

Naturalization in Sports from the Perspective of Sports Nationalism Based on *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*

Dicky Eko Prasetyo¹

¹ Master of Law, Faculty of Law, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia.

Email: dicky.23004@mhs.unesa.ac.id

Abstract: Naturalization in sports is a global phenomenon that occurs worldwide, including in Indonesia. In Indonesia, this creates problems in the form of the stigma of "foreign players" or naturalized players versus local players, which causes issues, particularly in relation to the value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity). This research aims to analyze the aspects of naturalization in the field of sports as an effort to enhance national values, particularly *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, based on sports nationalism, while reaffirming reconstruction efforts in the legal field. This research is legal research that emphasizes the socio-legal aspects, using a conceptual and legislative approach. The research findings confirm that from a sports nationalism perspective, sports holds very positive values for strengthening national identity in society. The presence of naturalized players in the national team actually broadens the definition of nationality, so that society no longer sees citizenship solely as something born from blood ties and homeland, but also as an inclusive social bond that values the diversity of athletes' origins. Legal reconstruction to uphold the value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* requires a revision of the Citizenship Law. This revision must emphasize the principle of priority in naturalization, giving primary opportunity to Indonesian descendants abroad or individuals with historical, cultural, or emotional ties to Indonesia as their ancestral country. The revision of the Citizenship Law must also regulate the substantive requirements that athletes undergoing the naturalization process must meet, including the obligation to participate in guidance and training that focuses on introducing and internalizing national insights, Pancasila values, the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, and local wisdom, which are the cultural foundations of the Indonesian nation.

Keywords: *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*; Naturalization; Sports Nationalism.

1. Introduction

Naturalization in sports is becoming a trend in various parts of the world. One argument for naturalization in sports is that it aims to improve athletic performance by granting citizenship to someone from another country to become a citizen of a particular country (Annas & Hazzar, 2023). Naturalization in sports occurs in various disciplines with the aim of achieving an "instant" improvement in performance in a specific sport. In Indonesia, naturalization in sports is also one of the policies implemented to improve performance in each sport (Maaruf, Singh, & Triadi, 2023). Referring to data from the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Kemenpora), there are approximately 600 diaspora player profiles ready for naturalization across 14 sports since 2023, including football, basketball, volleyball, and various other sports (Bola.com, 2023).

Naturalization in sports is legally, in principle, a justifiable legal action. Referring to Article 1 paragraph 3 of Law No. 12 of 2006 concerning Indonesian Citizenship (Citizenship Law), the term "naturalization" is essentially used as another term for naturalization, which fundamentally affirms that naturalization is a series of efforts and procedures for foreign citizens to become Indonesian citizens thru application (Maaruf et al., 2023). This provision generally opens up opportunities for anyone who is not an Indonesian citizen to become an Indonesian citizen, particularly to become an athlete in their respective sports. In the practice of naturalization in the sport of football, for example, there is a priority effort to grant naturalization to players of Indonesian descent and Indonesian diaspora players who have ancestral ties to Indonesia. CNN Indonesia even mentioned that there have been over 50 naturalized Indonesian football players since the system was systematically implemented from 2010 to 2025 (CNN Indonesia, 2025). Naturalization in the field of football is being carried out more and more massively in the era from 2022 to 2025 as an effort to enable the Indonesian national football team to compete in the 2026 World Cup, although this has not yielded optimal results as Indonesia failed in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers in the Asian zone (Anwar, 2025).

Although naturalization in sports does not encounter significant problems in the legal regulations, there are other issues related to the massive naturalization in sports, such as the impression of choosing an "instant path" to improve sports performance thru naturalization, thus undermining the role of early childhood education for local players or athletes, especially in the regions. There is also "stigmatization" between "Naturalized/Foreign Players" versus "Local Players (Local Pride)" (Sinaga & Sembiring, 2024). Specifically regarding the issue of "stigmatization" between "Naturalized/Foreign Players" versus "Local Players (Local Pride)", this is essentially a serious national issue because it is discriminatory and even erodes the spirit of national unity or Indonesian unity. This is even legally contrary to the provisions of Article 4 letter b number 2 of Law No. 40 of 2008 concerning the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (Law on Racial and Ethnic Discrimination), which substantively

states that it is prohibited to express hatred toward an individual or group of people based on race or ethnicity thru certain words, so that this action can be qualified as an act of racial and ethnic discrimination (Dicky Eko Prasetyo, Muh. Ali Masnun, Arinto Nugroho, Denial Ikram, 2024).

