

Efforts by Law Enforcement Officers to Prevent Illegal Racing that Disturb Order in The Jurisdiction of The Pekalongan City Police

Ridho Tri Wicaksono

Law Science, Faculty of Law and Politic Science, Universitas Muhammadiyah
Surakarta

C100210378@student.ums.ac.id

Indah Maulani, S.H., M.H.

Law Science, Faculty of Law and Politic Science, Universitas Muhammadiyah
Surakarta

im295@ums.ac.id

Abstract

This study discusses the phenomenon of illegal racing in the road area towards the interchange Pekalongan Toll Road, Pekalongan City. This activity violates traffic laws and endangers the safety of road users. This study aims to analyze law enforcement against illegal racing perpetrators and assess the effectiveness of prevention efforts by law enforcement officers. This study uses an empirical juridical approach with a qualitative descriptive method to analyze law enforcement against illegal street racing in Pekalongan City. Data were gathered through interviews at the Pekalongan City District Police, direct observation at the research location, and literature studies, then analyzed qualitatively. The results of the study indicate that police efforts through patrols, enforcement, and socialization still face obstacles, such as limited personnel, low legal awareness, environmental influences, and minimal family supervision, so that synergy between various parties is needed.

Keywords: Illegal Racing; Law Enforcement; Traffic Violations.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as a country that places law as the primary foundation of national and state life, has established itself as a constitutional state. In this context, law plays a crucial role in creating order, security, and legal certainty for every citizen. Law serves not merely as a set of norms governing societal behavior, but also as a tool to maintain a balance between individual and societal interests in social interactions. Amidst the dynamics of social life, the existence of law is essential to regulate various human

activities, including in the transportation and traffic management . Traffic is a crucial element supporting community mobility and the smooth flow of economic and social activities. This is supported by the need for clear and firm legal regulations to create an orderly, safe, and smooth traffic situation. Without proper regulation, the possibility of violations and disturbances on the highway will increase. However, in practice, there are still many cases of traffic violations, demonstrating a lack of public compliance with existing laws. These violations are not only caused by weak law enforcement but also influenced by the public's low legal awareness regarding traffic. Indifference to regulations, lack of discipline, and a disorderly driving culture are factors that worsen traffic situations in various locations. One type of traffic violation that frequently occurs and is in the spotlight is illegal racing. This activity not only violates existing legal regulations, but also poses a significant risk to the safety of other road users and disrupts public order. The existence of illegal racing on the highway reflects the gap between established legal regulations and community behavior that occurs in the field, thus requiring more attention in terms of law enforcement and developing traffic behavior. (1)

One area requiring clear legal regulations and strong and effective enforcement is the transportation sector, particularly in the context of road traffic. Road traffic encompasses all movement activities involving motorized vehicles, non-motorized vehicles, and pedestrians who utilize road space for mobility. The existence of road traffic is crucial in supporting the movement of people, the delivery of goods and services, and supporting various economic and social activities. Therefore, an orderly, safe, and secure traffic situation is a fundamental element that cannot be ignored in community life.

However, in its implementation, traffic regulation on the highway still faces a number of obstacles, especially the high level of violations committed by road users. If this situation is not addressed seriously through strict regulations and continuous law enforcement, it can result in various problems, such as congestion, increased accidents, and disruption of public order. Therefore, the role of the law is needed not only as a repressive measure, but also as a preventative measure, in order to build a more orderly, safe, and sustainable highway traffic system. Therefore, these problems are not only caused by the increasing number of vehicles, but are also greatly influenced by the

attitudes of road users who often ignore existing regulations. Low legal awareness and minimal discipline in traffic are the main causes that worsen the situation. Traffic violations can appear in various ways, from not using safety equipment such as helmets, violating road signs and markings, to carrying out actions that can endanger the safety of other road users. One violation that often occurs in a number of cities in Indonesia is illegal racing. This activity not only violates the law, but also poses a high risk to public safety and disrupts order in the surrounding area. (2)

