

Legal Review of Tackling Cases of Illegal Racing in Barru Regency, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This background explains the various methods employed by the people in the Barru District. The results of this research investigate several cases of illegal racing involving young people in the area. The study outlines various efforts by the police to curb illegal racing, which poses a threat to both public safety and the safety of the participants. To prevent such activities, the police conduct patrols, conduct inspections, regulate traffic, and organize official racing events as a legal alternative for motorcycle enthusiasts. This research also discusses the social issues in Barru Regency and highlights the role of the community in addressing these problems. The findings are expected to assist in developing public policies that more effectively address illegal racing and improve regional security.

Keywords: Legal Review, Barru Regency, Illegal Racing.

I. Introduction

Illegal racing is a significant issue in the field of criminology. It is an act that poses risks not only to the participants but also to others in the community. According to Durkheim (1966), illegal racing is a social phenomenon that emerges and is challenging to eliminate. In other words, it is a deeply ingrained issue that cannot be entirely eradicated, but efforts can be made to reduce its occurrence without completely removing the behavior itself. Social problems, ranging from deviant behavior to criminal acts, often manifest in individuals' lives. Delinquency can take various forms, such as physical altercations, brawls, promiscuity, wild racing, and online gambling. These behaviors can be influenced by peer pressure within the school environment and the broader community. As a result, such issues are commonly observed in school settings (Fatimah, S., & Umuri, M.T., 2014).

Adulthood is a transitional period during which individuals search for their own identity. As a result, they often engage in actions that violate the law and cause harm to themselves and their surroundings. Recently, there has been a significant increase in news reports about crimes committed by adults. One of the key characteristics of adolescence is forming a strong sense of self, particularly about age. During this time, individuals also learn to accept and adapt to societal roles, influenced by the community around them (Yulia, N. P. R., 2014). Adults riding motorcycles on public roads have a higher propensity for causing accidents (Farel & Sumbogo, 2022). Therefore, reducing illegal road racing activities is an important issue. The increasing number of motorcycles in Barru Regency raises significant safety concerns. Most of those involved in illegal

racing are teenagers, likely due to their transitional phase. Adolescence is a time of personal development and change, during which young people inevitably face various challenges. This period of transition from childhood to adulthood can make it difficult for them to navigate life's complexities, often leading to risky behaviors. Illegal racing typically takes place at night, posing significant dangers not only to the perpetrators but also to other road users and the surrounding community. In addition to being a risky form of entertainment, illegal racing often involves gambling between groups of participants, particularly adults. This can escalate into violent confrontations, as some individuals may not accept defeat gracefully, leading to physical altercations between rival groups (Ibrahim, N., et al., 2015).

II. Research Method

This study uses a qualitative research method to understand social or human phenomena by providing detailed and complex descriptions to produce accurate data. A literature review is one of the research techniques employed to gather and utilize information relevant to the research problem. Researchers can draw insights from previous studies or similar research through this method. The literature review also explores theoretical frameworks related to norms, values, and the evolving culture (Sugiyono, 2018).

III. Results and Discussion

3.1. Terms of illegal racing in Indonesia

Illegal racing refers to motorcycle races conducted without an official circuit, typically on public roads such as highways, where participants engage in high-speed racing. This activity is hazardous and poses significant dangers not only to the racers themselves but also to the surrounding community. Adults often engage in illegal racing and frequently violate laws such as Law Number 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Law Number 38 of 2004 concerning Roads. These races typically involve groups of individuals who own modified vehicles, such as motorcycles, and often occur at specific times, such as early mornings when highways are less crowded (WiraSena, I. G., & Arta, I. K., 2021). Acts committed by adults often include violations of the law, which can have negative consequences for both the perpetrators and others. Participants in illegal racing frequently disregard safety regulations, failing to use necessary protective gear. Wild racing is seen as an opportunity for many to experience excitement and prove their skill while riding modified motorcycles. Additionally, illegal races are often linked to betting, as they allow racers to showcase their abilities with motorcycles modified in various workshops (Syafri & Rinaldi, 2023).