This stigma of "Naturalized/Foreign Players" versus "Local Players (Local Pride)" has also eroded the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which can be interpreted not only as a symbol and slogan of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia but has become a "constitutional identity" for Indonesia (Dicky Eko Prasetyo, 2022). Therefore, referring to the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, this means that stigmatization between "Naturalized/Foreign Players" versus "Local Players (Local Pride)" should not occur and can actually be an effort to increase the dimension of sports nationalism, where thru sports, national spirit and mutual respect among fellow citizens can be fostered, regardless of whether they are Indonesian citizens from birth or part of the naturalization project in sports.

This research aims to analyze the aspects of naturalization in the field of sports as an effort to enhance national values, particularly *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, based on Sports Nationalism, while reaffirming reconstruction efforts in the legal field. There are two important points to analyze in this study: (i) Naturalization in Sports: Efforts to Strengthen National Values Based on Sports Nationalism, and (ii) Legal Reconstruction in Affirming the Value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* Related to Naturalization in Sports. Research on naturalization in sports has essentially been analyzed by several previous researchers, such as (i) Abrar, et al. (2024) who analyzed the phenomenon of naturalization in Football, particularly from a historical and sociological perspective (Abrar, Syahrudin, 2024). Subsequent research was conducted by Prasetyo, et al. (2024) which discussed naturalization in sports, which on the one hand is an important means of increasing the spirit of national inclusiveness (H. W. Dicky Eko Prasetyo, Muh Ali Masnun, 2024). Further research was also conducted by Silitonga and Kristina (2025), which specifically addressed the need for special regulations regarding naturalization in sports so that the instant improvement in sports performance is balanced by strengthening education based on local talent (Silitonga & Kristina, 2025).

From the three previous studies mentioned above, it can be generally observed that all three studies primarily highlight the phenomenon of naturalization in sports in Indonesia in relation to improving athletic performance, and are examined from several perspectives, such as sociology and law. There is a gap analysis that has not been comprehensively studied in the three previous studies, making it the focus of this research. The aspect of naturalization in sports is linked to national values, particularly *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, as a value that strengthens national spirit between naturalized athletes and local athletes, viewed from the perspective of sports nationalism, which is the main novelty of this research, aiming to fill the gap analysis from the three previous studies.

2. Method

This research, which focuses its analysis on the aspect of naturalization in sports as one effort to enhance national values, particularly *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, based on Sports Nationalism by affirming reconstruction efforts in the legal field, is normative legal research (Suteki & Taufani, 2020). It adopts various non-legal aspects, allowing it to be categorized as socio-legal research. Socio-legal research refers to Reza Banakar's view, understood as legal research that not only focuses on the doctrinal aspects of law but also accommodates various non-doctrinal developments, such as advancements in non-legal sciences (Vivian, 2021). The data used is generally secondary data in the form of laws and regulations, as well as literature studies, including books and journal articles. The primary legal materials used in this study are Law No. 12 of 2006 concerning the Citizenship of the Republic of Indonesia (Citizenship Law) and Law No. 40 of 2008 concerning the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Law). The secondary legal materials used are journal articles and books that discuss naturalization, citizenship, and sports law. Non-legal materials were also used to supplement the analysis and make it more comprehensive, including books or journal articles in the fields of sports, politics, and social sciences that specifically discuss the national dimension of naturalization in sports.

