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The ugly truth behind soccer clubs

In the modern day and age competitiveness exists pretty much anywhere you can possibly look, there's someone who is trying to do something better than the next person and sometimes that person can bring down other people in hopes of achieving something that feels great to them and something that makes them whole in a sense. This exact scenario exists in my sports club around the world that takes the sport they play seriously, there's nothing wrong with being competitive in fact without being competitive you can't really progress further and be the best version of yourself however if that competitiveness starts to affect people around you in a negative way then we have a serious problem since many of the people play the sport in order to have a good time, but if there's someone who makes them feel extremely less about themselves for not being able to live up to someone else's expectations that person becomes a hindrance to the clubs overall values and basically the player experience. This is my outcry to the people of power in sports clubs to bring about change to better their player experience. If not then what is the point of playing the sport?.

The soccer club that I am currently part of is comprised of bengali people only since the leagues and tournaments we play only allow bengali people and most of the days when we have practice sessions we all give our 100% in the practice and generally have a laugh together but there are days where one of the players mess up and just because of that they get critiqued by certain players so harshly that the player no longer wants to play for the team or the player just doesn't enjoy playing anymore due to the fact that some people just don't know how to give critics and not blatantly bash someone down. For a long time my thoughts were that I was the only one who was feeling this type of way in my club but after asking some of my friends the same questions that ponders my mind, one of my friend who wants to be anonymous said " Bro I agree with what you said there is a specific individual in the club who has a big mouth and talks down on a lot of people including me and I want to ask the management to talk to that player but I can't cuz that specific individual is close with management and if I say anything I might be facing retaliation and I just don't want to have to go through that ". This quote from that specific individual goes

to show how it's just not me and it's a much deeper issue that stems from a lot of semi professional clubs which needs to be dealt with.

This issue of harassment stems deep within the more broader soccer club communities that take part in different tournaments and leagues. Every year starting from around March all the way till mid October tournaments and leagues are held in beautiful days which acts as a beacon for people to come and have a good time, the tournaments usually house from somewhere between 8 to 12 teams per game since anymore than that and it becomes too big to manage from there on out each team participates and competes to make it to the quarter finals, the tournaments usually comprise of two groups in which teams are assigned in based on a lottery system and within those two groups the teams compete against each other to make it to the quarter finals which can be quite the challenge given how a lot of the games produce massive drama due to the fact that one person does not agree with the refs decision which creates a hostile environment for the teams since that person majority of the time from my personal experience hold a grudge and then try to hurt the players of the opposing team during the match which is dangerous and scary since soccer can be extremely dangerous since the risk of injuries and life threatening injuries are just so great. During the big league games it's even more hostile since its 11v11 which means more people which also means that there are more heads there to clash and ones the game turns sour it only goes downhill from there and from experience I can say that ones a person gets heated during the game and injures another person during that game they face no repercussions from their own club after the game which in a way lets the player know that they can get away with this kind of behavior which is a dangerous encouragement. A perfect solution to this problem would be for the clubs to set up some kind of anonymous reporting system in which they can monitor the complaints without knowing who it's coming from which would shield the person who is writing the complaint from possible retaliation from the club and the members in this scenario the people would be more encouraged to report issues and incidents in hopes of making the club a more enjoyable place to be and have fun. Things like this exist in so many other programs such as reporting a criminal anonymously and reporting all kinds of other things anonymously therefore implementing something like this into the club should not be that hard given that the backbone structure is already built in many parts of the society. In the end all of these harassment and dangerous behaviors can be stopped only if the managers and the people in power are able to recognize this kind of behavior and intervene in time to stop this from escalating any further than what it already had. I've seen far too many times where harassment like this has resulted in serious injuries and also led up to even hospitalization since the person that was being harassed for so long finally gave out and retaliated which wound up hurting the harasser badly.

Bibliography

Soccer player from my club who wishes to remain anonymous.

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