

THE “10 DE AGOSTO CUP” OF THE MILITARY POLICE: A PERSPECTIVE FROM LEISURE STUDIES**Received on:** December 28, 2024**Passed on:** February 17, 2025License: *Guilherme Nery Maiettini*¹

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ABSTRACT: The “10 de Agosto Cup”, a Swiss football championship held in the categories of Officers and Enlisted Personnel, was established as one of the institutional events commemorating the 170th anniversary of the Paraná Military Police (PMPR). The objective of this study was to report the experience of one of the authors, who is a Captain in the PMPR, participating in this event in the Officers' category in 2024. This work is characterized as an exploratory and qualitative study, based on an experience report. Although the “10 de Agosto Cup” primarily focuses on the physical-sportive aspect of leisure, the social content plays a significant role in the development of this event. Through this experience, values can be lived and learned. Finally, the study addresses leisure barriers, emphasizing that these should be studied and considered to further democratize this experience for the benefit of military police officers and their families.

KEYWORDS: Leisure. Soccer. Military police.

“COPA 10 DE AGOSTO” DA POLÍCIA MILITAR: OLHAR A PARTIR DOS ESTUDOS DO LAZER

RESUMO: A “Copa 10 de Agosto”, um campeonato de futebol suíço promovido nas categorias de Oficiais e Praças, foi instituída como um dos eventos institucionais comemorativos dos cento e setenta anos da Polícia Militar do Paraná (PMPR). O

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objetivo deste estudo foi relatar a experiência de um dos autores, o qual é Capitão da PMPR, na participação no referido evento, na categoria dos Oficiais, no ano de 2024. Este trabalho é caracterizado como estudo exploratório e qualitativo, baseado no relato de experiência. Apesar da “Copa 10 de Agosto” ser predominantemente do conteúdo fisicoesportivo do lazer, o conteúdo social é de grande importância no desenvolvimento deste evento. Por meio desta experiência, valores podem ser vivenciados e aprendidos. Por fim, tratam-se das barreiras do lazer, ressaltando que devem ser estudadas e consideradas, de modo a democratizar mais essa experiência para usufruto dos policiais militares e seus familiares.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Lazer. Futebol. Polícia militar.

Introduction

The Military Police of the State of Paraná (PMPR), responsible for promoting public safety, preserving public order and social defense in the State of Paraná, will complete one hundred seventy (170) years of existence on August 10, 2024. Every year, the 5th Section of the General Staff (PM-5), the sector responsible for social communication within the PMPR (Military Police of Paraná), is responsible for planning and organizing the events commemorating the corporation's anniversary. Some examples of these events include: the 26th Colonel Sarmento Race, mass, military ceremony, motorcycle parade, exhibition of antique items and vehicles, tribute at the Legislative Assembly, performance by the PMPR Band, and, among them, the “10 de Agosto Cup”.

Until 2017, the said Cup was titled “*Campeonato de Futebol Suiço - Oficiais e Praças*” [the Swiss Football Championship - Officers and Enlisted Personnel]. It is called “Swiss” because it is played on natural grass football fields, but in reduced dimensions, where only eight (8) players play, being seven (7) outfield players and one (1) goalkeeper.

The division into categories is a corporate decision. The ranks of enlisted personnel comprise state military personnel with the following ranks: Soldier, Corporal,

3rd Sergeant, 2nd Sergeant, 1st Sergeant, and Sub-Lieutenant. From the Officers category, the following state military personnel participate: Officer Cadet, 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel.

In 2018 and 2019, by decision of the corporation's high command, the soccer championship was prohibited, as it could be harmful to the participants, generating costs for the administration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 editions were also cancelled.

Starting in 2022, the championship was once again included in the PM-5's commemorative events calendar, now under the title “10 de Agosto Cup”.

As mentioned, this year saw the establishment of the “10 de Agosto Cup 2024”, a Swiss-style football tournament organized by the Center for Physical Education and Sports (CEFID³) in support of PM-5, divided into two categories: Officers and enlisted personnel.