The collection of legal materials was carried out thru browsing activities on the internet, particularly regarding relevant journal articles. Efforts were made to ensure that the journal articles cited and used in the analysis of this research were reputable scientific journal articles, both nationally and internationally. The collected legal materials were then analyzed qualitatively-prescriptively, which was done in accordance with the research focus to formulate solutions or conclusions from the presented analysis results. The analysis in this study also uses the theory of sports nationalism and the broad development of the concept of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which goes beyond mere tolerance and respect for fellow Indonesian citizens from Sabang to Merauke, and includes efforts to appreciate every Indonesian citizen, particularly those who have become citizens thru naturalization. The approach used is a conceptual and legislative approach (Hamzani, Widyastuti, Khasanah, & Rusli, 2023). The choice of a conceptual and legislative approach is due to the focus of this research being to broadly develop the concept of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* and the use of analysis based on sports nationalism theory, linking it to relevant laws and regulations, in this case, the Citizenship Law and the Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Law.

3.1. Naturalization in Sports: Efforts to Strengthen National Values Based on Sports Nationalism

Naturalization, or citizenship, is essentially a common occurrence in any country. Naturalization is fundamentally a country's effort to facilitate a foreign citizen becoming a citizen, subject to various specific conditions and mechanisms (Sullivan, Ross, & Wu, 2023). Regarding naturalization in sports, it is essentially a development of the practice of naturalization or citizenship, where there are specific standards or parameters that an individual seeking naturalization must meet in each sport. Naturalization in sports is not a new phenomenon, as several countries around the world have already implemented it (P. Han, 2023). One of the reasons various countries naturalize athletes is to improve sports performance. Naturalization in sports has been carried out by various countries, even those with a strong tradition in sports achievements, such as Japan, which is a leading football nation and has also naturalized athletes to improve the quality of its football team. This shows that the phenomenon of naturalization in sports is common and has become a global phenomenon. Generally, there are two views on naturalization in sports: those who agree and those who disagree. The agreeing view asserts that naturalization in sports is a global phenomenon, particularly linked to the idea of global citizenship.

This idea of global citizenship essentially asserts that citizenship cannot be narrowly understood solely based on an individual's tribal and national entities (Ismail, Munsir, & Purwanto, 2025). This concept of global citizenship is open and inclusive to every individual of any country and nation, as long as they meet the requirements and comply with the regulations of the country where they wish to be naturalized (E. Han & Zhao, 2024). This idea of global citizenship can also be understood from a sporting perspective, where every athlete has an equal opportunity to choose their citizenship status as long as they meet the requirements (P. Han, Tang, & Bairner, 2024). Another view that can be said to disagree with naturalization, particularly in the field of sports, is based on the idea that naturalization in sports can have a negative impact on the development of young generations and national identity in a country. This is based on the view that it is impossible for a country with specific characteristics to have its sports athletes dominated by naturalized athletes. Regarding both views that agree and disagree with naturalization in sports, a middle ground can essentially be drawn as a conclusion, allowing for limited naturalization in sports where naturalization can only be done according to need and while still nurturing local athletic talent.

The naturalization practice in sports that Indonesia has implemented has essentially been carried out in various sports. Naturalization in sports that Indonesia has implemented has indeed become a global concern, particularly in football, where as many as 19 players have been naturalized to strengthen the national football team (Kumparan, 2025). Naturalization in sports in Indonesia, particularly in football, has an interesting aspect on one hand, where priority is given to players who have Indonesian ancestry or connections. Regarding naturalization in sports in Indonesia, there are three important categories explained in the table below.

Table 1. Naturalized Athlete Categories

No	Naturalization Category	Description	Example Athlete Names
1.	Diaspora Descendants	A person born and living outside Indonesia, but still having blood ties with a mother, father, or grandparents who are from Indonesia	Justin Hubner, Jay Idzes (Football), Iris Joska de Rouw, Felicia Victoria de Zeeuw, Isa Guusje Warps, and Emily Julia Frederica Nahon (Women's Football)
2.	<i>Blijvers</i>	A person who has no blood relation to their mother, father, or grandparents from Indonesia, but whose mother, father, or grandparents have lived in Indonesia	Ole Romeny and Maarten Paes (Football)
3.	Not Descendants and Not <i>Blijvers</i>	Someone who was previously a foreign citizen and then qualified to become an Indonesian citizen	Cristian Gonzáles (Football), Evgenii Nurislamov, Adel Khabibullin, Artem Bezrukov, and Savelii Molchanov (Ice Hockey)

(Source: Author's Analysis Processed from Various Sources)

From the table above, it can be seen that the three categories of naturalization in sports in Indonesia are: first, diaspora by descent, which are athletes born and living outside Indonesia but still have blood ties with mothers, fathers, or grandparents who are from Indonesia. Second, *blijvers*, which are athletes who do not have blood ties with mothers, fathers, or grandparents who are from Indonesia, but whose mothers, fathers, or grandparents have lived in Indonesia (Kanaya Zefanya Gracia Putri Sinolungan, Anna S. Wahongan, 2025).