Illegal racing can be caused by various factors, including the lack of an official racing circuit, the desire to demonstrate prestige and reputation, and the financial incentives associated with betting. Such activities are often linked to negative juvenile delinquency, which not only harms the participants but also poses risks to others (Lubis, A. M., & Harahap, S. M., 2022). To address this issue, resort police can implement traffic patrols to reduce violations related to illegal racing. Additionally, the Road Traffic and Transportation Law Number 22 of 2009 serves as a legal framework prohibiting such activities (Auliasari, A., & Lukitasari, D., 2022). Illegal racing, frequently carried out by groups of adults in Barru Regency, has become a significant problem (Dewi, N. P. K., et al., 2022). Reports indicate a rise in traffic accidents over the past three years, with the highest accident rate recorded in 2022. Various factors contribute to these accidents, including human error, vehicle conditions, and infrastructure issues. The following data illustrates the road accidents in Barru Regency from 2021 to 2023. According to the report from Kakorlantas POLRI:

Table 1. Road Accident Variables in Barru Regency 2021-2023

Victim (individual)	The number of traffic accidents and their victims		
	2023	2022	2021
The number of accidents	225	232	266
Death	54	49	49
Serious injury	47	48	61
Minor injuries	129	186	156

Source BPS of Barru Regency

According to data provided by BPS Barru Regency, from January to December 2021, there were 266 traffic accidents, resulting in 49 deaths, 61 serious injuries, and 156 minor injuries. In the following year, from January to December 2022, there were 232 accidents, 49 deaths, 48 serious injuries, and 186 minor injuries. From January to December 2023, the numbers were 225 accidents, 54 deaths, 47 serious injuries, and 129 minor injuries. Field observations indicate that adults in illegal races often aspire to become world-class racers, like Valentino Rossi. Wild racing serves as an outlet for their desire to take action on the road. However, due to their many challenges, such as the lack of official racing circuits or tracks, they are forced to keep these aspirations to themselves. One of their most common complaints is the absence of appropriate facilities where they can channel their passion and skills. As a result, they often resort to using public roads, including main roads, for racing.

3.2. Increase in the phenomenon of illegal racing in Barru Regency

It is difficult to stop, let alone eliminate, illegal races in cities. The desire to maintain the tradition of illegal racing continues to grow each year (Wulandari, D., 2018). Participants enter the world of racing by using the latest motorcycles, often upgraded with advanced, high-quality tools (Rosanti, A., & Fuad, F., 2015). Illegal racing involves four main categories of people:

1. **Age:** Motorcycle racing on public roads is a phenomenon that attracts the younger generation. Typically, illegal races involve participants aged 15 to 45, but recently, the majority of racers are between the ages of 10 and 30. They gather at race venues to showcase their motorcycles. These participants come from a wide range of social backgrounds, from the lowest to the highest strata of society.
2. **Social Status:** Involvement in wild motorcycle races often correlates with a person's social status. Owning a motorcycle and having the resources to pursue racing passions indicate higher social standing. Participants use various motorcycles, from classic models to the latest 2024 models. Modifying a motorcycle requires substantial financial investment, with costs ranging from 2,000,000 (two million rupiah) to 30,000,000 (thirty million rupiah), depending on the extent of modifications made, including engine upgrades.
3. **Education:** Education plays a crucial role in shaping individuals, especially adults who participate in illegal racing in the Barru District. Those with proper education have the potential to contribute positively to society. Knowledge is a key factor in understanding the consequences of illegal racing, and this should be prioritized over other factors. Acquiring skills through both formal education and life experience is vital for success in the future. As one individual expressed, "Education is number one for me for the future."
4. **Instinct:** Youth in Barru District continue to be drawn to wild racing, maintaining a loyal fan base. Their motivation stems from a deep interest in the automotive world and a desire to enhance the performance of their vehicles through various modifications. Additionally, the desire for fame plays a significant role, as being part of a motorcycle group and participating in illegal races is often seen as

"cool" by peers. For many, the thrill of beating competitors in races, whether on similar or different motorcycles, provides a unique sense of satisfaction.

