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## Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) Organizing in the Reform Era (2000-2020)

Panji Rinaldi Putra\*, Amung Ma'mun, Helmy Firmansyah  
Sport Education School of Postgraduate, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Indonesia

\*Corresponding e-Mail: [12panjirinaldi@upi.edu](mailto:12panjirinaldi@upi.edu)

ABSTRACT	ARTICLE INFO
<p>This research focuses on organizing the Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) in the reform era. The organizing of the Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) is an effort made by the Indonesian government in developing sports and attracting potential athletes from all over Indonesia. This study aims to find out how the organizing of the Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) in the reform era from PON in 2000 in East Java to PON in 2020 in Papua and also, to find out how the development of sports and match numbers in PON in the reform era. The method used in this study is the historical method which starts from the first step, namely heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography. This research uses literature study and analysis of print and electronic media as data collection procedures. This study discusses the implementation of PON in the reform era, which became a turning point in the development of sports in Indonesia. The results of this research are that the addition of match numbers and sports branches is closely related to the organizers' interests. The development of game numbers is very uncontrollable from PON 2000 to PON 2020.</p> <p>© 2023 ASEAN Journal of Sport for Development and Peace</p>	<p><b>Article History:</b> <i>Submitted/Received 21 Aug 2021</i> <i>First Revised 4 Oct 2021</i> <i>Accepted 19 Nov 2021</i> <i>First Available online 20 Jan 2022</i> <i>Publication Date 30 Jan 2022</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Keyword:</b> <i>Indonesia National Sports Game,</i> <i>Reform Era</i></p>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sport in the global era today has become a very attention-grabbing phenomenon because it can touch various layers of people's lives (Ma'mun, 2018). Sport has a comprehensive spectrum. It is closely related to health, economy, society and culture, character building, and even pride and nationalism far beyond the sport itself. Therefore, the handling of sports affairs must be viewed as a system consisting of a series of interrelated sub-systems and cannot be ignored. Persatuan Olahraga Indonesia (PORI) was assisted by the Olympic Committee of the Republic of Indonesia (KORI) in 1948 to prepare athletes to take part in the 1948 XIV Summer Olympics in London, England. However, the Indonesian athletes were canceled because, at that time, the Persatuan Olahraga Indonesia (PORI) as the official sports body in Indonesia had not been recognized and had not become an official member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The refusal is due to the absence of world recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the Indonesian nation. At that time, Indonesian athletes were only allowed to use Dutch passports. Due to the failure to send athletes to the London Olympics, in the end, the PORI board at that time held a conference which resulted in an agreement to hold a Sports Week, which took place in August or September 1948 in Solo.

Fifty years after the PON I held in Solo in 1948, Indonesia experienced significant upheaval in 1998, namely the fall of President Suharto, who had served as President of the Republic of Indonesia for approximately 32 years. In the new order era led by President Soeharto, Indonesia experienced a successful period in developing sports. Through the slogan of promoting sports and cultivating the community, President Soeharto announced sports krida hours on Fridays for Civil Servants (PNS). Then launched the National Sports Day (HAORNAS) on September 9, 1983, which was taken from the history of implementing the first Indonesia National Sports Games in Solo on September 9, 1948. On Thursday morning, May 21, 1998, President Soeharto declared his resignation from his position as President after the great upheaval that caused occurred at that time, pressure to withdraw from the community, and students occupied the top of the DPR/MPR Building. The then Vice President B.J Habibie was finally appointed as a successor and became the first President in the Reformation era.

Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) is held every four years. PON itself has a function to attract potential athletes destined for international competitions, such as the Olympics, Asian Games, and Sea Games (Zubaidilah, 2019). Then it has various objectives as stated in Law no. 3 of 2005 concerning the National Sports System and Government Regulation No. 17 of 2007 concerning the Organization of Sports Weeks and Championships) Article 10, Paragraph 1, it is explained that the Indonesia National Sports Games is held with the aim of (a) maintaining national unity and integrity, (b) attracting potential athletes, (c) improving sports performance. The Indonesia National Sports Games (*Pekan Olahraga Nasional/PON*) implementation continues to grow every year, both in terms of the number of sports and the number of sports contested. Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) is analogous to the Olympics and has the same goal. The Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) is a culmination of the coaching and sports achievements of the participating provinces (Ma'mun, 2018). The first post-reformation Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) was held in Surabaya, East Java, from 19 to June 30, 2000. Five thousand seven hundred twenty (5.720) athletes from 30 participating provinces participated. In Surabaya, Indonesia National Sports Games(PON) competed in 550 sports events with 38 sports.

From the description above, it can be seen that the Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) from year to year, the implementation period continues to develop, both in match numbers, implementation processes, and infrastructure development. However, are these

developments by the objectives of implementing the Indonesia National Sports Games (PON)?

## 2. METHODS

The research method used in this research is the historical method because this research is recorded. According to Borg [Cohen et al., \(2000\)](#), the historical research method is defined as a systematic and objective method, using evaluation and synthetic evidence to establish facts and draw conclusions about past events. The historical research method determines historical ideas and facts scientifically to group them into scientific explanations ([Albulescu, 2018](#)). Historical research involves studying, understanding, and interpreting events in the past. Historical research aims to reach insights and conclusions about individuals or events in the past.

[Louis Gottschalk](#) in [Syarifah Wardah \(2014\)](#), systematizes the steps in historical research, namely:

1. The collection of objects dating from one era and the collection of relevant written and oral materials.
2. Get rid of ingredients that are not authentic.
3. Conclude reliable testimonies based on authentic materials.
4. The preparation of reliable testimony into a meaningful story or presentation.

Source of data is a collection of sources obtained by the author conducting research and serves as a reference to strengthen the study results. These sources can be from books or literature studies, document sources, journals, theses, and interviews. Sources of data obtained by the author are through books relevant and related to the research theme, as well as through journals whose validity can be ascertained and several sources of print and electronic media.

Data collection techniques are a significant step in research because the study's primary purpose is to obtain data. In the data collection stage, the author uses the following techniques:

### 2.1 Interview

A method widely used by qualitative researchers to collect data is to interview selected individuals. Interviews (i.e., asking relevant questions carefully) are essential for a researcher to check for accuracy and verify or disprove the impressions they obtain through observation ([Fraenkel et al., 2012](#)). [Sugiyono \(2015\)](#), explained the interview as a data collection technique if the researcher wants to do a preliminary study to find the problem that must be studied and if the researcher wants to know things from more in-depth respondents and the number of respondents is tiny or small.

### 2.2 Literature Study

A literature study collects secondary data from relevant books, documents, and writings to develop research concepts and reveal research objects. Research with literature study is a study that has the same preparation as research but the sources and methods of data

collection by taking data in the library, reading, taking notes, and processing research materials (Melfianora, 2019).

### 3. Results and Discussion

The implementation of the largest multi-event in Indonesia, namely the National Sports Week (PON), which has been held for approximately 65 years, has a purpose as stated in Law No. 10 paragraph 1, it is noted that the National Sports Week is held with the aim of (a) maintaining national unity and integrity, (b) attracting potential athletes, and (c) improving sports performance. For the first time in the reform era, PON was held in Surabaya, East Java, in 2000, after the upheaval in 1998, which was marked by the fall of President Suharto's power. PON Surabaya, East Java is the inaugural event in which the host of the event departs from the province of DKI Jakarta. 20 years later, PON was held in the province of Papua which became history for the first time holding PON in Eastern Indonesia. In the process of implementing PON itself, it continues to experience developments in sports and match numbers. This can be seen from the number of sports and the number of matches contested in PON often changes. It seems that there are no standards in determining sports and match numbers. This is of course out of the spirit of PON itself, often the addition of both the subtraction of the sport and the number of matches is infiltrated by interests. The most striking thing is the increase in sports and non-Olympic match numbers, where PON itself should be oriented to international Multievents such as the Olympics, Asian Games, or SEA Games in determining sports and match numbers.

