Racial Inequality in Sports

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

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Even after the Civil War that included the participation of Whites and non-Whites, the sports industry was not integrated. The implementation of the Jim Crow laws worsened any progress of integrating sports. The Crow laws promoted racial segregation in all facilities, including schools, which had a negative impact in the integration of sports. The segregations prevented competitive sports between Whites and other minority races. The only sports activities that was integrated was boxing, and even so, it was done as the sports organizers realized that they could make money by arranging fights between Blacks and Whites. However, boxing was prepared in a way that prevented Blacks from winning the titles. It was not until the victory by John Arthur Johnson, a Black American boxer, that the United States started changing its perception about Blacks and their participation in competitive sports (ASU Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, 2016).

The Civil Rights movement in the 1960s promoted the participation of Blacks and other races in sports. The Civil Rights movement promoted a change in the society’s attitude towards individuals from minority races. The Olympic Revolt of the 1968 also sensitized the public about the importance of providing equal opportunities for individuals from different races. During the Olympics, two African American athletes kept their hands raised when the national anthem was being played and only lowered them after the end of the anthem. They had worn black gloves, black socks, and no shoes, which was regarded as a human rights statement (Voices of the Civil Rights Movement, 2015). To correct inequality in sports, some of the strategies that have been implemented include abolishing laws limiting participation in sports, and providing equal opportunities for individuals, regardless of their race, to take part in sports activities. International sports organizations have implemented laws and regulations to combat racism. The Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance policy was signed to provide equal opportunities for everyone in sports and to prevent discrimination (Organization of American States, n.d.)

References

ASU Center for the Study of Race and Democracy (2016). Race and Sports Video History. *YouTube*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krOeJCRLgIY>

The video provides information about the history of racial inequality in sports.

Organization of American States. (n.d.). Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (A-68). Retrieved from <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/inter_american_treaties_a-68_racism.asp>

The resource provides information about regulations that have been implemented to facilitate racial equality in sports.

Voices of the Civil Rights Movement. (2015). October 16, 1968 - U.S. Olympic Sprinters Protest Racial Inequality. *YouTube*. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3wjBlnxNek

The video provides information about an event that had a major impact in addressing racial inequality in the Olympics.