

## The Phenomenon of Citizen Journalism in National Football in Liga 1 Competition

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### KEYWORDS

Citizen Journalism;  
Football Industry; Media;  
Supporters

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### ABSTRACT

The football industry in Indonesia is currently starting to develop well, both in terms of owners, management, coaches, players, and supporters. This industry is slowly making many people want to speak out about the issues that occur in football, especially on social media today. One proof of how many people are starting to speak out is the existence of citizen journalism in Indonesian football today. This research aims to find out how citizen journalism is implemented in the League 1 Competition in Indonesian Football. This research uses qualitative research with descriptive methods, as well as collecting data through secondary data through documentation and interviews from social media such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and so on. The results of this research show that there are several ways for the community to implement it, namely the first is Participatory Citizen Journalism using the community to write their personal opinions in the National Media. Second, Citizen Journalism by writing content or producing visual, audio, or even audio-visual content related to specific content topics. Third, News-Media Watchdog Citizen Journalists, namely the media as watchdogs monitor and evaluate the current performance in the football industry through media such as YouTube and Spotify. Lastly, Community Citizen Journalism is how communities, in this case supporters, have their media to inform about their favorite team or voice something related to their favorite team, such as Simamaung.com (Persib Bandung), Jak Online (Persija Jakarta), Emosijiwaku.com (Persebaya Surabaya).

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## 1. Introduction

In the current contemporary era, football has become one of the sports that has many enthusiasts, even the fanatical tendency towards football both support for clubs and players is very heavy, so the discourse built about football is getting bigger and wider (Agustina, 2020). Moreover, most supporters in Indonesia tend to bring self-esteem and regionality in supporting teams in their regions, so there is no need to be surprised anymore that the teams and supporters included in it represent these regions.

The fanaticism of supporters in Indonesia is also evidenced by data compiled by the multinational research company Ipsos. The research firm found that Indonesia has the largest number of football fans in the world. Of all Indonesian respondents, the proportion who like football reached 69%. This figure is the highest compared to dozens of other countries surveyed. Indonesia beat Saudi Arabia with a 67% proportion of football fans, and the United Arab Emirates 65%. Then India and Argentina have a percentage of football fans of 60% and 51% respectively (Saputro, 2020); (Putra, 2023). Followed by Brazil and South Africa with a percentage of 50% each (Annur, 2022).

Along with the times and football began to transform into an industry, interest in football itself is not only represented among grassroots supporters who often support their flagship team but also described by many entrepreneurs and artists who have football, both domestically and abroad. The warmest is how artists who acquired national football clubs such as Raffi Ahmad acquired Cilegon United to become RANS Nusantara Football Club, Kaesang Pangarep with businessman Kevin Nugroho and Minister of SOEs, Erick Thohir yang Persis Solo, Atta Halilintar who acquired PS Pati FC to become Bekasi City FC and Prilly Latuconsina (Persikota Tangerang) (Hasibuan, 2022).

Not only artists but also several big businessmen who support the lives of big teams such as Persija Jakarta owned by Nirwan Bakrie, Persib Bandung owned by Glenn Sugita, Bali United owned by the Tanuri Brothers (Pieter Tanuri and Yabes Tanuri), Arema FC which was owned by entrepreneurs Juragan 99 Trans and MS Glow, Gilang Widya Pramana, or Persebaya Surabaya which were acquired by Azrul Ananda, a CEO of Jawa Pos Group or Jawa Pos News Network and son of Dahlan Iskan (Pradana, 2022).

Not only competing in local competitions, wealthy businessmen in this country also have several clubs abroad. For example, Emtek CEO, Alvin Sariaatmadja, officially acquired 10 percent of the shares of Serie A club US Lecce. Serie A club Inter Milan was also acquired majority shares by Erick Thohir Erick Thohir shocked the Indonesian public when it acquired Inter Milan's shares of 70 percent previously owned by Massimo Moratti in 2013 and also owned a club from the United States, DC United. Djarum Group, through SENT Entertainment LTD, invested in its business maneuvers by buying Serie C club, Como 1907. As well as the Bakrie Group which acquired a Belgian club, CS Vise in 2011 and an Australian club, Brisbane Roar (Prayugi, 2022). From this, we can see that the love and fanaticism present for football in this country is so great, that people are willing to pour funds for the needs of football itself, both as supporters and as owners.

