

## CHAPTER 11: Ethics and violence in sport

### Practice questions - text book pages 155 - 156

- 1) We often talk about sports performers playing fairly. Which of the following options best describes gamesmanship?
- playing within the written rules.
  - it's not whether you won or lost that matters, it's how you played the game.
  - the intention to compete to the limit of the rules and beyond if you can get away with it.
  - fair, generous and polite behaviour, especially when playing a sport or game.

**Answer:** c.

**Explanation:**

*Gamesmanship describes behaviour to the limit and outside the rules of sport.*

- 2) Which one of the following is not an example of sportsmanship-like behaviour?
- respect for an opponent.
  - win-at-all-costs attitude.
  - punish foul behaviour.
  - use drug testing procedures to eliminate cheats.

**Answer:** b.

- 3) The win ethic is evident in modern day elite sports. Which one of the following is an example of this ethic?
- outcomes over-ride the process of participating.
  - allow everyone to compete on a level playing field.
  - play within the spirit of the game.
  - lend a player to the opposition team who have arrived with one player short.

**Answer:** a.

**Explanation:**

*The win ethic is based on the statement 'winning isn't the most important thing – it's the only thing.'*

- 4) An example of positive deviance is:
- using bribes to influence the outcome of a match.
  - continue playing through an injury.
  - using performance enhancing drugs.
  - financial irregularities in the transferring of players.

**Answer:** b.

**Explanation:**

*Positive deviance is behaviour that is outside the norm, but with no intention to harm or break the rules.*

- 5) Which one of the following is not a strategy for preventing player violence?
- officials should include an explanation of their action.
  - the use of educational campaigns and awards, such as the Fair play Awards.
  - train officials in player management stress techniques.
  - referee ignores a confrontational incident during the match.

**Answer:** d.

- 6) Explain the concept behind the Olympic oath and discuss its relevance to contemporary Olympic Games.

4 marks

**Answer:**

*1 mark for brief interpretation of the Olympic oath.*

- The Olympic Oath is an oath of sportsmanship and fair play that respects all the rules that govern the Olympic Games.

*3 marks for three of relevance to contemporary Olympic Games.*

- Should we expect an oath in the modern world to be **binding** on all competitors?
- Will there ever be a **fair playing field** for all athletes in all sports?
- Third world developing countries may have the talent, but often lack the high tech facilities/coaching and competitive opportunities needed for global success.
- The acceptance of **professional athletes** competing against amateur athletes is never going to be a level playing field.
- **Gamesmanship** is part of modern day sport and so is in conflict with an oath of sportsmanship.
- Athletes who want to **win at any cost** may have no conscience about breaking the Olympic oath.
- There will always be cheats because of the pressure of nations to perform and the extrinsic rewards gained from success.
- Athletes with no moral scruples are not likely to be deterred from a two-year penalty from taking performance enhancing drugs.

- 7) Explain the terms positive and negative deviance giving examples in a sporting context.

4 marks

**Answer:**

- **Positive deviance** is behaviour that is outside the norm, but with no intention to harm or break the rules.
- For example, playing through an injury in the interests of the team as a whole, or alternative example.
  
- **Negative deviance** involves behaviour that fails to meet accepted norms and has a detrimental effect on individuals and on society in general.
- For example, using bribes to influence the outcome of a match, or alternative example.

8) The development of rational recreation was very much the result of Britain becoming an industrialised society.

a) Using figure 11.14, explain the characteristics of an AAA Athletics Meeting. 4 marks

**Answer:**

*4 marks for four of:*

- **Organisation:**
  - Athletics was centrally organised by a governing body – the AAA.
  - There was a club based in each major town.
  - Annual sports meetings were held in each major town.
  - National Championships were held by this time.
- **Rules:**
  - There were fully codified rules and regulations.
  - Fair-play was highly valued.
  - No wagering was allowed.
- **Amateurism:**
  - Only amateur performers were allowed.
  - Activities were based on no financial gain.
- **Activities:**
  - There was a full mixture of track, field and jumping events.
- **Gender:**
  - No female performers were allowed at this time.
- **Crowd:**
  - The crowd was orderly and well informed.
- **Regular:**

b) Describe amateurism as it concerned Track and Field Athletics towards the end of the 19th century. 4 marks

**Answer:**

*4 marks for four of:*

- **Code:**
  - The sport was no longer based on the gentleman amateur.
  - Professionals were completely banned.
  - As were people who earned their living linked with athletics or any other sport.
  - No financial gain was allowed from events.
  - Sportspeople or officials were banned if there was evidence of wagering.
  - Performers were banned if money prizes were taken.
  - They were also banned if they took part in a meeting not sanctioned by the AAA.
  - Performers would normally need to be affiliated to an amateur club.
- **Gender:**
  - Women were generally not allowed.
- **Class:**
  - Most clubs were open to working class males.

**figure 11.14 – the AAA championships 1870**



9) Sportsmanship and gamesmanship are two opposites. Explain the differences between the two in a game of your choice.

6 marks

**Answer:**

*Including an example in a game:*

**Sportsmanship:**

- Playing to the rules of the game.
- Playing to the spirit of the game.
- Showing goodwill.
- Retaining the ethic of **fair play**.
- Accepting the referee's decision.

