the world, it has had a drastic impact on the income of sports facilities operating in the sports sector. If we look at this process in terms of sports segments as of May 2020, the expenditures of sports fans on sports

amounted to 3.25 billion US dollars, young athletes visiting through tourism - 2.4 billion US dollars, international television channels - 2.2 billion. Those who bought tickets for stadiums and venues in other regions for young people interested in sports received \$ 0.37 billion. They had to lose the US \$. In early 2020, the pandemic also hit the sports industry hard. Many professional sports leagues around the world have suspended their seasons, and hundreds of thousands of jobs have been put at great risk as mass sports events across the country have also been cancelled.

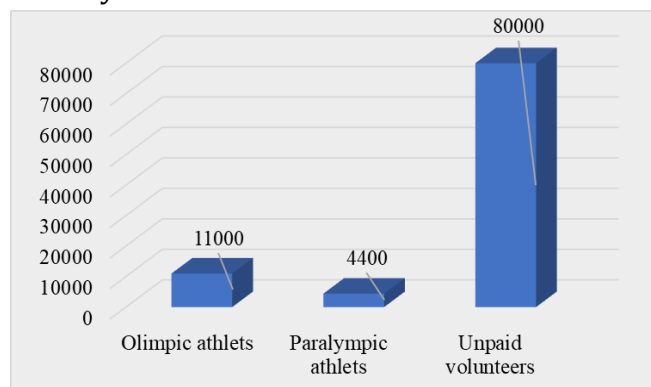


Figure 2. The status of the victims of the coronavirus pandemic due to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 to March 2020

The International Olympic Games were supposed to take place in the Japanese capital, Tokyo, in late July 2020, but due to a coronavirus pandemic, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided on March 24 to postpone the Olympics until 2021. Given the commitment and training required to prepare for the Olympic year, this delay had a significant impact on the 11,000 Olympic athletes and 4,400 Paralympic athletes who were required to compete.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which spread around the world in early 2020, posed a major threat not only to health but also to the entire sports industry. Many professional and amateur leagues and events have been cancelled, and the public has been advised not to spend time in large groups or in public

places, including gyms.

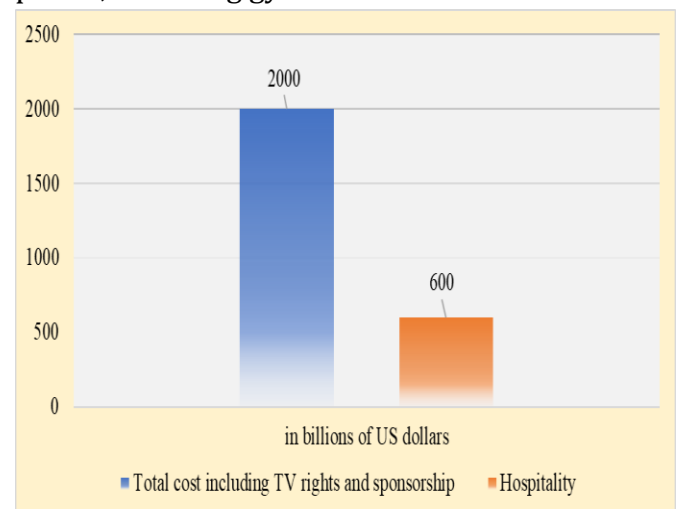


Figure 3. The insured value of the Tokyo Olympics due to the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 (in millions of US dollars)

As a result of the impact of the International Olympic Committee's postponement of the Olympic Games until 2021, global insurance companies have been forced to pay a hefty fee to cover the cost of the Games directly. The insurance value of the 2020 Olympic Games is \$ 2,000 million. USD.

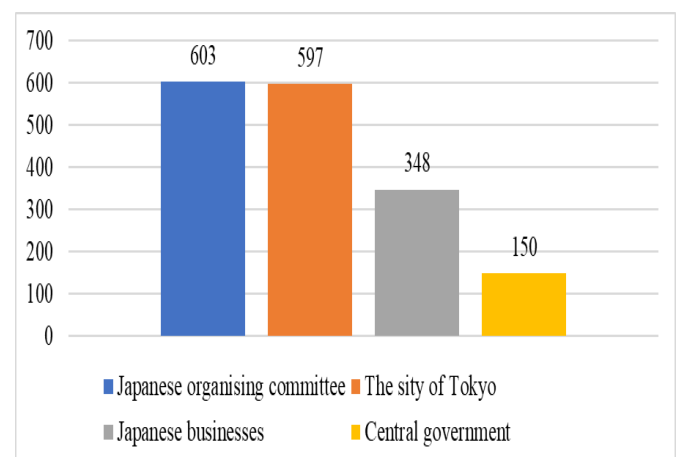


Figure 4. Sectoral value of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics due to coronavirus pandemic (billion Japanese yen)

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the value of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games by sector is shown in a high figure, causing the Tokyo capital to lose 597 billion yen invested in the event.

It is known that the Tokyo 2020 Games will be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021. Thus, for the first time in history, the Olympic Games were postponed. The IOC Coordinating Commission is currently working with the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee, the International Summer Olympic Sports Federations, 206 National Olympic Committees, athletes, sponsors, partners, and broadcasting companies.

The IOC's decision to reschedule the 2020 Olympics was made in collaboration with the Japanese government, with the personal participation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with the aim of helping prevent the spread of the coronavirus, primarily to protect the health of all people participating in the Olympics, especially athletes. was made.

International sports federations are required to make changes to the terms of their competitions, and athletes - to adapt to new terms.

Currently, the IOC and "Here We Go!" the working group is agreeing with all stakeholders on a new system of qualifying for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. In this case, 57% of the licenses obtained will be retained when they are obtained, the qualification period expires on June 27, 2021. This is due to the fact that under the agreement with Japan, the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo will remain the XXXII Olympic Games in 2021.

In conclusion, the following recommendations should be made to the participants of the International Olympic and World Sports Competitions to address the above-mentioned problems:

- Carrying out of international sports competitions in high spirits and thorough preparation;
- To take measures to maintain the licensing requirements of participants of international Olympic and world sports competitions and to further encourage them;

- Introduction of state incentives for participants of international Olympic and world sports competitions before the competition.

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