

Fair-play and deception in sport

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Abstract

Sport plays an important role in the context of contemporary civilization having many physical, psychological and social beneficial effects. Under the influence of actual utilitarian and mercantilism practices which make a close connection between sport performance and monetary gains, many athletes are tempted to use methods alien to the fair-play spirit and to deceive with the intention of obtaining better sport performances and therefore more money.

The present paper examines some deception methods present in sport contests, as fraudulent participation of men athletes in competitions reserved for female athletes, doping, the use of some techniques in order to mask drug consumption, the use of some substances that are difficult to detect and which distort the results of anti-doping tests.

There are some controversial points of view regarding the topic of doping in sport. Some points of view try to justify doping in sport, by invoking as justification the use of drugs in sport from ancient times, the large scale utilization of drugs in contemporary society by other categories of young people, not only by athletes and the use of drugs in order to compensate for biological inequalities. In reply, the doping adversaries warn of the danger of inhuman depersonalization and exploitation of athletes by doping and the abandonment of the noble spirit of fair-play in sport.

Key words: Doping, fair-play, deception, anti-doping control, sport performance.