The exhibition “The Black Shin League and the standing up to racism in football” tells the story of men that fought for their right to participate in official championships in the city of Porto Alegre, in the 1920’s:

In the end of the 1910’s decade, the Nacional Football League of Porto Alegre was established to gather football teams formed by black people, as a reaction to the actions of segregation by the Metropolitan League (of “white teams”) that rejected the joining of “Rio-Grandense” (a “black team”) to their association. Formed mostly by teams who were hindered from participating in “white teams”, the League of Porto Alegre ended up known, pejoratively, as “The Black Shin League”. The League reached its peak of recognition in the 1920’s, gathering teams as Bento Gonçalves, Rio-randense, Primavera, Primeiro de Novembro, Oito de Setembro União, Palmeiras, Aquidabã e Venezianos, reaching a total of nine clubs.

During the 1920’s the Metropolitan League created its second division (“the soap league”), absorbing the youngest and best players, which caused the Black Shin League to disappear in the 1930’s (possibly until 1933, when professional football started in the region).

Prof. Dr. José Ântonio dos Santos