Third, the category of neither by descent nor *blijvers*, which are athletes who were previously foreign citizens and then met the requirements to become Indonesian citizens.

From the three categorizations above, it can be concluded that naturalization in Indonesia, particularly in the field of sports, can essentially be prioritized for both diaspora descendants and *blijvers*, with the argument that there are both biological and historical ties to Indonesia, while still facilitating athletes who were previously foreign citizens and subsequently meet the requirements to become Indonesian citizens. In practice, naturalization in the field of sports in Indonesia essentially has a positive dimension, particularly concerning sports nationalism. Sports nationalism is essentially the idea that sports is one of the important means of increasing and strengthening a country's nationalism (Chappelet, 2025). Conceptually, sports nationalism is indeed related to the relationship between politics and sports (Knoester & Davis, 2022). Although sports are generally considered "neutral" with regard to political interests, and there's even a saying that "sports cannot be mixed with politics," it is factually undeniable that sports are always intertwined with politics (Humphreys & Zhou, 2022). Gabriel Kuhn provides a comprehensive perspective on the relationship between sports (exemplified by football) and politics, where sports essentially give rise to a "pseudo-community" in the form of football clubs or national team pride, which then generates "pseudo-consciousness" as an inseparable part (Kuhn, 2019). Because it forms a "community" and on one hand boosts morale related to pride and power, this is what often links politics to sports and even leads to political intervention in sports.

Despite various negative practices of political intervention in sports, it is understandable that in certain aspects there is a positive impact between political relations and sports, one of which is that sports can increase national spirit and social solidarity among people in a country. In Indonesia, for example, when the national anthem "Indonesia Raya" is sung at sporting events, it serves as one of the means to strengthen Indonesian unity. A society initially divided by political choices, tribal identities, and other identities such as religion then merged into one, realizing they were one nation and one country, thus fostering a spirit of unity (Rahadian et al., 2021). This is what truly constitutes the phenomenon of sports nationalism, where sports becomes an important means of strengthening the spirit of citizenship among Indonesian society.

In Indonesian practice, sports nationalism can be seen in various events such as after a soccer match, where there is a "ritual" for all players to sing the song "Tanah Airku," which is sung in unison by the players and the entire audience. The most interesting thing is that all the players, both local and naturalized, sang the song "Tanah Airku" together, making them feel like they were all one nation and striving for the same goal: to improve sports achievements, which would ultimately bring glory to the Indonesian nation on the world stage. This phenomenon, viewed from the perspective of sports nationalism, is a unique one. Despite the stigmatization between

"naturalized/foreign players" versus "local players (local pride)," the "ritual" of all players singing the song "Tanah Airku" makes the disparity between "naturalized/foreign players" versus "local players (local pride)" disappear (Agustian Fitrah, et., 2025). What is visible is that all sons of the Indonesian nation are equally proud to fight for Indonesia.

From the above explanation, naturalization in the field of sports in Indonesia, when viewed from the perspective of sports nationalism, actually has positive values in fostering national spirit and uniting various groups, including naturalized players and local players, thus forming a single identity: players of the Indonesian national team. For the general public, the existence of naturalization in sports can also raise awareness about valuing others, including implementing the *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* principle, where some Indonesian citizens are also the result of naturalization and everyone must be viewed equally as fellow Indonesians. This also broadens understanding and concepts regarding diversity in Indonesia, which not only respects inter-ethnic and inter-regional differences within Indonesia but also values every Indonesian citizen, whether naturalized or born as an Indonesian citizen.

