Text 4: Rules Board to Consider Ending Ban on Hijabs

By VIJAI SINGH Published: March 2, 2012

The long-disputed issue of whether Muslim women's soccer players should be allowed to wear headscarves in games will be addressed Saturday at a meeting of the sport's international rules board.

Soccer officials consider <u>hijabs</u> — headscarves that cover the hair, neck and ears — a safety concern, and prohibit players from wearing them during games. Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, a member of the executive committee of FIFA, soccer's world governing body, will urge the rule-making group to consider <u>a Velcro hijab</u> made by the Dutch company Capsters. He has said that the ban on hijabs pushes many Muslim athletes away from soccer.

"There is a right for women's play regardless of any other issues, and we are simply trying to find the best way to facilitate that," he said.

For the ban to be overturned, it needs six of the eight available votes on the International Football Association Board, the sport's lawmaking body. The board is made up of representatives from each British association — England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales — and four FIFA officials.

In 2007, the rules board upheld the Quebec Soccer Federation's decision to have a young girl remove her hijab.

During the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore, the Iranian women, who are required by Iranian law to wear hijabs, were told that they could not wear hijabs <u>but could wear caps</u>. The caps did not cover the neck, but the Iranians were allowed to wear turtlenecks.

The issue intensified last year when Iran's national team <u>forfeited an Olympic qualifying</u> <u>match</u> in Jordan after the players were told to remove their turtlenecks.

"Either we take it off or we don't play, and obviously no one will take it off," said Katayoun Khosrowyar, 24, who plays as a central midfielder for the Iranian team. "We went on the field, started training, and then when the first five seconds of the match went, the referee blew the whistle saying we can't play anymore, we have to forfeit."

Reema Ramounieh, 28, said she did not have problems wearing a hijab and playing goalkeeper for Jordan's national team until last year, when she was barred from playing days before the team's first Olympic qualifying match.

"Suddenly I got a message that I can't play, so it's like my dream stopped," she said. "You know I had to go out. I started crying and I went out to the field. The coach told me that we don't need you anymore so thank you, you can go outside and maybe you can play with the ball on the side. So it was like my dream, it's done because I'm wearing a headscarf."

"Each player's dream is to reach the World Cup or to reach an Olympic competition, so it's really going to stop the development of the game and the number of players."

The <u>Laws of the Game</u> include a decision by the board that states, "The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal statements."

"It's what we call neutrality of sport," said Annie Sugier, the president of the League for International Women's Rights in France. "When you have a rule based on universal principles, you have to ask yourself, 'Why am I making an exception?' "

Sugier said that when a soccer player is seen wearing a hijab, "you know that she's Muslim, so it is a religious expression."

But Ramounieh said it was not about religion.

"When I go and play, I'm just thinking about playing," she said. "I'm not thinking about what I'm wearing and what kind of message I'm trying to reach the people. I'm only there because I love this game and I want to play."

Clauses

Clause ID	Conjunction	Clause	Type of process
1.		The long-disputed issue of whether Muslim women's soccer players should be allowed to wear headscarves in games will be	Verbal
		addressed Saturday at a meeting of the sport's international rules board.	
2.	[whether	Muslim women's soccer players should be allowed to wear headscarves in games]	Material
3.		[to wear headscarves in games]	Material
4.		Soccer officials consider <u>hijabs</u> – <u>headscarves that cover the hair, neck and ears</u> — a safety concern,	Relational att
5.		[hijabs - headscarves that cover the hair, neck and ears]	Material
6.	and	prohibit players from wearing them (hijabs) during games	Verbal
7.		[from wearing them during games]	Material
8.		Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, a member of the executive committee of FIFA, soccer's world governing body, will urge the rule-making group to consider <u>a Velcro</u> <u>hijab</u> made by the Dutch company Capsters	Verbal
9.		[the rule-making group to consider a Velcro hijab made by the Dutch company Capsters]	Mental
10.		He has said that the ban on hijabs pushes many Muslim athletes away from soccer.	Verbal
11.	[that	the ban on hijabs pushes many Muslims athletes away from soccer]	Material
12.		"There is a right for women's play regardless of any other issues, and we are simply trying to find the best way to facilitate that," he said.	Verbal
13.		[There is a right for women's play regardless of any other issues,]	Existential
14.	[and	we are simply trying to find the best way to facilitate that]	Material
15.		[to find the best way to facilitate that]	Material
16.		[the best way to facilitate that]	Material
17.		In 2007, the rules board upheld the Quebec Soccer Federation's decision <u>to have a young</u> <u>girl remove her hijab.</u>	Material
18.		[to have a young girl remove her hijab.]	Material
19.		During the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singpore, the Iranian women, who are required by Iranian law to wear hijabs, were	Verbal

