

# Sports Quotas and Ethical Challenges: The Dilemma of Competing Against Israeli Athletes

Mostafa Sharifi\*

## Abstract

The issue of competing against Israeli athletes poses a significant challenge in international sports and the pursuit of championship titles, leading to divided opinions among supporters and opponents. The disregard for the "right to benefit from sports quotas" is often cited by proponents of competing against Israeli athletes, while opponents emphasize the importance of "supporting the oppressed" as a primary argument against such confrontations. This article analyzes the concept of "right" within the framework of "the right to benefit from sports quotas," clarifying that official bodies and federations are the relevant entities involved. Drawing on Islamic principles and teachings, the article argues against the ethical permissibility of engaging with Israeli athletes. By employing principles of conflict resolution and prioritizing the belief in the necessity of "supporting the oppressed," it underscores the importance of refraining from competition with Israeli athletes, especially given that Iranian athletes may forgo opportunities to compete due to their opponents' nationality, resulting in the loss of hard-earned quotas for international competitions. It is crucial for authorities to address ambiguities surrounding confrontations with Israeli athletes and adopt a clear and principled approach.

## Keywords

Ethical Conflict, Right to Benefit, Sports Quotas, Competing Against Israeli Athletes.

\* Assistant Professor of the Department of Theoretical Ethics, Qur'an and Hadith Research Institute, Qom, Iran. | khansari.m@riqh.ac.ir



10.22034/ethics.2024.51340.1672



10

Quarterly Journal of Moral Studies | Vol. 6 | No. 4 | Winter 2024