

Good Cops Only At Game



«Oh God, is there no redress? No peace, no justice in this land for us?» *Ida B. Wells-Barnett, 1862-1931*

#GoodCopsOnlyAtGame



**Recruiting fans and athletes to reduce the harm of
police violence before it happens**

De-escalate with #GoodCopsOnlyAtGame

Understanding #GCOaG in 200 words

GCOaG, a global campaign, strives to create better community cohesion and stronger partnerships between all the people of a community. GCOaG recognizes that a law enforcement officer is an important part of a community, just as is the civilian population.

The other essential components of GCOaG are the games, which enhance the quality of life by showcasing performers—athletes, in this case. The venues of competition are a meeting place, and officers are paid to be there to keep the public safe.

The disturbance in the triadic partnership happens when a police action of a violent nature leads to an accusation of misconduct. GCOaG incentivizes an officer to avoid taking extreme measures at the front end of an encounter with a suspect.

The best scenario is that after an encounter both the civilian and the officer are safe.

An accusation of excessive force, police brutality, or related misconduct disqualifies an officer from game-day security assignments (until the charge is resolved).

Sports fans can influence their favorite player, team, or arena management by insisting on «Good Cops Only at Game» in communications to them. An officer can return to game-day duty if cleared of misconduct, whether criminal or civil in nature.

FAQ

[Click the link to go directly to Questions from police families or Questions from racialized communities.](#) You may submit your questions or comments by clicking [here](#).

1. How many cases of police brutality are there?

Mapping Police Violence reports that U.S. police killed 1,127 people in 2020. In 2020, there are only 18 days on which police did not kill someone, according to the group. Follow this MappingPoliceViolence.org link for updates and individual case details, such as manner of death after a police encounter.

According to Mapping Police Violence:

Only 1 of the 100 largest city police departments **did not kill anyone** from Jan 2013 - Dec 2020 (Irvine, CA).

2. What is the form of this project? Is it on social media or is it an organization?

#GoodCopsOnlyAtGame is a public campaign. The organizing can be done on social media, but the impact of #GCOaG will be felt on the ground in the sports venues. The foundational idea is simple: People who support a sports personality or a team can contact the organization to demand a certain level of behavior from officers who work at events. That means a clean record on brutality against civilians. The public that pays for sports-event tickets can insist that only officers who are not facing charges or being investigated for alleged brutality qualify to work security at the game. In the time of Covid 19 and closed arenas, the public that buys online access to events can also influence which officers are employed at events.

After an accusation is investigated and settled, **any cleared officer** is again qualified for sports-event security.

3. Why use sports as the channel?

«I understand the feelings most athletes have for the places that raised them. I'm calling on the athletes to join GCOaG, especially if their fans ask them to help,» explains GCOaG co-creator Nita Wiggins. «Consider that an officer can beat up someone from a struggling community on Tuesday, maybe kill a person on video, and can make money from the same community at the professional sports game on the weekend. It is obscene.»

Wiggins spent over 25 years in the sports environment as the daughter of a volunteer coach, as a childhood basketball player, and as a sports journalist who reached the top leagues—the NBA, NFL, major league baseball.

«I have been in many homes in different U.S. states where families that are economically behind have produced a superstar. If those families were not able to nurture and grow the superstars, there wouldn't be people playing the games at the highest levels.

«Those stars cannot pull everyone up with them to earn rich contracts, but they can influence what's happening back home. Their influence and the influence of their fans can make the streets safer from police violence with this incentive to de-escalate the violence.

«Many top athletes come from communities that resemble the communities I have seen in the police videos. I want a solution that lets people—meaning, officers and civilians—know that they live interrelated lives and that the success of one relates to the success of the other.»

Questions from Police Families

4. Can people in the public really determine which officers can work at the game?

Yes, they can. If people in the public inform the management of their favorite team or at their arena that they do not feel safe that an accused officer is working the game. By

letting their view be known, people in the public can influence the arena management. A wise management team at the sports venue and within the front office of the sports franchise will follow the public sentiment. **To disqualify an officer until he or she is accusation-free is a safety measure that responsive businesses would provide to customers.**

An officer found to have committed the offense is disqualified. That is the incentive for the officer to avoid extreme physical measures.

5. Would you define excessive force / police brutality / misconduct and shield laws?

Text published on the Human Rights Watch website, hrw.org, defines the terms. «Police brutality is one of the most serious, enduring, and divisive human rights violations in the United States. The excessive use of force by police officers, including unjustified shootings, severe beatings, fatal choking, and rough treatment, persists because overwhelming barriers to accountability make it possible for officers who commit human rights violations to escape due punishment and often to repeat their offenses.»

Human Rights Watch also states: «Under state laws, police officers who use excessive force may be prosecuted on general assault, murder, or other relevant charges.» According to international human-rights treaties, police abuse and police brutality is the excessive use of force by police officers.

On the **federal side**, Title 18 of the United States' Code (Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act) and Americans with Disabilities Act statute are the **major laws** that can help victims of police brutality in the U.S.