One of the authors of this article is a Captain in the PMPR (Military Police of Paraná), stationed at the Military Police Operations Center (COPOM), a unit subordinate to the Specialized Policing Command (CPE). Thus, he gained experience as a participant in the “10 de Agosto Cup 2024”, Officials category, as a member and organizer of the CPE regional team. Therefore, we have chosen to focus this article solely on the category of Officers.

According to Service Note No. 021/2024 - PM/3 (Paraná, 2024), one of the objectives of the “10 de Agosto Cup” is “to encourage the practice of physical activity,

³ Center responsible for administering physical fitness tests for entry, maintenance, and promotion of military police personnel, for guiding and instructing on physical activity, for organizing sporting events and lectures focused on the practice of physical activity. Its headquarters are located inside the General Command Headquarters and, due to its structure, it provides a range of activities for military police officers, such as gymnastics classes, CrossFit, weight training, spinning, team sports, among others.

through sport, as a tool for health and for the integration and camaraderie of the military police force”.

According to Marcellino (2021), the contents of leisure are defined according to the predominance of the activity developed and chosen subjectively by the practitioners, but not exclusively. In other words, leisure activities are interconnected in such a way that more than one type of content can be experienced. According to the author, the classification of leisure content is as follows:

- Artistic interests: related to the imaginary (images and emotions) and the aesthetic (search for beauty and enchantment). For example, artistic performances and exhibitions.
- Intellectual interests: this content seeks knowledge in a systematic way, through objective information and rational explanations. For example, reading or taking courses.
- Physical-sports interests: all practices in which body movement or physical exercise prevails, including sports in general. For example, fishing, gymnastics, and running.
- Manual interests: leisure activities that are related to the ability to manipulate. There are examples of activities that involve manipulating objects and materials: DIY projects and knitting; and others that deal with nature, such as gardening and animal care.
- Tourist interests: those seeking to break the spatial and temporal routine, to discover new landscapes and cultures. For example, trips and outings, whether to other cities or even within the same city you are in, but to explore new environments and enjoy tourist leisure activities.
- Social interests: content that seeks relationships and social interaction. Examples include gatherings in bars, groups that meet to practice a physical activity, such as football, and also meetings in associations.

Schwartz (2003) argues for virtual interest as the seventh content of leisure. This would involve seeking leisure activities through the use of the virtual world, such as video games, browsing the internet, using a computer, and so on. Fraga and Lopes da Silva (2010) argue that the virtual field is a space for accessing other content. For example, watching a fashion show or a play on a computer, artistic interest can be experienced through the virtual world. Therefore, academic debate suggests that the virtual can be considered both content and space. According to Silva and Silva (2012), based on Marcellino (2021), physical-sports content is specific to Physical Education.

The “10 de Agosto Cup”, being a Swiss-style football championship, predominantly focuses on physical activity, and is defined as content within the field of physical and sporting interests. However, as the stated objective suggests, it can also be considered a means for the integration and camaraderie of military police officers. Therefore, through the World Cup, military police officers also have access to the social aspects of leisure. Therefore, it can be classified as an object of study in the field of physical education and, more specifically, leisure.

Furthermore, the literature contains studies that address the importance of physical activity, relating it to stress reduction (Jorge et al., 2023; De Liz et al., 2014; Figueredo, 2023) or the prevention of burnout syndrome in military police officers (Lima et al., 2018). Another study also points out that the lack of a policy to promote the practice of physical, sporting and leisure activities by the Military Police itself can be seen as a barrier perceived by military police officers to the practice of physical activity (De Jesus; De Jesus, 2012).

No studies were found in the literature that specifically address this event or sporting competitions within the military police environment. The “10 de Agosto Cup”

proves to be an important way to promote physical activity among military police officers, as well as promoting socialization among these professionals, among other benefits, outside of their stressful working hours.

Given these considerations, the objective of this study is to report the experiences lived by one of the authors as a participant in the “10 de Agosto Cup” of the Military Police of Paraná and to analyze the event from the perspective of leisure elements.

Methodological Approach

This work is a qualitative study. Godoy (1995, p. 21), regarding the characteristics that define studies of this type, states that “a phenomenon can be better understood in the context in which it occurs and of which it is a part, and should be analyzed from an integrated perspective”.

The methodological procedures adopted were based on an experience report from a Captain belonging to the PMPR (Military Police of Paraná) and a student of the Physical Education course at UFPR (Federal University of Paraná), in an exploratory study and literature review.