		told that they could not wear hijabs but could	
		wear caps.	
20.	[who	are required by Iranian law to wear hijabs]	Verbal
21.		[to wear hijabs]	Material
22.	[that	they could not wear hijabs]	Material
23.	[but	could wear caps.]	Material
24.		The caps did not cover the neck	Material
25.	But	the Iranians were allowed to wear	Material
		turtlenecks.	
26.		[to wear turtlenecks]	Material
27.		The issue intensified last year	Relational id
28.	when	Iran's national team forfeited an Olympic	Material
		qualifying match in Jordan after the players	
		were told to remove their turtlenecks	
29.	after	the players were told to remove their	Verbal
27.	unter	turtlenecks.	Verbai
30.		[to remove their turtlenecks.]	Material
<u>30.</u> 31.		Reema Ramounieh, 28, said she did not have	Verbal
51.		problems wearing a hijab and playing	v CI Dai
		goalkeeper for Jordan's national team until	
		last year, when she was barred from playing	
		days before the team's first Olympic	
		qualifying match.	
32.			Relational att
32.		she did not have problems wearing a hijab	Kelational att
		and playing goalkeeper for Jordan's national	
		team until last year, when she was barred	
		from playing days before the team's first	
22		Olympic qualifying match	
33.		[wearing a hijab]	Material
34.	[and	playing goalkeeper for Jordan's national	Material
		team until last year]	
35.	[when	she was barred from playing days before the	Material
	_	team's first Olympic qualifying match.]	
36.	So	it was like my dream,	Relational att
37.		it's done because I'm wearing a headscarf	Relational att
38.	[because	I'm wearing a headscarf.]	Material
39.		The Laws of the Game include a decision by	Relational att
		the board that states "the basic compulsory	
		equipment must not have any political,	
		religious or personal statement"	
40.	[that	states, "The basic compulsory equipment	Verbal
		must not have any political, religious or	
		personal statement"]	
41.		[The basic compulsory equipment must not	Relational att
		have any political, religious or personal	
		statement]	
42		"It's what we call neutrality of sport" said	Verbal
		Annie Sugier, the president of the League for	
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		"When you have a rule base on universal	
		principles, you have to ask yourself, 'Why	
		am I making an exception'"	
43.		[It's what we call neutrality of sport]	Relational id
44.	[what	we call neutrality of sport]	Relational id
45.	When	you have a rule based on universal principles	Relational att
46.		you have to ask yourself 'why am I making	Verbal
		an exception'	
47.		Sugier said that [when a soccer player is seen	Verbal
		wearing a hijab, "you know that she's	
		Muslim, so it is a religious expression."]	
48.	[when	a soccer player is seen wearing a hijab	Mental
49.		[wearing a hijab]	Material
50.		[you know that she's Muslim]	Mental
51.	[that	she's Muslim]	Relational att
52.	So	it is a religious expression	Relational att

Material process Coni. Scope/Range Beneficiary Clause Actor Process Goal Circumstance ID Client Recipient should be Muslim to wear headscarves in games (matter) 2. whether women's player allowed headscarves 3. to wear in games (time) Hijab – the hair, neck 5. that cover headscarves and ears them (hijabs) during games (duration) wearing 7. from The ban on many Muslims away from soccer (place) 11. pushes that hijabs athletes are trying to find the best way simply (quality) 14. and we 15. to find the best way 16. the best way to facilitate that 17. upheld the Quebec In 2007 (time), to have a young girl remove her the rules board Soccer hijab Federation's decision a young girl to have her hijab 18. remove 21 hijabs to wear 22. They could not hijabs that wear 23. (they) but could wear caps 24. The caps the neck did not cover 25. but the Iranians were to wear allowed turtlenecks 26. turtlenecks to wear 27. an Olympic in Jordan (place) after the players were told to When Iran's national forfeited qualifying remove their turtlenecks (time) team