Fanaticism in Indonesian football is also represented by how slowly online media are mushrooming that talk about national sports, especially football, both from websites, social media, podcasts, videos, and so on (Sudarsono, 2022). This is a form of transition of sports media that was

only oriented from traditional media such as television and magazines to new media that include online media and so on. If in the past people were asked to watch football matches on television, looking for sports news was required from television either every morning such as Sport 7 events on Trans 7 or Sports Lenses on ANTV, or every weekend such as One Stop Football events and Indonesian Football Gallery on Trans 7, or had to wait once a week for the publication of sports magazines such as Tabloid Bola, Soccer or Topskor Newspaper. In the current era, the current generation of Indonesian football fans is presented with a lot of information from the news media on social media (Karunianingsih, 2021). This is what makes them a boon because of the ease of accessing sports media, but on the other hand, it becomes a drawback because the tendency is that these media tend to report the same news or information (Sastra, 2016).

The representation of new media in national football news is not only described by the mushrooming of sports media itself but also by the active netizens who become citizen journalists in football news there. Some of them are currently contributing news on social media, either spread and become the subject of discourse or discussion on social media, or distributed to major media that republish the news, or major media that take news sources from these netizens. Especially with the increasingly varied platforms making them more varied Back in creating content on social media. Not only content that occurs on the spot, but also the content they present in a planned and systematic manner such as content from traditional media, such as writing on blogs, interviews packaged in audio only in podcasts or video interviews, to match reports such as match vlogs, video analysis, to data analysis.

In addition to things that happen on the field, netizens who love national football can also talk about things outside the field. Call it the transfer market that occurs in Indonesia, slowly many football accounts can more quickly find out who players will be released and retained until players who will be recruited by the team before there is an official statement delivered by the club officially in the club media. This ultimately often makes them seem to be "insiders" of the club, even though this is not necessarily true and it is not yet known where the accurate source comes from.

**This is what makes the traditional media whose dominance is the holder of the broadcasting rights of the competition or match slowly rivaled by the increasingly creative and sophisticated netizens in packaging football itself. Moreover, it will be very threatening if the quality of broadcasting and competition itself is not improved by the media as broadcast rights holders or even federations and competition organizers** as the person in charge of sports in this country.

Moreover, netizens in the current era in addition to being producers, distributors, and consumers of sports information in today's digital era, are also slowly becoming "watchdogs" or supervisors of the course of competitions in Indonesia. How can they directly comment on any side that is organized and broadcast on television? Both in terms of broadcasting such as visual and audio quality to in terms of implementation as often highlighted are referee performance, team performance, and much more.

The changing role in today's digital era, which used to be football lovers only became consumers until finally becoming distributors and producers of this information that changed the paradigm of how to enjoy football in today's digital era. The complexity of national football is also what is often the subject of discussion on social media, it does not need to be an official media registered with the press council, large, planned, systematic, netizens can express their opinions

about something that happens in national football, it can even be much more critical and credible than traditional media that exist today. Therefore, based on the explanation above, the author writes that this study aims to find out how the implementation of citizen journalism in national football is today.

## 2. Materials and Methods

In this study, the type and method of this research are descriptive qualitative using data collection methods carried out by researchers are secondary data, namely literature sources such as books and journals and documentation sources such as the news from online media, images on social media such as Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, and others, as well as videos from YouTube such as interviews, and audio such as podcasts and so on.

