

Forum: International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Issue: Strengthening Fair Play and Sportsmanship Regulations in the Olympics

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Introduction:

Fair play regulations help to promote safety and equality, they are also what basic ethics and morals should consist of during sporting events. However, over the years there have been multiple offences, such as doping of athletes, match fixtures, unsportsmanlike behaviour, discrimination, corruption, and even potential official interference such as referees being biased have occurred in the Olympics and sporting fixtures.

Some notable historical events such as Russian state-sponsored doping, where Russia violated anti-doping laws numerous times, which led them to be banned from the Olympics for four years. Or the Munich Massacre, where the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and eleven were killed by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September. Fair play laws need to be enhanced to their best, protecting the rights of athletes and their teams.

Definition of Key Terms:

1. **Fair Play:** an adherence to regulations and impartial treatment of all parties involved.
2. **Doping:** the illicit administration of drugs to boost or interfere with the performance of an athlete.
3. **Ethics:** the guiding principles of morality that dictate an individual's perspective or their execution of an activity.
4. **Corruption:** deceptive and/or unethical actions carried out by individuals in positions of influence, an abuse of their power to gain a self-benefit.

5. **Sportsmanship:** respectable behaviour to others during a sporting event.
6. **Discrimination:** the treatment of someone because of their appearance, such as sex, race or disability. Directly violating their respect and dignity.
7. **Olympism:** a concept associated with the olympic philosophy of promoting values such as respect, sportsmanship, fair play, equality and excellence.

Background Information

The creation of the IOC

Pierre de Coubertin, driven by ancient Greek athletics and British educational ideas, established the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the 23rd of June 1894. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was legally created during the International Congress of Athletics in Paris in 1892 after his proposal consisted of resurrecting the Olympic Games in 1892. The IOC was formed with members from over 12 countries to run what is now known as the Olympic Games. Coubertin was the first president of the IOC. His inaugural match, which happened in Athens in 1896, sparked a worldwide sports craze. The Founding document of the IOC will be explained in the following sub-section.

Executive Board (EB)

Each member of the Executive Board, EB, is elected for a four year term during the Session by secret ballot. The board includes 1 president, 4 vice presidents and 10 members. The main responsibility of the EB consists of shaping important policies and suggestions during their IOC meetings. This includes modifying the Olympic charter, and selecting the host country and city for the next games. They are also responsible for the organisation and preparation of the Olympic matches with other organisations handling different tasks such as the International Testing Agency which takes care of all the urine and blood testing for health inquiries, doping attempts, etc. They manage the financial activity of the IOC and ensure it is put to good use for the Olympic Games. The EB also serves as diplomatic representatives to international events, negotiations and meetings. They build relationships with governments, sports organisations, and sponsors and promote the Olympic values of fair play, equality and sportsmanship.

Olympic Charter

The Olympic Charter is the founding document of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It contains the rules and guidelines that regulate and assure the safety and fairness of the Olympic Movement. It draws attention to the three main tenets of Olympism: the promotion of human achievement, the fostering of peace, and the use of sport as a vehicle for education. The Charter guarantees fair play and moral behaviour during the Olympic Games by outlining the IOC's duties and responsibilities. It addresses organisation, IOC official elections, National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and symbol protection while upholding the ideals of excellence, friendship, and respect that define the Olympic spirit.

Ethical considerations

Fair play, nondiscrimination, and responsible governance are central to the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) commitment ideals. Transparency and accountability in its decision-making procedures are encouraged, athletes' welfare is ensured by addressing issues like abuse and harassment, and strict anti-doping measures keep the playing field level. Cultural sensitivity, environmental sustainability, and the Olympic Games' long-term effects on host communities include the Important elements of the IOC's ethical framework.