Mussi, Flores and Almeida (2021) discuss the experience report (ER) as a scientific methodological way of transmitting knowledge and define the objective of this type of study:

Therefore, the RE in an academic context aims, in addition to describing lived experience (proximate experience), to value it through explanatory academic-scientific effort, through critical-reflective application with theoretical-methodological support (distant experience) (Mussi; Flores and Almeida, 2021).

This is an account of my experience participating as an athlete and organizer for the CPE team in the 3rd 10 de Agosto Cup - Swiss Football - Officials Category,

which took place at the Guatupê Military Police Academy (APMG) in São José dos Pinhais, Paraná. In total, up to the time of completion of this study, there were 04 (four) games. The final game and get-together will be scheduled for a future date. The competition began on August 21, 2024, and does not have a defined end date at this time.

The reported experience is based on unsystematic observation, which consists of a method of collecting data spontaneously and without the use of instruments or criteria, which can be known as informal, free or occasional (Marconi, Lakatos, 2003) and, according to Rudio (2010, p.35 based on Marconi and Lakatos (2003), what characterizes it “is the fact that knowledge is obtained through a casual experience, without having determined beforehand which relevant aspects should be observed and what means to use to observe them”.

This experience report is based on the following points: 1 - Expectations regarding this year's competition; 2 - The organization of the team and the “10 de Agosto Cup”; 3 - Participation in this edition's games; 4 - Evaluation of the event.

For analysis and discussion purposes, this study used a literature review as its basis. Current theoretical foundations on sports and leisure topics were sought to deepen the understanding of the lived experience and relate it to the subject matter. For this purpose, studies by classic and contemporary authors found on Google Scholar and studies from a Brazilian research group certified by CNPq were selected. The guidelines for reading, analyzing, and interpreting texts proposed by Severino (2013) were used: delimitation of the reading unit, textual analysis, thematic analysis, interpretative analysis, problematization, and personal synthesis, for a better understanding of the chosen texts.

The account of the experience to be described will be given in the first person, as it concerns the experience lived by one of the authors at the “10 de Agosto Cup” of 2024.

Previous Experience: Contextualization

I joined the PMPR (Military Police of Paraná) in 2009, in the Officer Training Course. I graduated and became an Officer Cadet in 2011 and was assigned to serve in the 13th Military Police Battalion (BPM) in 2012. Starting this year, he was eligible to participate in the Officials' Swiss Football Tournament. And that's how my story with this tournament began. As I am passionate about football and, even more so, about competition, when I was 'called up' to play for the 13th BPM team, I made myself available to practice what I love most, within the organization where I work.

Since then, every year that the championship has taken place, I have been able to participate, representing the Unit or Regional office where I was working. In addition to playing for the 13th BPM, I also played for the team composed of the 13th BPM/23rd BPM in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Back in 2016 and 2017, I played for the team composed of the Guard Police Battalion (BPGd) and the 17th BPM. I didn't manage to win any of them, but each championship had its memorable moments, friendships made and strengthened, as well as moments of great fun.

I remember that more teams were formed to participate. What made the championships more interesting, in my view, at least in terms of competition. Back in 2012, there were around 10 (ten) teams, but with each passing year, the number of teams decreased and the championships became shorter.

In my view, this decrease in the number of officers participating in championships promoted by CEFID could be due to several factors, but one of the most significant is the reduction in personnel at each unit. Therefore, the Unit Officers had to join forces to compete. Another factor could be the decline in interest in the sport, because it can be harmful.

The suspension of the championship in 2017 and 2018, due to a decision by the corporation's high command, and the continued suspension in 2019 and 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, brought a certain sadness to the corporation's football fans and uncertainty about whether it would ever happen again. But then, in 2022, the corporation's high command launched the “10 de Agosto Cup” as a commemorative event for the PMPR's anniversary.

In 2022, then, 8 (eight) teams were selected to participate in the Cup. This year, two teams of Fire Department Officers participated, as until that moment, they were subordinate to the PMPR (Military Police of Paraná). The PM Officers were separated into 06 (six) regional groups, in order to include a sufficient number of Officers to provide a quorum for the registration of all teams.