**Table 1.** Comparison of Sports and PON Competition Numbers in the Reformation Era (2000-2020)

No.	Years	Province	City	Sports	Number of Sports
1.	2000	East Java	Surabaya	37	550
2.	2004	South Sumatera	Palembang	41	607
3.	2008	East Borneo	Samarinda	43	746
4.	2012	Riau	Pekanbaru	43	600
5.	2016	West Java	Bandung	44	755
6.	2020	Papua	Jayapura	37	607

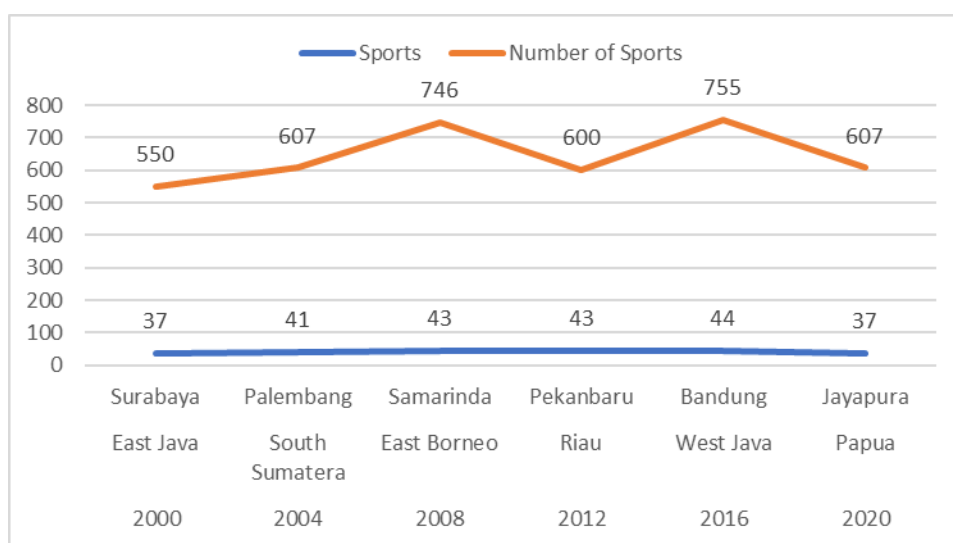
It can be seen in table 4.1 how every year its implementation starting in 2000 as the first PON in the reform era, there are sports and competitions whose numbers increase and decrease. According to Ma'mun (2018), PON has a goal similar to the Olympics: to improve sports achievements. However, in reality, the PON event itself has twice the number of matches in the Olympics.

**Table 2.** Comparison of Sports and PON Competition Numbers in the Reformation Era with the Olympics (2000-2020)

No.	Event	Organizer, year, and number of match numbers					
1.	PON	East Java	South Sumatera	East Borneo	Riau	West Java	Papua
		2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	2020
		550	607	746	600	755	607
2.	Olimpic	Australia	Yunani	China	England	Brazil	Japan
		2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	2020
		300	301	302	302	306	339

The addition is considered detrimental to other provinces that are not the host. The host wins most sports with non-Olympic match numbers and marks and match numbers whose results are determined by the referee/jury.

The study results show that the presence of the host authority always influences the addition or subtraction of match numbers in the implementation of PON as the organizer of the PON. Because medals and athletes are evenly distributed, the addition of sports and competition numbers continues to grow uncontrollably. It can be seen that in the 2000 edition of PON XV, there were 550 numbers of matches contested, then in PON XVI in 2004, only 57 numbers jumped. However, in the next edition of PON XVII in 2008 in East Kalimantan, the number of match numbers jumped drastically to 746 match numbers which became the history of adding the most number of matches in the history of PON implementation. Then in the 2012 edition of PON XVIII in Riau, the number of match numbers was reduced to 600 match numbers only. As if to repeat what was done by East Kalimantan as the organizer, West Java which hosted PON XIX in 2016, set 755 match numbers which broke the record number of match numbers in PON. And in the last edition of PON XX Papua, the number of matches in PON itself was reduced to 607 match numbers only.