Illegal racing is a type of motor vehicle competition that takes place on highways without permission from the authorities and without considering driving safety. This activity is usually carried out by groups of people with the intention of demonstrating vehicle speed and driving skills. These races often take place at night or early morning, when traffic is relatively light, so the participants consider it safe to participate. The phenomenon of illegal racing not only disrupts public order but also poses a significant risk of traffic accidents that can endanger the public. The high speeds of vehicles used in illegal racing increase the chance of accidents, both involving the perpetrators and other road users. Furthermore, the vehicles used are usually modified beyond the technical and safety standards set by applicable regulations. This situation indicates that illegal racing is a serious traffic problem that impacts not only the legal aspect but also social aspects and public safety. Therefore, serious attention is needed from law enforcement and community involvement to prevent and address this activity. This needs to be done not only with a firm legal approach but also with preventative measures such as education and increasing legal awareness, especially among teenagers, who are the group most involved in illegal racing. Normatively, provisions regarding road traffic and transportation have been regulated in Law Number 22 of 2009 concerning Road Traffic and Transportation. This regulation states that every individual who drives a motorized vehicle on the road must follow traffic regulations and prioritize safety aspects when driving. If there is a violation of this provision, the violator can be subject to criminal penalties or administrative sanctions in accordance with applicable provisions. Therefore, illegal racing activities carried out on public roads are basically unlawful acts and can be subject to sanctions in accordance with statutory regulations. (3)

However, in practice, the phenomenon of illegal racing is still frequently encountered in various locations in Indonesia. This indicates that existing regulations to regulate traffic are not yet fully effective in preventing such violations. One of the causes of illegal racing is low legal awareness among the public, especially among teenagers. Many people involved in illegal racing are young teenagers and view this activity as a means of entertainment or an opportunity to show off their courage and driving skills. In addition to legal awareness, support from the social environment is also a factor that encourages illegal racing. (4)

In some cases, illegal racing has even become an organized activity with spectators and betting parties. This situation can certainly worsen the social effects caused by illegal racing activities, because it not only involves the racers, but also the public who watch the event. (5) Illegal racing incidents also often occur in the city of Pekalongan. This city, which is known as one of the centers of economic and trade activities in the Central Java region, has a fairly high level of community mobility. This condition also affects the dynamics of traffic in the area. In recent years, illegal racing has often occurred on several points on roads that are straight and relatively quiet at night. One location that is often used for illegal racing is the road leading to the Pekalongan Toll Road Interchange. The long, straight road and low traffic volume at night make this area a frequent destination for youths to engage in illegal street racing. This activity is usually carried out in groups, involving several motorized vehicles modified to increase speed.

Based on data from the police, a number of motor vehicles have been secured in various enforcement operations carried out by the Pekalongan City Police. These enforcement operations were carried out as an effort to reduce the number of traffic violations and maintain public security and order. In addition to taking action against drivers involved in illegal racing, the police also implemented a number of preventive measures to avoid a recurrence of such activities. (6) In terms of law enforcement, the police play an important role in maintaining public safety and order. This is as regulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police, which states that the police have the main task of maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, guidance and services to the community. (7)

Thus, handling the phenomenon of illegal racing is the responsibility of the police in carrying out law enforcement functions in traffic areas. Efforts to overcome illegal racing are basically not only carried out through legal action against the perpetrators. Handling this issue also requires a more comprehensive approach through a combination of preventive and repressive measures simultaneously. Preventive measures can be carried out through routine patrol activities, public outreach regarding the importance of driving safety, and cooperation with various parties such as local governments, schools, and community groups. In addition, a persuasive approach to teenagers is also an important strategy in efforts to prevent illegal racing (8). In this case, it must be remembered that many people involved in illegal racing are teenagers who are in the process of finding their identity. In this phase, teenagers are usually very curious, have a drive to be accepted by friends, and tend to try new, challenging experiences. This situation is often exploited in illegal racing as a way to demonstrate courage, ability, and existence in front of peers. Illegal racing is not only a traffic violation, but has become a social phenomenon that involves psychological factors and the adolescent's social environment. In addition to considerations of age and psychological development, adolescent involvement in illegal racing is also impacted by an unsupportive social environment. The influence of peers plays a significant role in shaping adolescent behavior, where group pressure often encourages individuals to engage in risky activities.