Therefore, I ended up defending the 6th Regional Military Police Command (CRPM), since I worked at the 29th BPM, a unit subordinate to this regional command. We ended up in 3rd place. In addition to the aforementioned teams, a team of veterans, that is, retired officers, participated in this edition. This was an interesting fact, bringing them closer to active-duty officers in a recreational sporting event and all that this entails.

The 2023 “10 de Agosto Cup” was a very special edition for me and my team. While still representing the 6th CRPM, we managed to become champions. Of the

teams that participated the previous year, only the Firefighters team and the veterans team did not participate. And another regional command was included, the Special Missions Command (CME). In this edition, as a rule, teams were required to register two veteran players. Despite the reduced number of teams, and consequently the number of games, it was a very competitive championship. Therefore, winning this edition brought us a feeling of happiness and pride.

Experience at the “10 de Agosto Cup” of 2024

Expectations Regarding the Competition

In 2024, then, expectations remained positive. I ended up being transferred to COPOM and then started defending the CPE regional office. From the championship-winning team of 2023, I and two other colleagues were transferred to CPE. So, despite having changed teams and only knowing a few of the officials who played, we could maintain a good base to compete in the championship and defend the title.

Regarding the number of teams and the format of the competition, there was an expectation that the championship would continue in the same way.

As it was another opportunity to practice one of my favorite leisure activities, to see some friends again with whom I would play, for or against, to meet new Officers whom we had never had the opportunity to meet, to be able to compete again, and to have fun, I was excited to start another “10 de Agosto Cup”.

Team and Event Organization

CEFID is the overall organizer of the competition, meaning it is responsible for scheduling the games, hiring referees, providing materials, and making other necessary

arrangements to ensure the competition runs as smoothly as possible. However, in parallel, the registered teams organize their teams, being responsible for registering athletes, collecting and paying the registration fee, standardizing uniforms, and participating on the correct days and times, with the required quorum.

This year, even though I was one of the “new” members of the CPE team, I volunteered to be the team's representative and organizer. The first step was to assemble the team, looking for officers who were willing to volunteer to participate in the competition. Since we already knew some of the officers who would be participating, a group was created on the “WhatsApp” application, forming a base. From then on, the participating officers began inviting others, from their respective units or acquaintances from other units that were part of the CPE. The invitation was extended to known veteran officers. Therefore, our team initially consisted of eighteen (18) people. Some of these athletes ended up not actively participating in the games due to personal or professional reasons.

With a team formed and registered, the next step was to participate in the initial arbitration meeting of the competition, where the rules and participating teams were defined. The rules from the previous edition remained the same, however the number of teams was reduced due to registration requirements. Therefore, only four teams registered:

- 1) General Command Headquarters (QCG) - encompasses officers from the entire General Staff, Directorates and Advisory Offices;
- 2) 1st Regional Military Police Command (1st CRPM) - encompasses the officers of the Regional Command headquarters and the Military Police Battalions of the capital;

- 3) 6th Regional Military Police Command (6th CRPM) - encompasses the officers of the Regional Command headquarters and the Police Battalions of the metropolitan region;
- 4) Specialized Policing Command (CPE) - encompasses the officers at CPE headquarters and its subordinate units.

This issue initially caused some discouragement for me and other officers, as it would reduce the number of games and, in our view, the competitiveness.

Regarding the competition format, it was decided that all teams would face each other in the group stage, meaning there would be three (3) games for each team, and everyone would qualify. The group stage would only serve to determine the matchups for the final stages. This issue was resolved by the organization in order to guarantee a greater number of games for all participants and to prevent any team from dropping out during the competition if they had no chance of qualifying, for example. In the semi-final stage, the 1st place team from the group stage would face the 4th place team, and the 2nd place team would face the 3rd place team. The winners of the semifinals would face each other in the final, and the losers would compete for 3rd place. In this way, all teams would have five (5) matches until the end of the championship.

Before starting, the organization conducted a survey to determine the cost of refereeing and the purchase of any new materials, such as balls, vests, and other items that might be needed. This amount was divided among the four participating teams, with a value of five hundred sixty reais (BRL560.00) being set per team.