3.2. Legal Reconstruction in Affirming the Value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* Related to Naturalization in Sports

The development of naturalization in sports is essentially part of the global development of sports law studies (Christiana Sri Murni, Fradhana Putra Disantara, 2023). Sports law globally has experienced massive development with the involvement of various fields of science, which has also contributed to the massive development of sports law (Prasetyo, Masnun, Disantara, & Noviyanti, 2025). Generally, there are three dimensions in the development of sports law, as presented in the table below.

Table 2. Development of Sports Law

No	Term/Field	Description	Study Example
1.	Sports in The Law	Focusing on the development of legal science, which also influences sports practices	Athlete Agreements or Contracts and Sports Licensing
2.	Sports and The Law	Focusing on the legal aspects within sports organizations/federations, emphasizing the autonomy and independence of regulating and resolving sports disputes, or <i>lex</i>	Disputes arising from the interpretation or violation of rules and regulations made by sports bodies, whether at the national or international level

		<i>sportiva</i>	
3.	Sports of The Law	Focusing on sports development, which also influences legal regulations	The Use of Certain Technologies in Sports Practice

(Source: (Prasetio, 2025) with the Development of the Author)

From the table above, the three dimensions in the development of sports law include (Prasetio & Al-farisi, 2024): (i) sports in the law, which focuses on the development of legal science that also influences sports practices, (ii) sports and the law, which relates to developments in legal aspects within sports branch organizations/federations, emphasizing autonomy and independence in regulating and resolving disputes in the field of sports or *lex sportiva*, and (iii) sports of the law, which refers to sports developments that also influence legal regulations (B. W. Dicky Eko Prasetio, Muh Ali Masnun, 2024). From the three aspects above, naturalization in sports can be categorized as part of the development in both sports in the law and sports and the law, where the sports in the law aspect specifically relates to the regulation of citizenship, which is governed by each country, and the sports and the law aspect concerns the naturalization procedure, such as an athlete's transfer from a sports federation in one country to another.

The phenomenon of stigmatization between "naturalized/foreign players" versus "local players (local pride)" must be understood as a national issue that, on the one hand, can threaten the spirit of Indonesian unity. The spirit of Indonesian unity is essentially a manifestation of the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which means that every Indonesian person has various differences including ethnicity, religion, origin, and so on, but they share the same commonality as sons and daughters of Indonesia with the goal of bringing glory to Indonesia in various fields (Rato, 2021). This phenomenon of stigmatization between "naturalized/foreign players" versus "local players (local pride)" is a denial of the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which mandates mutual respect and honor among Indonesian citizens. Indonesian athletes, whether naturalized or citizens by birth, must be considered equally Indonesian citizens with the same legal status. In this context, every person who has become an Indonesian citizen must be viewed as part of Indonesian society in general, with the right and obligation to bring honor to Indonesia.

This stigmatization also fundamentally violates Article 4, paragraph b, point 2 of the Law on Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, which prohibits expressing hatred toward an individual or group of people based on race or ethnicity thru certain words, thus qualifying this action as racial and ethnic discrimination. Indonesian athletes, whether naturalized or citizens by birth, must be considered equally Indonesian citizens with the same legal status. In this context, every person who has become an Indonesian citizen must be viewed as part of Indonesian society in general, with the right and obligation to

bring honor to Indonesia. Local and non-local stigma related to sports naturalization is also a common phenomenon in various countries around the world, particularly in some Asian countries that naturalize athletes with European ancestry, significant physical differences, and a high risk of negative stigma and even discrimination (Luo et al., 2025). This is essentially an inappropriate action because one of the spirits of sports is anti-discrimination, where sports serves as a means to unite the entire world and carry out the noble mission of upholding human values. In the Indonesian context, sports also have a noble purpose that aligns with the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, where the country can be a "unifying tool" for existing differences, and together achieve the nation's goals (Prasetio, 2023).

