

Chapter 7: Sports

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 15: *Freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly*



7: Sports

ARTICLE 15 *Freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly*

BUKALA, 6 YEARS OLD SAYS:

“ My big brother Odrande plays football in a team called the Mosquito Nest. They are playing a game today. They will meet a team called The Fishes. The boys in the team ‘The Fishes’ live down by the river. Those who live by the river are taught how to swim. It would have been fun to know how to swim, but I don’t know if I would dare. In the river there are crocodiles, and some people say there are hippopotamuses as well!

I am not very interested in football, but Lillibeth likes it a lot. She would like to play in a team, but there are no teams for girls. Lillibeth plays with the boys when they practice and she is very good. But when they play at school she cannot join in, then only boys play. I like volleyball better. At school we also practice athletics - running and long jump.

In the market there is a man who owns a TV and if you have the money, 1 SSP per match, you can watch English football there. Taban, my big brother has a favourite team, Manchester United. He always knows when they are playing and always wants to watch their games. To get money to watch the games, Taban used to help selling petrol on the side of the road. They fill up a small amount of petrol in plastic-bottles and sell it to those who ride motorbikes.

Many people ride motorbikes here, because the roads are full of holes and water and the actual road can be very narrow, so it is much

easier to ride a motorbike than to drive a car. It is also less expensive to have a motorbike. My family doesn’t have either a car or a motorbike, we don’t even have a bicycle. Taban says that when he is a professional football player for Manchester United, he will buy both car and motorbike for us. I think it is enough to have a motorbike. Many people can ride on it at the same time, you can even bring a goat.

Now I will tell you about Odrande’s matches. There are six teams in the same league as The Mosquito Nest. Odrande’s team is in third place at the moment, but he is sure that they will win. The football ground is in the middle of Lui, and before the game starts you have to take away the sheep. It is very good that the sheep are there, because they eat the grass and if not, the grass would grow high and the players would fall over. The judge has green clothes and a whistle. He is the one who decides when the game starts and ends, when players can be exchanged, what team shall have the ball after a stop etc. Most players in Odrande’s team have red T-shirts, but some don’t have the right colour because they didn’t have money to buy one, but that doesn’t matter. There are some without shoes as well. They must have very strong feet, because it hurts a lot to kick the ball barefoot.

Before the game starts the teams warm up. It looks quite funny when

they run after each other and sometimes jump and leap. I can’t help laughing when I see it. Lillibeth gets mad at me and shoves her elbow into the side of my body. For her, football is a serious thing. She has even said that when she grows up, she will move to a country where girls can also play football matches. She also would like to watch the football matches on TV, but they won’t let her in. I feel sorry for Lillibeth, you should be allowed to be interested in whatever you like whether you are a boy or a girl.

Now it is time for the match to start, I actually think it is pretty boring. Lillibeth, Taban and the others stand up, jump and shout all the time. I and some other children walk a bit away. We sit down and talk together and play flute with our hands. When the match is close to the end we go back again and learn that it is three goals each and it’s very exciting. Odrande

scored one of the goals, I hope he didn’t see that I wasn’t watching.

Now it is actually very exciting to watch and at the last minute Odrande’s team manages to score another goal and wins – hurray!

After the referee has blown the final whistle, the players thank each other. Odrande is happy and proud like a cockerel when we walk home.

Now he is going to talk about this all night.





FOOTBALL

The men's national football team in South Sudan is called The Bright Star and played their first match against Tusker FC in the Kenyan Premier League.

The match was played in Juba and Khamis Leyano from South Sudan scored the first goal, but the team lost the match 1-3. On the 25th May 2012 South Sudan entered FIFA (International Federation of Football Associations).

The team played their first international match on the 10th July 2012 against Uganda and ended 2 - 2. James Moga and Richard Justin Lado scored the goals for South Sudan.

In 2014 a documentary was shown on TV in Britain: 'Zoran and the African Tigers'. It was about Zoran Djordevich from Serbia who was the first trainer of the national football team of South Sudan.

BASKETBALL

The South Sudan national basketball team played their first match against Uganda on the 10th July 2011. They plan to apply for membership in the FIBA (International Basketball Association). The team has many big stars like Luol Deng, who plays for the Chicago Bulls in the USA's NBA (National Basketball Association). Ater Majok and Deng Gai are other well-known players.

RUNNING

Guor Marial is a well-known runner from South Sudan. He fled from the country when he was a child and has citizenship in both USA and South Sudan. For that reason he is not allowed to run for either country, and in 2012 he ran the Olympic Marathon under the colours of International Olympic Committee because of that.