In the case of the CPE team, the goalkeepers were excluded from the count, and then 16 (sixteen) athletes made a payment of thirty-five reais (BRL35.00) each, to settle the registration in the competition.

The decision to exempt goalkeepers arose because it's a more difficult position to find available players for. Therefore, the athletes on the team agreed to this exemption.

Finally, the last thing the team needed was the uniform. I managed to get a complete set, with shirts and shorts, in navy blue with yellow details, and the PMPR (Military Police of Paraná) emblem on the left chest.

The team was ready to begin the 10 de Agosto Cup.

Participation in the 2024 Edition

The experience of 2024 was different. The fact that the championship was shorter caused some discouragement, and being part of a new team that I didn't know completely brought a feeling of “lack of responsibility” to compete. So, I started participating with the idea of playing without worrying too much about winning, but thinking more about having fun.

But as in any competition, even one aimed at interaction and camaraderie among the officers, everyone wants to win. It's a football competition. So, there are moments of discussion, some stronger tackles in the fight for the ball, and some complaints to the referee. Furthermore, the number of teams decreased and, contrary to what I imagined, the competitiveness remained high, due to the quality of the teams. So, this feeling changed during the competition, as he realized that nobody was there to “play around”.

A recurring scene to illustrate this is that in the first few minutes of the first game of the competition, our team's striker received the ball and, when he controlled it, the opposing team's defender committed a very hard foul. From that point on, we understood what the competition would be like and, naturally, the team changed its approach.

But competitiveness isn't just about negative issues. Through it we can experience moments of joy, determination, overcoming challenges, and unity. To illustrate this point, I recall a goal from our second game. The game was tight, we were only winning by one goal and the opposing team was putting pressure on us. One of the opposing players had already hit the post with a shot. A few minutes later, in a good exchange of passes by our team, our full-back passed to me, and I was able to control the ball and shoot, hitting the back of the net and extending the score. At that moment, a feeling of relief and accomplishment overwhelmed me, and to complete this happy moment during the game, the warm welcome from the entire team further enhanced this feeling of pleasure within football.

What's interesting to note is that despite the issues within the game, the interaction off the field can change. In that pre-game moment, or even during halftime, the officials end up getting together to talk about various subjects, reminisce about other moments in their careers, and laugh for some reason. Therefore, I was able to observe that the objective of the 10 de Agosto Cup was achieved, as there is an incentive to practice sports, thanks to the competition, and there is also interaction between the officials who are there.

In one of the games, I took my wife and son so we could watch the match. In a post-game moment, I met an officer who was my futsal coach when I was a teenager at

the Military Police College. In just a few minutes, we were able to reminisce about some moments from that time, he met my family, and we shared a few laughs. Besides that scene, I remember the pre- and post-game “reviews”. Where can we meet with the officers who are located near the APMG football field? There, we can discuss plays from the game, talk about personal or professional matters, joke around, and socialize in general.

One of my questions and reflections is this: this interaction is interesting, but how can we attract more people, beyond the “football players” who normally already participate in the corporation's football championships and events, to participate, such as other police officers or family members who might go there to cheer and watch the games? Furthermore, what are the barriers preventing other officers from participating in this type of competition? Furthermore, wouldn't it be possible to open up space for practitioners of other sports?

The CPE team, despite being new, formed a very competitive base and managed to win all three games in the group stage. All the games were very close, with a 4-2 win against QCG, a 2-0 win against 6th CRPM, and a 4-3 win against 1st CRPM. Therefore, we secured first place and faced the 6th CRPM in the semi-final. We also won, 4-2, and qualified for the grand finale. We will face the QCG team again.

A get-together with all participants interested in staying will be scheduled for a barbecue, on a date to be determined according to the schedule of CEFID, after the final games, as has been done in previous years. This moment should be the perfect ending to the event, allowing us to enjoy a moment with our friends, to celebrate, laugh, remember beautiful and funny moments from the games, and socialize in general.

I believe that competitiveness and results are important, especially for those who participated in the competition. However, regardless of the results achieved, what I most emphasize about the CPE team and our participation in the 10 de Agosto Cup are the values we reinforced and learned, such as unity, camaraderie, dedication, teamwork, among others, which are necessary for good professional performance and for life.