## 3. Result and Discussion

The following author tries to explain the implementation of citizen journalism applied in national football in the Liga 1 competition. In this presentation, the author tries to categorize into 4 categories, namely:

- a. Jurnalisme Warga participative (Participatory Citizen Journalism)
- b. Citizen Journalism
- c. News-Media Watchdog Citizen Journalists
- d. Community Citizen Journalism

### Implementation of Participatory Citizen Journalism

In the definition conveyed in the literature review, participatory journalists are defined as people who contribute news, opinions, and information content to traditional news organizations. If referring to the above understanding, then in this case this type of citizen journalism tries to see how the general public who are especially football lovers tries to contribute news, opinions, and content to the official media. The author tries to give examples of how the general public contributes content in official traditional media such as Kompasiana in Kompas.com, Your Opinion in Detik.com, and many others. In this case, the community tries to express their thoughts which are expressed in writings that discuss football in Indonesia. Starting from the federation, competition, industry, ecosystem, system, and rules in it, and many others.



Picture 1: One of the Opinions from Radar Banyuwangi - Jawa Pos | Source: Radar Banyuwangi



Picture 2: One of Kompasiana's Opinions - Source: Kompas.com



Picture 3: One of the Football Opinions in IDN Times - Source: IDN Times



Gambar 4: Salah Satu Opini Sepak Bola di RRI - Sumber: RRI

The author concludes that the content contributed to this type of participatory citizen journalism is mostly textual or written in an editorial. The dominant content written is that it contains criticism of strange things that happen in the Liga 1 competition. Not only criticism but this writing describes what is depicted in Indonesian football today, not only the problems that occur but also things that are varied such as player backgrounds, tactics, coaches, and so on.

### Implementation of Citizen Journalism

Based on the understanding described in the Literature Review, Citizen Journalism is defined as a person who contributes news, opinion, and information content centered on an event that is being created. They form temporary communities bound together by a flow of information centered around specific events.

In this case, the author wants to implement this type of citizen journalism with the Kanjuruhan Tragedy that occurred on October 1, 2022, which killed around 135 people. Many things were discussed in the tragedy ranging from chronology, rules from the police, policies from the federation, the impact that emerged, and so on. In this implementation, the author sees how there are variations in media that make this topic a hot topic to be discussed. It starts with written opinions scattered in the editorial section of mainstream media or media focused on football studies there.

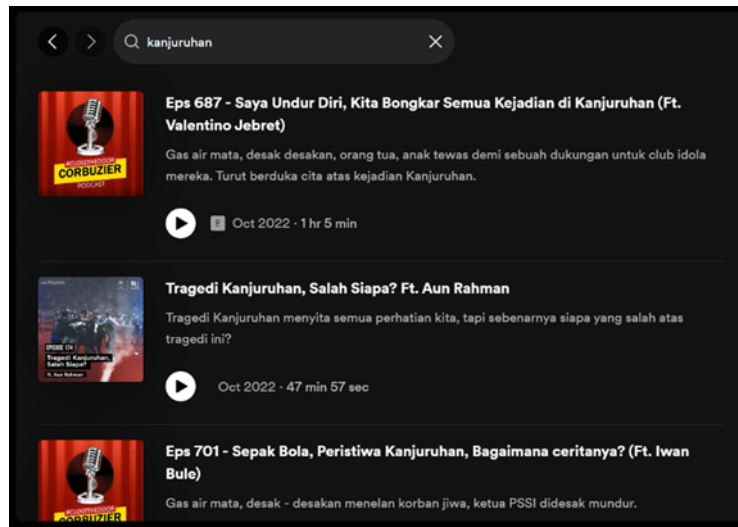


Gambar 5: Salah satu Opini mengenai Tragedi Kanjuruhan - Sumber : PanditFootball



Gambar 6: Opini Mengenai Tragedi Kanjuruhan - Sumber: Suara.com

In addition to textual content contained in editorials, video format content on the Youtube platform and audio on the Spotify platform also have a variety of content types, ranging from interviews in podcasts and documentaries of the incident.