KICK-BOXING

Winnie Natasha, the Black Queen is a 21-year old law-student at the South Sudan University in Juba. She is one of the two only female kick-boxers in South Sudan. Earlier she has also been a member of the women's football and basketball leagues in Khartoum. In South Sudan kick-boxing is more than a sport. Puro Okele Obe, master of karate, jujitsu and aikido and an ex professional boxer wanted to use kick-boxing to overcome the tribal-differences that still exist and often causes violent fights.

Obe never thought that girls should participate in kick-boxing but when Winnie Natasha and Adut Bol wanted to start training, he welcomed them. Unfortunately the general opinion in South Sudan is not in favour. Girls who train for sports like kick-boxing get many negative comments.

OTHER SPORTS

Other popular sports in South Sudan are Wrestling and Mock Battle, partly with origins in old traditional show fights that used to celebrate the harvest. The participants in the show fights rubbed their body with okra; the audience danced, sang and played drums.





SUGGESTION 1

Conversation

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION

Article 15 in the Child rights convention asserts the Rights of every child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Discuss

What kinds of associations are there that you can join and what is positive about joining an association?

What do you prefer to do in your spare time?

What kinds of sports do you like the best?

Some of the players in the story did not have football clothes or football shoes. Do you think there are children in your country with the same problem?

BASIC FEELINGS

Lillibeth got angry when Bukala didn't think football was important. How does it feel when you are not taken seriously or when someone doesn't care about what you think?

Lillibeth was not allowed to play football at school. What is it like in your school; do boys and girls play together?

Odrande was happy and proud after the game. When do you feel happy and proud?



SUGGESTION 2

Prayers

BIBLE WORDS

Romans 12:4-5 or
Romans 12:4-8.

SÅNG

Be bold, be strong (KS 17)

I'm a winner (KS 143)

Let's run with determination (KS 229)

My God is big, so strong and so mighty (KS 255)

PRAYER

Thank you God for all the fun things I do with my friends. We are all good at different things, nobody knows everything but everybody knows something and together we know much more.
Amen

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Comparing the faith with an athletic competition, stay firm to get the triumphal wreath (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

It is in the Lord we live and move (Acts 17: 27-28)

To fight for what you believe in and finally reach the goal (2 Tim 4:7-8)

Pride and victim (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

If you chose one of these alternatives you have to adjust the songs and the prayer.





SUGGESTION 3

Football in different ways

Everybody is not as good at football. There are many ways to change the conditions. There will be lots of laughter when you play in the suggested ways, but you can also think about justice, not being allowed to join because you are not good enough, what it is like to have some kind of disability and many other things.

CORNET FOOTBALL

Material: Cornets made of paper or toilet rolls to put in front of your face with strings to tie around your head.

Start playing football with the cornets tied in front of your face, then play football without the cornets.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Play football with a rugby-ball.

THREE TEAM FOOTBALL

Play on a circular ground, divide the players into three teams and use three footballs. Use three goals placed at 4, 8 and 12 o'clock as if the ground was a clock.

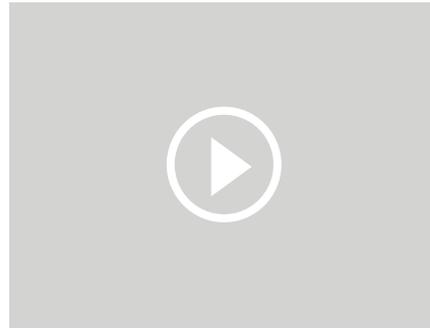
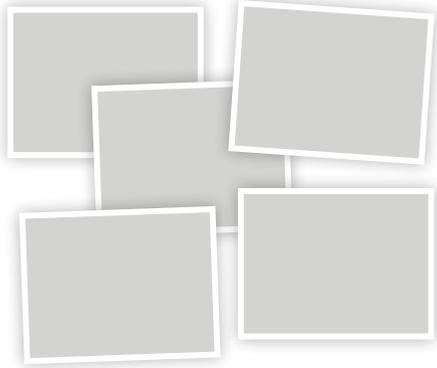
FOOTBALL WITH YOUR LEGS TIED TOGETHER

The players play in pairs together with the one's left leg tied to the other's right leg, then you have to help each other to play. It is a challenge to run in the same pace and in the same direction and puts big demands on cooperation. If it is too difficult, you can tie together the arms instead.

UNFAIR FOOTBALL

Play on a sloping ground. One goal is put on top of the hill and the other goal in the valley. An option is to use goals of different sizes.





PICTURES

Football shirt

Bicycle

Judge

Football team

Football match

Football ground

Motorbike

VIDEO-CLIP

Football match