The police force has taken several measures to curb illegal racing in Barru Regency. In response to the growing number of illegal races, the police have conducted crackdowns on participants and imposed sanctions on those who violate regulations. This includes penalizing illegal racing exhausts that disrupt the peace of local neighborhoods. In some cases, the police have broken up illegal races, particularly those involving teenagers.

3.3. Types of police measures used to deal with illegal racing cases

The development of previous cases reveals that illegal racing is a significant issue in Barru District and several other areas. Some locations, such as Lalolang Sub-district, Tanete Rilau Sub-district, and others in Barru, have become notorious as "Kawasan Balapan Liar" (Illegal Racing Areas). These areas are often chosen for illegal racing because they offer favorable conditions, such as ramps, good asphalt, and a lack of supervision from formal security forces. Although it is challenging to eliminate illegal racing, the police continue to conduct operations to prevent such activities. Additionally, local residents have begun to recognize the problem and are now actively involved in supporting the efforts of the police. One of the main strategies the community and non-official institutions use to monitor illegal racing activities is regular nightly security patrols. These patrols are organized throughout Lalolang Kelurahan, as the area is well known for being a hotspot for illegal races. The police use patrol cars to maintain peace in the area, starting at 10:30 PM and continuing until the entire area has been circled. Once the patrol is complete, the police car repeats the route to ensure thorough coverage. In addition to the patrols, officers actively engage with local teenagers, adults, and groups suspected of participating in illegal races. They do not hesitate to approach and interact with individuals involved in the racing community. The police also focus on clearing vehicles parked on the side of the road that block sidewalks and disrupt traffic flow.

The efforts are led by Ipda Azriel Alie Ibrahim Munandar, S.Tr.K, and his team, who conduct direct inspections in the neighborhood to assess the situation and ensure the local community's safety. One of the key actions taken by the police is the closure of roads frequently used for illegal racing. This measure has yielded positive results, as it directly disrupts the activities of those involved in illegal races. While non-formal organizations play a role in policing, the police, as the formal security institution, continue to carry out their duties, including preventive measures and case handling related to illegal racing. The police work closely with community members, schools, youth groups, and local organizations to report illegal racing activities. They also conduct socialization campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal racing. In addition, the police impose strict sanctions on those involved in illegal racing, creating a deterrent effect that discourages participation, whether actively or passively.

IV. Conclusion

The explanations above demonstrate that the local police have implemented a variety of law enforcement efforts to address illegal racing in Barru Regency. These efforts include raids and the organization of official racing licenses as a legitimate alternative. The primary goal is to reduce the frequency of illegal racing, which jeopardizes the safety of residents and endangers the lives of the racers themselves. By offering official racing licenses, the police allow motorcycle racing enthusiasts to compete legally and in a controlled environment. Data also highlights the negative consequences of unofficial racing, particularly in terms of personal and public safety. It is hoped that with these official licenses, motorcycle racers can enjoy their sport safely and regulated, rather than endangering others and themselves by racing on public roads. In addition to police actions, neighborhood security efforts have proven highly effective in curbing illegal racing. At certain times of the day, local security personnel conduct patrols in areas known for illegal racing activities.

Complaints from residents disturbed by the dangers posed by illegal racing have prompted police action. Once the police intervened, the previously designated illegal racing venues were no longer used for such activities. The local community expressed satisfaction as the noise from racing motorcycles ceased, and the roads were safer for everyone. However, while the police and local security forces have made significant progress, their efforts cannot succeed without the support of the community. Residents must work together with security forces to maintain safety and order in Barru District and help reduce illegal racing. Community members play a crucial role in sharing information about illegal racing activities and supporting law enforcement efforts. Collaborative action between the community and security personnel is essential to achieving lasting success in tackling illegal racing.

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