**Gambar 7: Beberapa Podcast Audio yang membicarakan Tragedi Kanjuruhan di Platform Spotify - Sumber:**

**Spotify**



**Gambar 8: Contoh Video dari Platform Youtube dengan jenis konten Monolog Storytelling - Sumber:**

**Youtube.com**



**Gambar 9: Contoh Video dari Platform Youtube dengan jenis konten Podcast - Sumber: Youtube.com**



**Gambar 10: Contoh Video dari Platform Youtube dengan jenis konten Documenter - Sumber: Youtube.com**

Apart from media platforms from YouTube and Spotify, talk about the Kanjuruhan tragedy was also heard vocally on social media, such as on Instagram and Twitter. On social media, they often respond to events and decisions related to the Kanjuruhan tragedy. Especially as of this writing on August 2, 2023, this case does not yet have a definite and fair light for the victim's family there.





Gambar 11: Postingan di Twitter tentang Tragedi Kanjuruhan - Sumber : [Twitter.com/@ainurohman](https://twitter.com/ainurohman)



Gambar 12: Postingan di Instagram tentang Dampak Tragedi Kanjuruhan – Sumber: [Instagram.com/malanghardsoul](https://www.instagram.com/malanghardsoul)

Referring to some of the documentation evidence above, it can be concluded that if the content voiced and published by the public is focused on the same topic, it will greatly vary the media platforms used and the various types of content published. Not only technical content issues but also various points of view taken to discuss the same topic.

In addition, the opinions broadcast are not only sourced from the main content, but also the interaction that is established on social media, for example on Twitter there will be many people who respond from the mention and quote retweet features, or Instagram where people can use the comment feature. In addition to opinion, the public in citizen journalism can add evidence of documentation data that may not be recorded and published by major media from the incident. Although the quality is not as good as that presented by mainstream media, it is a reinforcement or affirmation of content that has been presented by major media but has not been completed clearly, in detail, specifically, and comprehensively to be presented and published to public audiences.

### Implementasi News-Media Watchdog Citizen Journalists

Referring to the above understanding, it can be interpreted that this type of citizen journalism a type to monitor and evaluate the performance of the media as a source of public information that often has shortcomings and makes mistakes. In the context of football here is how criticism is launched against broadcast rights holders, federations, or operator organizers. In this topic itself, the author found some documentation data related to the supervision and evaluation of the Liga 1 competition. Call it one of the Youtube channels named Tommy Desky who conducted interviews and hearings directly with several officials of Liga 1 operators and broadcast rights holders.



*Gambar 13: Tayangan Youtube Tommy Desky - Sumber: Youtube.com*



*Gambar 14: Tayangan Youtube Tommy Desky - Sumber: Youtube.com*



**Gambar 15: Tayangan Youtube Tommy Desky - Sumber: Youtube.com**

Moreover, Indosiar as an official broadcaster from Liga 1 had received a lot of criticism from netizens, especially netizens from Twitter, and even the criticism made a kind of movement. The first criticism raised by netizens was #GerakanMuteNasional during the 2021 Menpora Cup. The movement came from criticism from netizens criticizing Valentino Simanjuntak's language style as a commentator who was claimed to be noisy and excessive in presenting the match. In addition, Valentino Simanjuntak was considered unable to present the match in an educational and informative manner, so the hashtag appeared (Bramasta, 2021).



**Figure 2 : Trending #GerakanMuteNasional Hashtags on Twitter - Source: Twitter @SerieA\_Lawas**

The Second Criticism Again came to Indosiar from netizens on Twitter at the 2022 Presidential Cup event, this time with the hashtag that echoed on social media #BoikotIndosiar. The criticism conveyed was that the Kick-off Schedule was too late to have an impact on several things, such as being prone to crime inside and outside the stadium, to affecting the biological clock of

players, spectators, and children who like football. In addition to the kick-off schedule, the quality of live broadcasts is also considered to be still lacking compared to other television stations, and the advertising spots that appear in the middle of the match are too large, and disturb viewers when watching the game. This is a concern because Indosiar has long been the official broadcaster of national football competitions, both from clubs and national teams (Satrio, 2022).



