

Ethics and Sport

By the end of this unit you will have learnt about.

- You should be able to apply practical examples to these concepts
- You should know the reasons why sports performers use drugs
- You should know which drugs performers use and the effects they have on the body
- You should know the reasons for player violence and give practical examples of violence

Being ethical in sports is to play by the rules and to show high moral standards in your behaviour. Sport is supposed to be a fair activity, with everyone having equal opportunity to apply their abilities in whatever activity they are performing. Three aspects that affect ethics in sport are sportsmanship, gamesmanship and deviance.

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Describe what sportsmanship is
Describe what gamesmanship is
Describe what deviance is 3/4

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Explain the difference between sportsmanship & gamesmanship offering practical examples of each 5/6

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Discuss the importance of sportsmanship/ethics within sport

Discuss why gamesmanship & deviance in sport occur 7/8+

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship involves fairness and generosity. Those who show good sportsmanship stick to the rules and regulations but also show that they can lose gracefully and with good humour.

If you compete in an activity it is often good to shake hands with the opposition or opponent before and after the game.

If you accidentally hurt or injure an opponent you would show good sportsmanship by seeing that persons well being as a priority rather than winning the game.

In exercise generally there are good manners in using facilities and equipment. For example, if you are working out in a gym you return the free weights back on the rack after you have used them. If you use exercise equipment then it is good etiquette to towel down the machine you have used to remove your sweat.

Exam Definition:

Sportsmanship- This involves behaviour that shows fair play, respect for opponents and gracious behaviour, whether winning or losing.

Etiquette- This is about the customs we observe surrounding the rules and regulations of the physical activity and also about what is socially acceptable in a particular culture. It involves a convention or an accepted way of behaving in a particular situation.

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Examples in sport

Sportsmanship associated in Cricket

Cricket has always been seen as the gentleman's game and that means there are certain traditions of the game that should be respected. Here a few some examples of good etiquette.

Walk when you are out-Sadly this is a tradition that has gone out of the game at the highest level. But there will be times when you know you've got an edge through to the wicketkeeper that the umpire has missed. Weather you own up and walk is your decision, but it is regarded as good etiquette to walk.



*"I was taught as a kid always respect the opposition first and celebrate after, which I did. I went over to Brett Lee and shook his hand .
(Andrew Flintoff)*

[Famous handshake](#)

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Examples of Sportsmanship in Rugby



It is tradition that the winning side clap off the losing side and they form a tunnel

Shaking hands before & after a game is an important part of showing respect to the opponent and your opposite number.



Rugby is famous for showing respect to the officials. Only the referee can talk when having conversations with players. The captains are the only players who can approach the referee. They must call the referee 'sir'

[Joe Marler](#)
[Referee discipline](#)
[Referee leadership](#)



General sporting rules showing sportsmanship

- Shake hands with opponent
- Shake hands of those you have played with and against
- Show concern for others when injured
- No swearing or abusive language
- Do not break the rules/law of the sport, play fairly
- Take defeat well
- Do not question officials –accept their decisions
- Congratulate opponents when they do well
- Do not over celebrate, avoid arrogance in victory
- Do not mock others ability

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Gamesmanship

In many sports competitors are seen to 'bend the rules' or to put aside sportsmanship and use gamesmanship to seek unfair advantage.

There are those who may cheat within the sports competition but in a subtle way that is difficult to control by the rules. The forward in football who dives in the penalty area to seek a penalty, the hockey player who impedes another's stick tackle, an athlete who pushes another in a middle distance race. These are all examples of gamesmanship that most people perceive to be undesirable elements in the sport. Often coaches are guilty of encouraging such behaviour and thus reinforcing the view that gamesmanship is a clever way of undermining your opponent and gaining an advantage

Key exam term- Gamesmanship is the use of unethical, although often not illegal, methods to win or gain an advantage in a game or sport.



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Examples of Gamesmanship

[Football dives](#)

[Cheating in Baseball](#)

[Ten worst cheaters](#)

[Lance Armstrong documentary](#)



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Deviance

There is a view that sport may well contribute to deviance in our society. Spectators at a sports event may be stirred to commit criminal acts by the sports spectacle. Some have the view that contact sports such as boxing or some martial arts may encourage violence and antisocial behaviour.

There are competitors in sport who use performance enhancing drugs, which is against the rules. The pressure of trying to win and have that all important edge over your opponent drives some sportspeople to take drugs to help their performance or to enable them to train more effectively. Competitors behaviour within sports events can be seen to be deviant.

Other examples of deviance in sport :

- Hooliganism
- Violence in sport
- Taking performance enhancing drugs
- Cheating
- Gambling

Key exam term- Deviance involves human behaviour that is against your society's norms and values. Behaviour of this kind is often against the law.

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Deviance in sport

Cantona Kung Fu kick







Violence in sport

The word violence is used frequently and in sport it is often used with intent to harm the opponent outside the rules of the game. In sport it is often hard to distinguish between what is violent and aggressive behaviour and what is not. A foul in Rugby may look aggressive behaviour but is actually an accident. Also what I seen as accidental on the surface may well have underlying intensions behind it.

Possible reasons for player violence

Player violence unfortunately occurs in a number of sports and can lead to injuries.

- 1) We can't help it-its an instinctive response
- 2) We get frustrated
- 3) We copy others
- 4) We simply get angry

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Violence in sport

- **Violence in sport**
- This is uncontrolled behaviour that causes physical injury. If it occurred on the streets rather than the sports field, it would be a crime.
- Some examples of player violence in sport:
- **boxing** – in the WBA Heavyweight championship fight, Mike Tyson was disqualified for biting off part of Evander Holyfield's ear
- **rugby** – in the 2015 World Cup, Argentina's Mariano Galarza was banned for eye gouging
- **football** – Francesco Totti assaulted Mario Balotelli with a career-threatening kick in 2010
- Reasons for player violence include:
- the importance of the result (money, position in league or competition, team rivalry)
- the nature of the game (contact sports are more likely to lead to violence, for example ice hockey versus bowls)
- provocation (crowd chanting abuse, 'sledging' by other players)
- disappointment or frustration (at own performance, the result or the officials' decisions)
- dehumanised view of the opposition (caused by protective helmets and clothing which turns opponents into objects rather than people to be respected)
- equipment (sports such as hockey and baseball use equipment that may be subconsciously viewed as 'weapons')
- crowd behaviour (aggression, abuse)
- emotional intensity (the 'cauldron' effect of the venue, media hype, over-intense 'psyching up' of players)

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Exam questions

Describe two practical example of sportsmanship (2)

Describe two practical example of Gamesmanship (2)

Describe four reasons why a player may become violent (4)

Explain what deviance in sport is and give 3 practical example (4)

A player kicks a ball out of play to stop the game when an opponent is injured. Is this sportsmanship or gamesmanship? (2)

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| Sportsmanship | Gamesmanship | Deviance |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Definition | Definition | Definition |

Explain sportsmanship, gamesmanship and deviance. Use practical examples in each of your explanations.

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