**Figure 1.** Graph of Addition and Subtraction of Sports and PON Competition Numbers in the Reformation Era

#### 4. Discussion

Like a roller coaster journey, this is certainly very risky for the sporting climate in Indonesia. PON should be a means of preparation for Indonesia to face international multi-events such as the SEA Games, Asian Games, or the Olympics, which is considered only competition for the prestige of the host. If you look closely, the addition or subtraction of the number of matches in multi-events also occurs in international events such as the SEA Games. Still, the addition is not as much and drastic as PON. The Asian Games and Olympics have also seen different numbers, but they tend to be stable and under control. The addition or subtraction must follow a series of qualifications or a systematic review process in determining the sport and match numbers. And, of course, there is no element of interest in it. Updates in the PON itself need to be done in order to stay on purpose. If referring to the Olympics as the highest multi-sport event in the world, the sports and competition numbers in the PON itself should refer to the sports and the number of matches that are competed in the Olympics only. Without dedicating non-Olympic sports, Olympic sports should be prioritized both in terms of organization and funding. Sports branches such as aero sports, dance, drum band need to be reviewed to be included in PON. Aerosport itself in every edition of PON always competes in

over 30 match numbers, almost parallel to athletics which competes in 46 match numbers. If an area can dominate the aero sports branch, medal coffers await.

The need for a basic policy regarding the determination of sports and match numbers in PON, of course, becomes a technical area as the organizer of PON, namely the National Sports Committee (KONI), and national sports deliberation forums to comply with what is mandated in PP No. 17 of 2007 concerning the organization of sports weekends and championships. An idea is needed in a deliberation forum or coordination meeting to set the number of match numbers to no more than 500 match numbers. Or a regulation is made that the award system for Olympic and non-Olympic numbers can be separated. Regions that excel in Olympic numbers can be given a special title and a reward in the form of additional funding for coaching. It is impossible to trigger regions to focus more on developing Olympic numbers, and the coaching system can run well. And if the coaching is in line with what has been well established, it is not impossible that Indonesia's achievements in the international arena will be better. So don't just rely on one sport to get a gold medal at the Olympics.

In order to get an update in the previous PON, it can be determined what factors are needed to determine the sport and the number of matches in the PON. Such as sports that have a historical culture with the Indonesian people, such as Pencak silat and sepak takraw. PB IPSI as the parent organization of the sport of Pencak silat (IOCO) continues to struggle to be included in one of the sports that are competed in the Olympics. However, it is necessary to reduce and adjust the number of matches so that there is no medal monopoly. Then the match numbers are determined by the match results by the referee/jury, such as gymnastics and martial arts which are very susceptible to the results of the match being manipulated. It is necessary to adjust the match numbers to align with the numbers competed in the Olympics. After that, the level of difficulty in organizing sports and competition numbers such as horse riding, aero sport, diving, and others. Because not all provinces have the facilities and infrastructure to support the sport. So that there is no equal distribution of development in each region. If updates in PON can be carried out, then the process of adding or subtracting match numbers can be controlled and carried out systematically without any interest in regional prestige in it, it is not impossible that the goals of PON can be carried out properly, and Indonesia will roar again in multi-international events.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Indonesia National Sports Games (PON) is the pinnacle of the highest achievement in sports competitions in Indonesia. PON carries the objectives of a) maintaining national unity and integrity, b) attracting potential athletes, c) improving sports performance. At first, the PON itself was held, which was triggered by the prohibition of the Indonesian contingent from competing in the 1948 London Olympics using the name Indonesia and having Dutch East Indies passports. PON itself should adopt the Olympics as a reference in its implementation. Still, PON itself in its journey has experienced a shift from the intended purpose, especially in determining sports and match numbers. PON in the reform era began at PON XV in 2000 in Surabaya, East Java. The last edition was held in Jayapura, Papua, in 2020, which was shifted to 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic. PON in the reform era in its performance always experienced additions or subtractions in the number of matches being competed. The existence of the host's authority in determining the sport and the number of games will more or less significantly affect the winning strategy of the host itself. The emergence of new numbers whose results from the matches are not determined by the sweat of the athletes or the results of the matches is determined by the judges/referees greatly affect the medal gains