*Gambar 16: Gerakan Boikot Indosiar di Twitter*

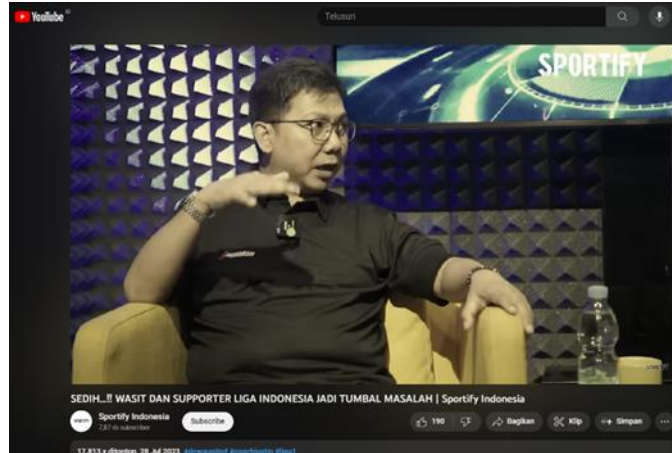


*Gambar 17: Gerakan Boikot Indosiar di Instagram*

Criticism is not only directed at broadcast rights holders but often also leads to referee performance. Until now there have been a lot of referee errors that occur in a match. So it is not surprising that the poor performance of referees is often a byword for Indonesian football lovers with the presence of interviews or podcasts that discuss this, in addition to the hopes of those who hope that Video Assistant Referee technology can be used as soon as possible in Indonesia.



*Gambar 18: Tayangan Youtube Tommy Desky - Sumber: Youtube.com*



*Gambar 19: Tayangan Youtube Sportify Indonesia - Sumber: Youtube.com*

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that topics related to the supervision and evaluation of performance, both the performance of referees, broadcast rights holders, competition evaluations, or federations are topics that are often discussed in this citizen journalism study. Because the public often finds and discusses this poor performance on various available media platforms, what happens is that the dominance of Indonesian football is highlighted not because of its achievements, but even the problems in it

### **Implementation of Community Citizen Journalism**

Based on the understanding described in the literature review, it can be interpreted that this type of citizen journalism is a type of citizen journalism based on the existence of a community that is present so that in the community each member provides and distributes content. In this context, Indonesian football is quite active in driving this, the dominant is that Indonesian supporters currently create media based on what club they like or what community they belong to. For example, in Persija there are Jakarta Football and Jak Online, or Persib Bandung whose supporters have media called Simamaung, not to mention Persebaya Surabaya whose supporters have media that is often called Emosi Jiwaku, or Bali United which has a fan media called Bali Football and many others.

Community-based citizen journalism can be represented by citizen journalism carried out by official supporters such as The Jakmania who have The Jakmania Infokom social media, or Persib Bandung supporters who have various supporters such as Viking (Officialvpc), BOMBER (bomber.persib), Viking Frontline (frontlineboys33) and so on. The problem here is that not all official supporters have official social media accounts and their organizations are well coordinated managerial, so the club sometimes finds it difficult to socialize or sit together with supporters.

The following is the implementation of Citizen Journalism based on Community through Websites from Simamaung (Persib Bandung), Jak Online (Persija Jakarta), and Emosi Jiwaku (Persebaya Surabaya):