Other details regarding the U.S. are located at this link to the U.S. Justice Department. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/addressing-police-misconduct-laws-enforced-department-justice>

Now, **shield laws**. Human Rights Watch defines shield laws as «federal and state legal immunities that protect law enforcement officers from liability, as well as laws that keep police misconduct records inaccessible to the public.» Changing shield laws is number 14 on the recommendation list published by Human Rights Watch.

On the other side of shield laws, the **Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights** (written as LEOBR and LEOBoR) is intended to protect American law-enforcement personnel from investigation and prosecution arising from conduct during official performance of their duties. It provides them with privileges based on due process additional to those normally provided to other citizens. (Excerpted from change.org.)

6. Will foul, racial, or gender-based insults be considered misconduct? And does the incident have to involve a person of color?

No to both. GCOaG focuses on life-and-death situations, not rude language.

7. Is GCOaG afraid of creating a police-versus-civilian opposition?

No. GCOaG is positive incentive program to remind the good officer to de-escalate, to maintain a level of authority without extreme actions that harm somebody. GCOaC stresses the partnership that exists between a police officer and civilians in his area of protection. When policing runs smoothly, confrontations might not turn physical during an

encounter. Social cohesion could instead develop in which the officer and the civilian attend the same community events.

As the statistics show, the victim of police violence is not at the sporting event—because he is hospitalized or dead. But the police officer might be working at the event, earning a paycheck from 1) a sports franchise, 2) a city government that operates the venue, or 3) a restaurant or food vendor or other sales enterprise located in the arena. The idea of GCOaG emphasizes the community-wide partnership in which everybody is safe and can go to the game, if desired.

Questions from the Civilian Community

8. How can boycotting police officers from sports really make a difference?

It is not boycotting police. It is disqualifying a law-enforcement officer from a game-day security assignment if he is facing an accusation of brutality.

The incentive of working at the game is the magic button. That's the best part of GCOaG because it costs the community no money to increase the level of safety. There is no necessary retraining of officers. If managers (whether sports team or arena) choose to follow the GCOaG principle, they will not hire an officer charged with police brutality. *Sports-team management or venue management can side with its public that an accused officer is not qualified to keep the public safe at the game, until the charge is cleared.*

GCOaG co-creator Wiggins linked sports events with police actions because the two have always been linked. «I've covered sports since the late 1970s. I know that an overwhelming number of people who are successful in sports come from communities similar to those of the victims of police violence—the victims we have seen on video. «It is a sad commentary, but some officers would be more concerned about losing game-day privileges and the extra paycheck than they would be backing down from injuring someone unnecessarily.

«GCOaG puts the idea in the mind of the officer: *'If I use excessive force against this civilian today, (on, say, a Tuesday), I could be charged for misconduct. So, I will be off the list to work at the game on Saturday.'* And, the officer might also reflect: *'If I do nothing and let my colleague use excessive force against this civilian today, I will be off the list to work at the game on Saturday.'*

«Before the officer goes to the extreme or allows his partner to do the same, in his head he can consider: *'If I remain at a level of authority and do not push this to the extreme, I am not risking my side job at the game. As planned, I'll get that extra paycheck, I'll get to eat a free meal in the media room, and I'll get to watch the sports stars play the game.'*»

The messaging the officer can hear in his own mind is to de-escalate the interaction, reduce the harm to the suspect, and work at the upcoming game.

9. Is the movement applicable in France?

Yes, it can be applied anywhere that followers of sports, athletes, and any type of fan gathering decide that they do not support events where an officer is accused of excessive force (or related charges) is working. It's applicable anywhere people buy tickets to attend an event where there will be officers providing security. In the time of Covid 19, GCOaG gives people the same power over events where the public pays for online access because officers are still hired for some roles. **As consumers, the followers of sports,**

athletes, and any type of fan group can influence the operation of the business by expressing their safety concerns.

What are your questions and comments?

How to help. Click here to join us.

More information

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the "OJP Program Statute"

Together, these laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and religion by State and local law enforcement agencies that receive financial assistance from DOJ. (42 U.S.C. § 2000d, *et seq.* and 34 U.S.C. § 10228). These laws prohibit both individual instances and patterns or practices of discriminatory misconduct, *i.e.*, treating a person differently because of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion. The misconduct covered by Title VI and the OJP (Office of Justice Programs) Program Statute includes, for example, harassment or use of racial slurs, discriminatory arrests, discriminatory traffic stops, coercive sexual conduct, retaliation for filing a complaint with DOJ or participating in the investigation, discriminatory use of force, or refusal by the agency to respond to complaints alleging discriminatory treatment by its officers.

"It is a crime for one or more persons acting under color of law willfully to deprive or conspire to deprive another person of any right protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States. (18 U.S.C. §§ 241, 242).

Excerpts from the HRW document called *Shielded from Justice: Police Brutality and Accountability in the United States*.

- Under state laws, police officers who use excessive force may be prosecuted on general assault, murder, or other relevant charges.
- Civil lawsuits alleging police misconduct are often "settled" by the city, prior to a trial; in most cases, the city and police department admit no liability but pay the plaintiffs to avoid a full trial. Such is the case with the announced \$27 million settlement by the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to be paid to the survivors of murder victim George Floyd's family.
- <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org>