in PON. Because the match numbers whose results are determined by the judges/referees in each edition can explode or decrease drastically depending on how the hosts want it. There are no stipulations or standards that are enforced in the implementation of PON itself, causing this practice to be carried out continuously every year.

The chaotic organization that shifted its meaning into a mere regional prestige battle, seemed to ignore the purpose of the PON itself. Some match numbers whose results are determined by the jury/referee as the results of interviews with researchers, some additions and subtractions occur because of the authority of PB.PON or the host itself. Some argue for the even distribution of athletes and medals, but considered illogical if each edition the numbers continue to change according to their wishes. This is very detrimental to other PON participants who are deemed not to have prepared their athletes or do not have superior athletes in that number, so that there is a monopoly in obtaining medals in PON, especially match numbers whose match the jury/referee determines results. Not to mention that this medal monopoly can be caused by other factors that allow this practice to occur, such as the transfer of athletes who seem uncontrolled in the administrative process or the hosts who justify all means for the sake of medals. PON should be in line with international multi-events such as the SEA Games, Asian Games, and Olympics which are stable and more controlled in determining sports and competition numbers. If this continues, of course, PON is only a regional prestige competition and each region is competing to be the host for this prestige.

When referring to the Olympics, PON should require an update in its implementation system. With a clear legal basis stated in Law No. 3 of 2005 concerning the National Sports System, the government in article 46 paragraph 2 is responsible for organizing PON. The government, in this case, assigns the National Sports Committee (KONI) as the organizer of PON. The task of the National Sports Committee (KONI) in this case is stated in PP No.17 of 2007 article 11 paragraph 1, which stipulates that KONI is the organizer of PON in terms of a) planning, b) organizing, c) implementation and d) supervision. And then, in paragraph 2, it is explained that the duties of KONI as stipulated in paragraph 1 include determining the number of participants, the sports being competed, and the time of implementation. In this renewal system, you should also think about several factors such as sports and what match numbers will compete, such as Olympic numbers and sports closely related to Indonesia, such as Pencak silat and sepak takraw. It would be appropriate so as not to create a monopoly on medals. The numbers whose match the jury/referee determines results also need to be evaluated for the number of digits being competed to be in line with the numbers competed in international multi-events such as the Asian Games or the Olympics.

In PON, of course, it needs the government's attention in the early stages. Until a specific time, to encourage the participation of sportspeople to support reforms in PON, the government can make a government regulation where Olympic match numbers can get more rewards or an award in the form of titles and awards. As well as funds to support the coaching process. This can trigger regions to be more active in sports coaching and Olympic games. If the competition system in PON is implemented by heeding some of these rules, it can provide fresh air to the world of sports in Indonesia, which seems to be stagnant in the process of sports coaching. Indonesian athletes cannot speak much about Indonesia's achievements in several international events such as the Olympics. Practically from year to year, only rely on badminton to contribute gold medals. A shocking reality for a big nation like Indonesia. This update is also expected to return PON to its original purpose and eliminate interests in PON. Furthermore, Indonesia, which wants to run for the 2036 Olympics, can talk a lot and reap

the results according to capacity without having to justify all means for the sake of achievement. And PON with a new face is expected to be the initial milestone in fostering and breeding for a better Indonesia.

## 6. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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