Evaluation of the Event and its Connection to Leisure Studies

Since 2012, I have always participated in the championships between PMPR Officers. I always had fun and was committed, but there was no reflective or critical participation regarding the events. It was simply participating for the sake of participating. He experienced the competitive aspect with much more fervor than the social and leisure aspects. After years of studying Physical Education, especially the fundamentals of leisure, I was able to critically experience this year's 10th of August Cup, allowing for a more complete evaluation without neglecting the competitive aspect.

From a personal perspective, regarding the “10 de Agosto Cup”, I believe that programs and events designed to encourage physical activity and interaction and camaraderie among military police officers during their leisure time can significantly contribute to their personal and professional lives. These programs should be analyzed and studied to improve not only the competitive aspect or the number of players but also the quality, allowing this experience to be shared with others, including the families of military police officers.

Analyzing the event, I think that, overall, the “10 de Agosto Cup” achieved its objective for those who participated. However, the format has a more competitive

aspect, and I realize that this creates a barrier for some people to participate, making clearer here the social intraclass barriers that are related to some elements such as stereotypes, urban violence, age and gender (Marcellino, 2021). In this regard, other ways of attracting other military personnel could be found.

We consider the social barriers to leisure activities within our intraclass context because they contain elements that we can observe in the experience of the “10 de Agosto Cup”; the lack of interaction between veterans and newcomers in the military police is a factor that can hinder the desire to participate in the games. This social barrier is also related to the position held within the police force, which can affect this activity in a leisure context. Just as there is a hierarchy in the military police, there is, in a way, a reproduction of this hierarchy in the realm of leisure, in this case, the “10 de Agosto Cup” sporting event. It is as if the hierarchical tradition constitutes yet another element of social barrier preventing the participation of police officers in the sporting event. This fact leads us to consider the relationship between leisure and work, showing us how the view of opposition between these two social phenomena according to Dumazedier (1980) must be rethought here, since the relations of the police officer's work, his hierarchy, are reproduced in the context of leisure, in the sporting event under discussion. The view presented is closer to that of a contemporary author (Gomes, 2004, p. 125) when conceptualizing leisure:

A dimension of culture constituted by the playful experience of cultural manifestations in the time/space conquered by the subject or social group, establishing dialectical relationships with needs, duties and obligations – especially with productive work.

As we can see, for the author, leisure and work are mutually influencing each other through dialectical relationships. Another element of intra-class social barriers is gender. There has not yet been a female version of the “10 de Agosto Cup” event,

which also shows that the event itself is configured as a male event of the military police. If leisure is a social right for everyone, it is also a right of female police officers to participate in a women's Swiss football sporting event not only as spectators, but as players as well. Furthermore, it is also crucial that the sporting event be more inclusive of the military personnel's families, providing broader leisure opportunities not only for the working military personnel but also for them and their families. Previous research conducted with women (Silva et al., 2022) indicates that they are more likely to be “sedentary”. The authors put the word “sedentary” in quotation marks because, in reality, women perform various social roles in caring for their families and may also have ties to work and studies. It can therefore be argued that other activities occupy the physical and sporting content of women's lives. In the case of female police officers, the situation is no different, although their daily routine requires physical preparation that is consistent with the profession. Therefore, it would be fundamental, both by right and by necessity for work, that there be a sporting event similar to the “10 de Agosto Cup” for women. Therefore, the gender issue needs to be rethought so that women can also have a leisure space specifically designed for them within the military police force.

Regarding the expectations I had created, I believe that the “10 de Agosto Cup” exceeded them. Despite the small number of participating teams, the Cup was very competitive and I was able to enjoy some great leisure time, both in the sporting and social areas. There are also dialectical relationships between competitiveness and sociability here; these two elements could be observed in the sporting event.

My participation in organizing my team and, even indirectly, in organizing the Cup, was interesting because it created a greater sense of responsibility towards the

event and provided experience, which can generate new ideas for future editions of this event, and/or for other intra- or extra-corporate events.