On the other hand, lack of parental supervision and limited opportunities to channel talents positively also increase the likelihood of teenagers becoming involved in illegal racing. This shows that the phenomenon of illegal racing cannot be separated from the underlying social conditions. In addition, low legal awareness among the public, especially among teenagers, is also one of the causes of the high number of illegal racing cases. Many perpetrators are not yet fully aware that this activity is a violation of the law that can be subject to sanctions, both criminal and administrative. This lack of understanding shows that the aspect of legal education still needs to be improved as part of prevention efforts. The problem of illegal racing is also related to challenges in law enforcement in the field. Although there are regulations regarding traffic and driving safety, their implementation often faces various problems. This shows that handling

illegal racing is not only a normative issue, but also related to social, cultural, and institutional aspects. (9)

Based on the above background, this study was conducted to analyze the efforts made by police officers to prevent illegal racing within the jurisdiction of the Pekalongan City Police Department. Furthermore, this study also aims to identify various obstacles faced by police officers in the process of enforcing the law against illegal racing violations. This research is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of efforts to combat illegal racing and contribute to the development of traffic law enforcement policies.

METHOD

This study uses an empirical juridical method to investigate the application of law in everyday life, particularly regarding the enforcement of the law against illegal racing. The research used a qualitative descriptive approach, aiming to systematically describe the police's efforts to combat illegal racing in Pekalongan City. The research was conducted within the jurisdiction of the Pekalongan City Police, specifically along the access road leading to the Pekalongan Toll Road interchange which is often used for illegal racing.

The research data was obtained through interviews with police officers at the Pekalongan City Police, direct observation at locations where illegal racing activities occurred, and a literature review of relevant laws and regulations. The collected data was then analyzed using a qualitative approach while linking actual findings in the field with applicable laws and regulations.(10)

DISCUSSION RESULTS

1. Police Efforts to Prevent Illegal Racing in Pekalongan City

Illegal racing is a form of traffic violation that not only disrupts public order but can also lead to incidents that threaten public safety. In law enforcement, the police play a crucial role in protecting public order and security, including preventing and handling illegal racing activities.

Based on research conducted within the jurisdiction of the Pekalongan City

Police, it was discovered that the police have taken various strategic measures to prevent illegal racing. These efforts are carried out using a preventative and enforcement approach to create a safe and orderly traffic situation. The preventive approach aims to prevent violations before they occur, while the repressive approach is carried out through legal action against perpetrators proven to have committed traffic violations. (11)

1.1. Routine Patrols as a Preventive Measure

One approach police take to stop illegal racing is to conduct regular patrols in locations deemed at risk of such activity. According to research, these patrols are generally conducted at night and early morning, when traffic is relatively light, often exploited by perpetrators to conduct illegal racing on public roads. The road leading to the Pekalongan Toll Road Interchange is a place often used by young people for illegal racing, so this condition indicates the need for stricter supervision and law enforcement to avoid potential violations and risks to the safety of road users. (12) The characteristics of the road are straight, wide, and relatively few vehicles at night make this area considered a perfect location for illegal motor vehicle racing. The results of the study indicate that the presence of police officers through routine patrol activities has a significant influence in suppressing the potential for illegal racing. Regular patrols can provide a preventative effect because the perpetrators become more careful and tend to change their minds when they know they are being monitored by police officers. From the perspective of law enforcement theory put forward by Soerjono Soekanto, the effectiveness of law enforcement is influenced by several factors, including legal factors, law enforcement agency factors, facilities and infrastructure factors, community factors, and legal norms factors. In the context of handling illegal racing, regular patrol activities can be understood as one of the efforts of law enforcement agencies to increase their supervisory role towards the community in order to prevent violations of the law. (13)

1.2. Law Enforcement and Order Operations

In addition to conducting routine patrols, police officers also carry out periodic traffic enforcement operations. These operations are carried out with the aim of directly taking action against traffic violators, including those involved in illegal racing activities. Based on data obtained from the Pekalongan City Police. A number of vehicles involved in illegal racing activities were successfully confiscated in various law enforcement operations carried out between 2024 and 2025. The vehicles confiscated have usually been modified in a manner that does not comply with the technical provisions for motor vehicles regulated by law. Legal action against illegal racing perpetrators is carried out based on the provisions of Law No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation. (14)

The law states that everyone driving a motorized vehicle on the road is required to obey traffic regulations and prioritize the safety of other road users. In everyday practice, police can take various legal steps against those involved in illegal racing, such as imposing fines for traffic violations, confiscating vehicles used for illegal racing, and providing guidance to minors. Research shows that this legal action plays an important role in providing a deterrent effect on perpetrators.