Naturalization in sports, as implemented in Indonesia, can conceptually develop a comprehensive concept of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, so the application of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* must be understood both internally and externally. The concept of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* is internally understood as the spirit of unity in diversity, applied to every Indonesian society with different islands, ethnicities, religions, beliefs, and other differences, with full awareness as a national and state consciousness, namely Indonesia (Sabina, Anggraeni Dewi, & Furi Furnamasari, 2021). In further development, the concept of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* also includes external aspects, namely mutual respect between Indonesian citizens residing in Indonesia and those residing outside Indonesia, including Indonesian citizens who are undergoing the naturalization process. Every person who naturalizes has the same legal status as Indonesian citizens in general, so it is inaccurate to consider naturalized athletes in Indonesia as foreigners. The internal and external application of the *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* concept is particularly interesting, especially when linked to the idea of sports nationalism, where sports can be used as a means of strengthening national values, particularly in the era of naturalization in sports. The phenomenon of stigmatization between "naturalized/foreign players" versus "local players (local pride)" requires legal efforts so that the law can inclusively accommodate the phenomenon of naturalization and make it a means of bridging existing differences.

This legal reconstruction is necessary because there are several things that need to be improved in Law No. 12 of 2006 concerning the Citizenship of the Republic of Indonesia (Citizenship Law), namely, first, the Citizenship Law does not specifically regulate naturalization in the field of sports. Naturalization in the field of sports needs to be specifically regulated so that the naturalization process can be administratively expedited while still meeting and complying with substantive aspects. Second, the Citizenship Law also needs to regulate naturalization in the field of sports by formulating the principle of priority, which is prioritized for Indonesian descendants abroad or for anyone who has a connection with Indonesia. This is important so that naturalization is not done haphazardly, based solely on pragmatic reasons, so that every naturalized athlete not only possesses quality but also has an emotional connection with

Indonesia as their ancestral country. Third, the Citizenship Law also needs to regulate the substantive requirements for naturalization for athletes, including guidance and training on national insight, Pancasila values, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, and the values of Indonesian local wisdom, so that athletes undergoing the naturalization process can understand Indonesian culture and values and thus integrate with Indonesian society in general (Ridwan Arma Subagyo, 2025).

From the above explanation, legal reconstruction in affirming the value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* related to naturalization in the field of sports can be strengthened thru several important efforts, such as the naturalization process must be planned so that mass naturalization must be accompanied by the intention to develop education and training to improve the quality of young athletes in Indonesia. Another effort that can be made is to revise the Citizenship Law, focusing on several important substances related to naturalization, such as: specific regulations regarding naturalization in the field of sports, and affirming the principle of priority in naturalizing athletes, which is prioritized for Indonesian descendants abroad or for anyone who has a connection with Indonesia. This is important so that naturalization is not done haphazardly, based solely on pragmatic reasons, so that every naturalized athlete not only possesses quality but also has an emotional connection with Indonesia as their ancestral country. The revision of the Citizenship Law also needs to regulate the substantive requirements for naturalization for athletes, including guidance and training on national insight, Pancasila values, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, and the values of Indonesian local wisdom, so that athletes undergoing the naturalization process can understand Indonesian culture and values and thus integrate with Indonesian society in general.

3. Conclusion

Naturalization in the field of sports in Indonesia, viewed from the perspective of sports nationalism, essentially has a positive impact on strengthening the sense of national identity in society. This process creates strong emotional bonds and solidarity between naturalized and local players. The presence of naturalized players in the national team actually broadens the definition of nationality, so that society does not only see citizenship as something born from blood ties and homeland, but also as an inclusive social bond that values the diversity of athletes' origins. Naturalization in sports also enriches society's social and cultural understanding of the true meaning of diversity, not only limited to ethnic, cultural, and regional diversity, but also encompassing diversity in citizenship status and historical background. This is essentially in line with the view of sports nationalism, which also strengthens the value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity).

Legal reconstruction aimed at upholding the value of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* regarding naturalization in sports must be accompanied by the development of intensive education and training to improve the quality of young local Indonesian athletes, so that naturalization becomes part of a sustainable sports

human resource development strategy. Revising the Citizenship Law is necessary to regulate naturalization in sports, providing clear and focused legal institutions. This includes giving priority to descendants of Indonesians living abroad or individuals with historical, cultural, or emotional ties to Indonesia as their ancestral country. The revised Citizenship Law also needs to regulate the substantive requirements that athletes undergoing naturalization must meet, including the obligation to participate in guidance and training that emphasizes the introduction and internalization of national insights, Pancasila values, the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, and local wisdom, which are the cultural foundations of the Indonesian nation.

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