Regarding participation in the World Cup, this time with a more critical eye, I can see that it goes far beyond the competitive aspect. The official's participation may be geared towards winning at all costs, but the interaction between participants, both “on the field” and off the field, is what makes this event so interesting and important. Despite the possibility of negative interactions, such as arguments or fights over the game, which can be normal in a competition, what remains internalized are the values created, such as camaraderie and dedication, as well as the friendships and bonds forged throughout a career and perhaps for life.

Therefore, the “10 de Agosto Cup”, especially this year's edition, and considering all my experience in events of this type, was of fundamental importance for a more complete training as a Military Police Officer and in the field of Physical Education.

Expanding the Perspective from Leisure Studies

Regarding the understanding of leisure, in general, people tend to believe that it is an activity usually aimed at rest and enjoyment, or even at escaping the stresses of daily life. Although they are possibilities, leisure can and should be analyzed and experienced from a critical and creative perspective, seeking personal and social development (Marcellino, 2021; Silva; Silva, 2012).

Starting from this point, it is assumed that the practitioner seeks an activity in which their desires and aspirations are satisfied. Regarding this search, taking into account what predominates in the activity, the literature presents a classification of

leisure interests or contents (Dumazedier, 1980 apud Marcellino, 2021). Notwithstanding this delimitation, it is emphasized that leisure interests may not occur in an isolated or watertight manner, but are interconnected. (Marcellino, 2021; Silva; Silva, 2012).

In the “10 de Agosto Cup”, for example, the predominant content is physical and sporting, as it is a football competition. However, when we analyze the objective proposed in Service Note No. 021/2024 - PM/3 (Paraná, 2024), which deals not only with encouraging the practice of physical activity, but also relates to the integration of military police officers, it can be understood that the social content also plays a fundamental role in this event. Furthermore, it could be a subject for reflection and further study to try to understand the motivation behind the participation of military police officers in the 10 de Agosto Cup.

A study investigating the motivations that lead men to engage in amateur soccer in the municipality of Rio Pomba, state of Minas Gerais (MG), indicates that it may be related to the pursuit of improved health, followed by social issues, and then by fun/interest. In this paper, few seek the practice to improve competence or appearance (Souza et al., 2019). In another study, conducted in the municipality of Ibirité-MG, it was found that motivation may be related to socialization, maintenance of physical and psychological health, and the search for ways to occupy free time (Ribeiro; Santos, 2020). Furthermore, another study conducted by Lima Junior, Sampaio and Nascimento (2017) demonstrated that, for amateur soccer players, the practice brought numerous benefits, such as physical and mental well-being, as well as socialization, principles of respect for others, and the strengthening of friendships. Thus, we can see that, in

addition to the physical and sporting interest, the social aspect is fundamental to this practice.

Analyzing the experience report explored in this study, this view is corroborated. Beyond the issues surrounding the competition, which refer to instances of tougher tackles during the match, demonstrating the team's change in attitude towards winning, the social aspect is highlighted, recalling the memory of reuniting with an officer who was his coach during his adolescence, providing an enriching social experience. In addition to the pre- or post-game “reviews”, there are opportunities to exchange information with fellow participants, whether on personal or professional matters.

This social issue reinforces Bramante's (1998) concept of leisure. According to the author, the playful aspect should be the main focus of leisure activities. And the social aspect enriches leisure activities, which should be marked by an internal motivation from each participant and by a feeling of freedom. The 10 de Agosto Cup, despite being a competition, may exhibit some of these elements. The officers who participate, despite their desire to win, are there voluntarily, so “freedom” is assumed. Choosing to be there during their free time, a moment when they could be doing any other activity, leads us to understand that there is some motivation, whether it's for competitive reasons, social reasons, or some other intrinsic personal interest. Because it's a competition, playfulness tends to be absent. However, through social interactions before, during, or after games, especially through casual conversations and play, this playful character can emerge, bringing enrichment, as proposed by Bramante (1998).

Another issue we can consider is the values and feelings developed during the practice of football, mainly through the social interaction between its practitioners.

“Some feelings developed through sport have to do with friendship, camaraderie, solidarity, kindness, collaboration and imagination” (Carreras et al., 2006 apud Tavares, 2023), just to mention a few. These issues alone justify the importance of practicing sports. These factors give rise to the urgent need for the development of public policies focused on sport” (Tavares, 2023).