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				match		
30.			to remove	their turtlenecks		
33.			wearing	hijab		
34.	and		playing	goalkeeper		for Jordan's National Team until last year (cause: behalf)
35.	when		was barred	she		from playing (matter) days before the team's first Olympic qualifying match (time)
38.	because	Ι	'm wearing	a headscarf		
49.			wearing	a hijab		

	Mental process										
Clause ID	Clause ID Conj. Senser.		Process	Phenomenon.	Circumstance						
					•						
9.		the rule-making	to consider	a Velcro hijab made by the Dutch company Capsters							
		group									
47.	when	a soccer player	is seen wearing	a hijab							
48.		you	know	that she's a muslim							

			Rela	tional Attributive process			
Clause ID	Conjunction	Carrier	Process	Atribute	Attributor	Beneficiary	Circumstance
4.		hijab – headscarves that cover the hair, neck and ears	consider	a safety concern	Soccer officials		
31.		She	did not have	problems wearing a hijab and playing goalkeeper for Jordan's national team until last year			
35.	So	It	was like	my dream			
36.		It	is	done			because I'm wearing a head scarf (cause: reason)
39.		The Laws of the Game	include	a decision by the board that states "the basic compulsory equipment			

				must not have any political, religious or personal statement"		
41.		The basic compulsory equipment	must not have	any political, religious or personal statement		
45.	When	You	have	a rule based on universal principles		
51.	that	She	is	a muslim		
52.	SO	it (wearing hijab)	is	a religious expression		

	Relational Identifying process										
Clause IDConjuctionIdentifiedProcessIdentifierAssignerCircumstance						Circumstance					
27.		this issue	intensified			last year (time)					
43.		It	's	what we call neutrality of sport							
44.		What	call	neutrality of sport	we						

				Verbal p	rocess				
Clause ID	Conjuction	Sayer	Process	Quoted	Reported	Verbiage	Target	Receiver	Circumstance
1.			will be addressed			The long-disputed issue of whether Muslim women's soccer players should be allowed to wear headscarves in games			Saturday (time) at a meeting of the sport's international rules bored (place)
6.	and		prohibit				players		from wearing them (matter) during games (duration)
8.		Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, a member of the executive	will urge		to consider <u>a</u> <u>Velcro hijab</u> made by the Dutch company Capsters			the rule- making group	

10.		committee of FIFA, soccer's world governing body, He (Prince Ali)	has said		that the ban on hijabs pushes many Muslim athletes away from soccer.			
12.		He	said	"There is a right for women's play regardless of any other issues, and we are simply trying to find the best way to facilitate that,"				
19.			were told		that they could not wear hijabs but could wear caps		the Iranian women, who are required by Iranian law to wear hijabs,	During the 2010 Youth Olympics (duration) in Singpore (place)
20.	who	by Iranian law	are required		to wear hijabs			
28.	after		were told		to remove the turtlenecks		the players	
31.		Reema Ramounieh, 28	said		she did not have problems wearing a hijab and playing goalkeeper for Jordan's national team until last year, when she was barred from			

40.	that		states	"The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal statement"	playing days before the team's first Olympic qualifying match		
42.		Annie Sugier, the president of the League for International Women's Rights in France.	said	"It's what we call neutrality of sport"; 'When you have a rule based on universal principles, you have to ask yourself, 'Why am I making an exception?'			
46.		You	have to ask		'why am I making an exception'	yourself	
47.		Sugier	said	"that when a soccer player is seen wearing a hijab, you know that she's Muslim, so it is a religious expression."			

	Existential process									
Clause ID	Clause ID Conjunction Process Existent Circumstance									
13.		There	is	a right for women's play	regardless of any other issues (concession)					