With the existence of strict legal sanctions, it is hoped that the public will become more aware of the importance of obeying traffic regulations and understand that illegal racing activities are illegal acts. From the perspective of criminal law theory, the enforcement of sanctions for violations of the law functions as a deterrent and also a remedy. The purpose of remedy is to punish individuals involved in violations, while the purpose of prevention is to prevent the public from repeating similar violations in the future. (13)

1.3. Traffic Safety Socialization and Education

In addition to law enforcement, the police also conduct a number of outreach and educational activities for the community as a way to prevent illegal racing. These activities are usually aimed at various community

groups, particularly students and motorcycle riding communities. Research shows that the majority of illegal racers are teenagers, who tend to have a low understanding of the law. Therefore, an educational approach is considered an effective method to prevent youth involvement in illegal racing activities. Through outreach activities, police officers provide an understanding of the importance of traffic safety and explain the various risks that can arise (15) from illegal racing activities. In addition, the public is also given an understanding of the legal provisions governing traffic violations and the sanctions that can be imposed on perpetrators. This educational approach is in line with the concept of crime prevention with a social approach that highlights the importance of legal education for the community. By increasing legal understanding among the public, it is hoped that the possibility of traffic violations can be reduced. (13)

2. Obstacles in Combating Illegal Racing

Although various efforts have been made by the police to tackle illegal racing, research results show that there are still several obstacles that affect the effectiveness of these efforts.

2.1. Structural Barriers

Structural barriers relate to institutional aspects, regulations, and the applicable law enforcement system. Based on the research results, structural barriers to handling illegal racing in Pekalongan City are relatively insignificant because the police have a clear legal basis for taking action against traffic violations. Law No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation authorizes police officers to supervise and take action against various forms of traffic violations. With this legal basis, police officers can carry out their law enforcement functions more effectively.

Furthermore, cooperation between the police and other agencies, such as the Transportation Agency and local governments, has also been running smoothly. This collaboration has been carried out through traffic monitoring activities and enforcement operations in various locations prone to traffic

violations.

However, the limited number of police personnel to carry out continuous supervision throughout the Pekalongan City area is still one of the obstacles faced in tackling illegal racing. (16)

2.2.Sociological Barriers

The biggest obstacle to overcoming illegal racing in Pekalongan City is largely due to social factors related to citizen behavior. According to research, a lack of legal awareness among young people is one of the main reasons why illegal racing continues to occur frequently. Most illegal racers view the activity as a form of entertainment or a way to demonstrate courage and driving skills. In some cases, illegal racing has even become part of the culture of certain groups among young people. In addition to legal awareness, the influence of their social environment also contributes to youth involvement in illegal racing.

Peer pressure often makes individuals feel compelled to participate in these activities to be accepted within their social circle. Another factor contributing to illegal racing is the element of betting or prestige among the participants. In some cases, illegal racing is not only a speed contest but also involves betting money or valuables. Lack of family supervision is also a factor influencing adolescent involvement in illegal racing.

Many parents are unaware that their children are involved in these activities because illegal racing activities usually take place at night. This finding shows that tackling illegal racing cannot rely solely on a law enforcement approach. In this case, a more comprehensive approach is needed, involving many parties, such as families, schools, and the community. With solid collaboration between the police, educational institutions, and the community, it is hoped that efforts to tackle illegal racing will be more successful and able to create a more orderly and safe driving culture in the community. (16)

CONCLUSION

Based on the research and discussion conducted, it can be concluded that efforts to address illegal racing within the jurisdiction of the Pekalongan City Police are carried out through preventive measures and enforcement. Preventive measures are implemented through regular patrols during times considered high-risk for illegal racing, particularly from night to early morning. These patrols are placed at several points frequently used for illegal street racing, such as the Pekalongan City District Police Station and the Pekalongan Toll Road interchange. The presence of police officers at the location has proven to be effective in preventing illegal racing on public roads, reducing the opportunity for perpetrators to engage in illegal racing.