Contributing to this issue of values to be learned and cultivated through competition, the author Caillois (2017) classifies the types of games into four fundamental categories, in which competition is called “*agôn*”. In this category, there is an artificially created equality of opportunity, through limits and rules, for opponents to face each other. According to Caillois (2017), the incentive to compete stems from this assumption, in which competitors wish to have their superiority over their opponent recognized, but within the established limits. Therefore, in the context of competition, there must be training, preparation, and a will to win, but there is no cost involved.

If the event focuses solely on competition, without considering other issues, such as socialization and the values and feelings learned and experienced, as seen previously, it may end up creating barriers to the participation of other people.

Regarding the social barriers to leisure – both within and between social classes, Marcellino (2021, p. 34-35) comments: “It is necessary to consider important aspects, verified in the situation, that restrict quantitatively and, above all, qualitatively access to cultural production” and, furthermore, “These are undesirable indicators that need to be addressed by actions or policies aimed at cultural democratization”. The author also classifies barriers to leisure into inter-class social barriers, which are related to economic power, and intra-class social barriers, which may be related to age, gender, time, space, prejudice, and the issue of urban violence.

Thus, analyzing the account of participation in the “10 de Agosto Cup”, it becomes clear that, according to this author's view, although the event's objective was achieved because there were moments of interaction among participants and it encompassed the learning of values, there were still times when the competition was taken too seriously, and perhaps this is one of the barriers that limit the participation of some military police officers.

Regarding the age range, it is important to highlight the idea of CEFID and the General Command of the PMPR, in determining in the rules of the 10 de Agosto Cup that two military police officers who have retired from the Corporation must participate in one of the registered teams. This is a way to give those who dedicated a good part of their lives to the PMPR this moment of leisure, interaction, physical activity, and camaraderie.

When it comes to the issue of gender, in this author's view it would not be beneficial to mix the participation of men and women in the same competition, as it is a contact sport. Therefore, as happened in 2023, I believe that the women's soccer or futsal championship could be better promoted, giving more value to the social aspect, so that more female military police officers have access to this leisure activity.

Considering the issue of time, it is suggested that research be conducted to determine the best day of the week for participants to hold the games. Wednesday afternoons encompass the free time of a good portion of the military police force, as those working in administrative services work half-days. The military police force works on various shift schedules, so sometimes they don't have free time to participate. However, considering reaching other people with the event, such as police officers

bringing their families to cheer, who generally work during the week, it is suggested that the possibility of holding the games on weekends at different times be evaluated.

With the aim of attracting attention and encouraging the participation of more military police officers and their families, it is also suggested that the possibility of creating similar competitions for other sports be evaluated, such as basketball, volleyball, table tennis, among others. In order to avoid burdening CEFID with personnel and time requirements, committees could be formed from among officers and enlisted personnel of the corporation to assist in organizing the events.

It is worth noting that there are other leisure activities offered to military police officers, their families, and the community in general, as mentioned in the introduction to this article. Some of them are linked to physical and sporting interests, such as the Coronel Sarmento Race. Others are linked to artistic interests, such as the antiques exhibition and the performance of the PMPR Band.

Final Considerations

The 10 de Agosto Cup has proven to have fulfilled its objective of encouraging physical activity and fostering integration among the participating officials. Social interest is shown to play a fundamental role in the engagement of military police officers in the 10th of August Cup.

Here are some recommendations that the research revealed for upcoming sporting events:

- To reduce/eliminate the social barriers created, especially the intra-class social barriers mentioned here;

- To broaden participation in the event by organizing it in a way that allows police officers' families to participate;
- To broaden the event's participation to include female military police officers, so that they can have a female “10 de Agosto Cup” with the participation of their family members;
- To reframe the issue of military police hierarchy in the context of leisure activities, so that veteran and novice police officers can participate together;
- The event will become part of a sports policy within the military police institution, creating more opportunities for sports and leisure to be accessible to police officers.

In general, it would be beneficial to research the social barriers perceived by military police officers to participating in the “10 de Agosto Cup”, to understand the motivation that leads military police officers to engage in this event, and also to study policies to be adopted to make the participation and involvement of military police officers and their families in leisure, physical activity, and sports more democratic within the scope of the Corporation.

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