**Gamesmanship:**

- Deliberately breaking the rules of play.
- Showing disregard for the spirit of the game.
- Committing a foul tackle.
- Diving.
- Swearing at the officials' decisions.

10) Explain what is meant by the term 'a contract to compete'. Describe the ways in which gamesmanship breaks this code.

5 marks

**Answer:**

*4 marks for four from the meaning of 'contract to compete':*

- **Unwritten code** where performers agree to compete against each other to win.
- To play to the **rules**.
- To try their best.
- Respect for the ethics of play or sportsmanship or **fair play** motive.
- **Participation** more important than **winning**.
- Involves positive values as character building features.
- Display the etiquette specific to the activity.
- Respect and respond positively to the officials.

*3 marks for three from description of gamesmanship:*

- Putting winning first or **win-at-all-costs** ethic.
- Over-aggressive play or fouling deliberately.
- Failing to accept the judgement of officials.
- Putting prize money first priority.
- Taking drugs to improve performance.
- Losing control or verbal abuse or showing frustration.

11) Give reasons for spectator violence at professional association football matches.

5 marks

**Answer:**

*5 marks for five of:*

- Spectators being violent as a result of football.
- **Violent play** on the field causing violence on the terraces.
- Crowded spectator facilities on the terraces.
- Opposition spectators goading home spectators.
- Poor officiating or stewarding or policing.
- Crowd affected by which team is winning.
- **Hooligans** going to football matches.
- Fights set up beforehand by gangs.
- Movement by groups of spectators to get into the opposition end.
- Crowd behaviour allows guilty to get away with violence.
- **Alcohol** and **drugs** can cause violent reactions in a crowd.

12) Hooliganism has affected football over the past 40 years.

Define the term hooliganism and discuss the reasons why it might occur.

What steps have been taken to reduce the incidents of hooliganism in Premiership soccer.

15 marks

**Answer:**

- Hooliganism can be defined as physical violence or rowdy behaviour usually by groups of males against other groups of males.

*Causes and reasons for hooliganism:*

- Sporting occasions are often **antagonistic** and **frustrating**.
- For example, the tendency towards violence by a supporter group is linked to whether or not their team is **winning**.
- Supporters of a winning team are more likely to be benevolent and good natured, whereas supporters of a **losing team** often turn to violence towards winning team supporters.
- Caused by being in a **crowd**.
- Where there is **confinement**.
- High emotion and the likelihood of shared **aggression**.
- Particularly if **alcohol** has been consumed.
- There is also an element of **depersonalisation** that a crowd gives an individual, where it is 'easy to be lost in a crowd'.

*Steps taken to reduce hooliganism are:*

- **Segregation** of home and away supporters.
- The introduction of **all-seater** stadia.
- Increasing the '**family**' concept.
- Increasing the number of **stewards** and police.
- Ensuring that **alcohol** cannot be bought or brought into grounds.
- Detecting trouble using **CCTV**.
- Campaigns like '**kick racism out of football**', sponsored by major soccer clubs, player and Governing Bodies, can defuse unacceptable racial aggression.

- 13) Discuss the suggestion that there has been a decline in sportsmanship since the late 19th century and outline strategies that the sporting authorities have used in an attempt to maintain high standards of behaviour.

15 marks

**Answer:**

*2 marks for definition of sportsmanship*

- Acceptance of **unwritten rules** of etiquette/fair play.
- **Spirit of the game**/respect.
- For example, shaking of hands at the start and end of a sporting contest.
- In the 19th century, sport was run by upper and middle classes.
- Elite performers were the sporting gentleman amateurs.
- Based on the concept of **amateurism** - playing for love of sport/not paid.
- Based on the concept of **athleticism** - physical endeavour and moral integrity.

*6 marks for decline in sportsmanship:*

- During the 20th century professionalism in sport has increased alongside greater **extrinsic rewards**, such as prize money and commercialisation.
- Greater pressure from the **media**/national expectation exposes and encourages the copying of poor role models.
- Increase to **win-at-all costs** attitude, known as the Lombardian ethic.
- Caused an increase in **gamesmanship** -bending of the rules.
- Acts such increase in **doping/violent** play cheating, abusive language/match fixing/deviancy/prosecutions.
- During the 19th century corruption was part of sport as **wagering** and **fixed contests** were common.
- **Corruption** continues today and is widely reported in the media.
- Sportsmanship is promoted through events such as the **Olympic Games** where the Olympic creed, charter and oath are upheld.
- Elite performers are **role models** and accept and understand their responsibilities.
- Today, there is a greater need for sports to promote the characteristics of sportsmanship in order to acquire and **retain commercial contracts**.

*7 marks for strategies:*

- Campaigns to promote sportsmanship. For example, **Fairplay awards** and the promotion of sporting ethics in schools.
- **Better officials** and the use of **replay technology** (fourth official) to decide close decisions.
- Rules changed to promote fair play.
- On the field - use of **penalties**/sin bins and bookings.
- Off the field - **finest and bans**.
- Punish clubs by **deducting points**/matches held behind close doors.
- Promote **positive role models** and name and shame poor role models.
- **Code of conduct** for players/managers/spectators.
- **Prosecute violent** play.
- Encourage **respect** for officials. For example, only allow captain to question decisions.