Gambar 20: Situs Web SIMAMAUNG

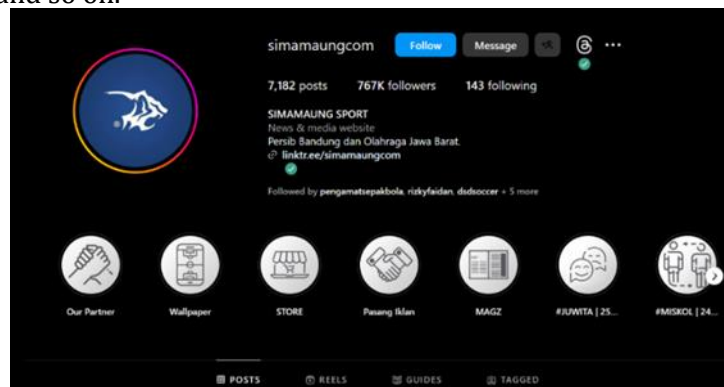


Gambar 21: Situs Web Jak Online

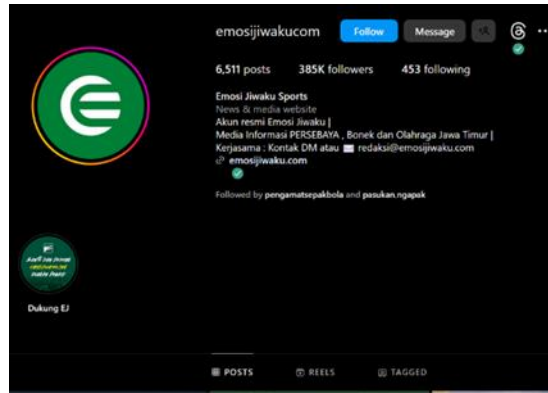


Gambar 22: Situs Web Emosi Jiwaku

Apart from websites, this type of citizen journalism also leads to social media from YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and so on.



Gambar 23: Akun instagram SIMAMAUNG



**Gambar 24: Akun Instagram Emosi Jiwaku**



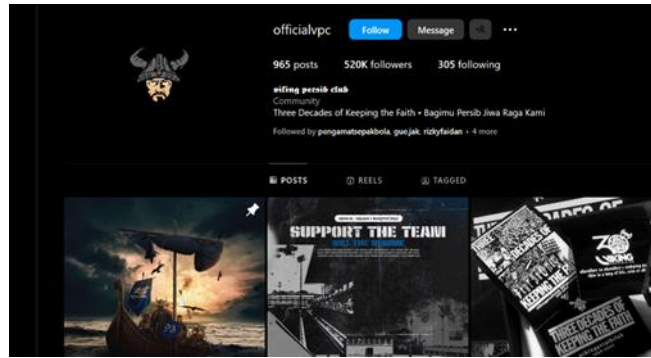
**Gambar 25: Akun Instagram Sepak Bola Jakarta**

In addition to the Instagram online community of an unofficial supporter club, one of the things that must be included in the type of citizen journalism of the community is also the Official Social Media of the official supporter organization as well



**Gambar 26: Akun Instagram Resmi The Jakmania - Sumber: Instagram.com/infokomjakmania**





**Gambar 27: Akun Instagram Resmi Viking Persib Club - Sumber: [Instagram.com/officialvpc](https://www.instagram.com/officialvpc)**

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that supporters in Indonesia have begun to be active and creative in mobilizing their favorite club-based media even though it is not official from an official supporter organization. Because sometimes some official supporters also do not have an official social media account of the supporter organization, the impact is that when they want to announce something, they tend to have difficulty and not have one voice for the announcement, as a result, the grassroots supporters below are confused about who to hear here.

This is the true function of citizen journalism, not only as a forum for people to express opinions, contribute content, distribute information, but more than that is to unite and equalize perceptions and thoughts, and voices so that the supporter organizations are seen that they are well organized and coordinated so that later the supporter organizations are well viewed and have a positive impact in the eyes of ordinary people later.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based on the explanation in the introduction and discussion above, the author concludes that: Citizen journalism in the context of football has begun to be active and creative, along with the development of the age supporters not only show their fanaticism and creativity not only on the field, but in the digital space as well. It also represents how well organized or not the supporter organization is in terms of how citizen journalism/supporter social media is managed. Citizen journalism also shows that the football community will be very vocal when there are controversial cases or problems that are widely discussed in public spaces and also become a form of supervision and evaluation of the current running of the football industry ecosystem, for example, the Kanjuruhan Tragedy and the failure of the 2023 U-20 World Cup in Indonesia.

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