In addition to routine patrols, police also conduct traffic enforcement operations to enforce the law against violations. During these operations, the police have the right to take action against drivers who disobey traffic regulations, seize vehicles that do not meet technical requirements, and provide guidance to underage illegal racers. These actions are carried out in accordance with Law No. 22 of 2009 concerning Road Traffic and Transportation.

In addition to law enforcement, the police also conduct outreach to the public, particularly students and motorcycle communities, to raise legal awareness and road safety. However, preventing illegal racing still faces social challenges, such as a lack of legal awareness among young people, the impact of social environments, and a lack of family supervision. Therefore, successful efforts to combat illegal racing require collaboration between police, families, and the community to foster a culture of orderly traffic.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Ridwan Syaidi Tarigan. Menuju Negara Hukum Yang Berkeadilan. 2024.
2. Rudolf Silaban Indah Malau Pase. Tinjauan Yuridis Sanksi Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Pelanggaran Lalu Lintas Menurut Undang- Undang Nomor 22 Tahun 2009 Tentang Lalu Lintas Dan Angkutan Jalan. 2021.

3. Setyawan Nugroho Awnaa. Penanggulangan Balapan Liar Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 22 Tahun 2009: Studi Kasus Polresta Palangka Raya. 2025.
4. Anisa Auliasari I D I. Penanggulangan Pelanggaran Lalu Lintas Balap Liar Melalui Patroli Lalu Lintas Oleh Kepolisian Resor Magetan. 2022.
5. Hendra Prabowo I, Prio A, Santoso A, Artikel I. Upaya Penegakan Hukum Balap Liar Di Kota Surakarta Jawa Tengah (Studi Kasus : Satlantas Polresta Surakarta) Llegal Racing Law Enforcement Efforts In The City Of Surakarta, Central Java (Case Study: Surakarta Police Traffic Unit). Equality : Journal Of Law And Justice. 2024. Report.
6. Barda Nawawi Arief. Masalah Penegakan Hukum Dan Kebijakan Hukum Pidana Dalam Penanggulangan Kejahatan. 2014.
7. Bayu Kurniansyah. Peran Kepolisian Dalam Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Balapan Liar Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Demak. 2024.
8. Soerjono Soekanto. Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum. Rajawali Pers; 2021.
9. Yusuf Novendra A, Listyarini D, Saputra A. Penegakan Hukum Undang-Undang Nomor 22 Tahun 2009 Terhadap Balap Liar Remaja Di Kabupaten Kudus. Vol. 14. 2024;14(Mei):110–22.
10. Nanda Dwi Rizkia Hf. Metode Penelitian Hukum (Normatif Dan Empiris). Widina Media Utama; 2023.
11. Satriady Vergino Setiawan Dnac. Efektivitas Patroli Aparat Kepolisian Sebagai Upaya Pencegahan Balap Liar Di Wilayah Hukum Polresta Kota Bengkulu. 2025.
12. Bahrani S. Peran Sat Binmas Dalam Mencegah Tindak Pidana Anak Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Pekalongan. Indonesian Journal Of Police Studies. 2017. Report.
13. Ipda Jamari Kgsppk. Wawancara Pribadi. 2026 Jan 12.
14. Ni Putu Krisna Dewi Nprykfd. Implementasi Undang-Undang Nomor 22 Tahun 2009 Tentang Lalu Lintas Dan Angkutan Jalan Terhadap Penegakan Hukum Pelaku Balapan Liar Di Kabupaten Jembrana. 2022.
15. Hukum P, Liar Pb, Kepolisian P, Terciptanya T, Umum K, Sarifah N, Et Al. Penegakan Hukum Pidana Balap Liar Oleh Pihak Kepolisian Terhadap Terciptanya Ketertiban Umum Criminal Law Enforcement Of Wild Racing By The Police Towards The Creation

Of Public Order. Jurnal Usm Law Review. 2025;8.

16. Wawancara Dengan Petugas Satlantas Polres Pekalongan Kota. Hasil Observasi Dan Wawancara Langsung . 2025 Aug 5.