Fight against doping and health promotion

The IOC initiated efforts to combat doping in 1963. Since 2003, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has collaborated closely with the IOC to enhance its capacity and capability in the fight against doping. In 2019, the responsibility for organising and managing anti-doping measures was transferred to the International Testing Agency. Testing is conducted at various levels, both scientifically and through the analysis of intelligence gathered from previously stored tests. Thanks to WADA, doping can now be more effectively detected through rigorous pre-games and in-game testing campaigns aimed at gathering additional intelligence. As Demonstrated in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

Current Situation

Reallocation of medals of the 2012 Olympic games approved by the EB

Olympic Agenda 2020

The Olympic Agenda 2020 was launched by IOC president Thomas Bach and was discussed and unanimously approved by the full IOC membership at the 127th IOC Session on 8 and 9 December 2014 in Monaco. It is based on three important pillars: Youth, sustainability and credibility. This Agenda created a set of 40 recommendations which have the purpose to maintain and safeguard the Olympic values as well as strengthening the role of sport in society.

This was the result of an open and transparent debate where over 40,000 submissions were received, from which 1,200 concrete ideas were produced. These ideas were then further refined into the 40 recommendations by the IOC Executive Board, the 126th IOC Session, 14 Working Groups, the IOC Commissions, and two Olympic Summits.

Olympic Agenda 2020+5

Comprising 15 suggestions, it expands upon the outcomes of Olympic Agenda 2020 and serves as the guiding principle for the IOC and the Olympic Movement in the upcoming five years. The name, Olympic Agenda 2020+5, has been selected to signify that this new roadmap succeeds Olympic Agenda 2020 and will shape the course of the IOC and the Olympic Movement until 2025. These 15 recommendations are rooted in significant trends that have been identified as influential in the post-coronavirus era. They also encompass areas where sports and the principles of Olympism can effectively transform challenges into opportunities.\

Paris 2024 olympic games

With the 2024 Olympic Games happening in Paris coming up, the Athletes have gone through the existing qualification systems of the International Federations (IFs) that will make

them eligible to take part in the Olympic Games 2024. The strict eligibility conditions based on the recommendations issued by the IOC EB on 28 March 2023 for International Federations and international sports event organisers will be applied. As usual, the selected athletes will be obliged to sign the updated terms of participation as well as the “peace mission of the Olympic movement” and will have to agree with the guidelines and doping rules.

Anti doping campaign for the 2024 Olympic games in Paris

The presidents of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Testing Agency (ITA) made it clear at the Olympic Summit that doping controls will continue in Russia, as Russian athletes are well known for doping themselves. Although the number of AINs (Individual Neutral Athletes) participating in international competitions is very limited this year, more than 10,500 samples were collected from Russian athletes both in and out of competition. This means that Russia remains in the top 10 countries tested. It was also noted that the ITA conducted well over 400 out-of-competition tests on Russian athletes in 2023. Both blood and urine samples undergo rigorous storage processes before being transported to several laboratories outside the country. All adverse analysis results are tracked and monitored by WADA in order to ensure that no doped athlete will participate in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Japan

Japan has always maintained a strong emphasis on sports education and fair play laws. Athletes learn how to be respectable and disciplined, following their nation’s Bushido Philosophy which still carries through the social norms of Japan. Japanese sports organisations also actively promote ethical conduct, with constant high expectations from their athletes to maintain a certain behaviour and routine. The nation also collaborates with international sports organisations to ensure fair play laws are being met globally.

Canada

Sport Canada, the main government agency responsible for all sports in the country, implements multiple initiatives to promote fair play. These regulations include educational programs, which teach coaches, students and especially athletes about fair play, anti-doping and ethics in sport. This follows an award system, where those with outstanding sportsmanship receive an award and public recognition. They have always been a peaceful and inclusive nation, by bringing people together to foster fair play internationally.

Australia

The National Integrity Framework has allowed all Australian athletes to maintain a high level of ethics and fair play. Some of their imperative laws in the framework include anti-doping measures, this is done by testing their athletes sufficiently and providing substitutes for the drug. Offering education to the public about keeping the sport 'clean'. Finally, implementing anti-match fixing legislation to the country, furthermore promoting fair play measures. Breaking these laws would result in anything from a warning to a ban on playing that sport.

New Zealand

This nation and its athletes follow a strict Code Of Conduct to foster fair play and ethics in sport. This policy is mainly focused on inclusivity, however the ethics of fair play also come into play. This can include their Anti-Corruption Policy, such as dealing with doping and match fixtures. Dealing with these pressing issues in the context of fair play is essential in promoting a safe sports community for us all.

Norway

Established in 2003, the non-profit organisation Anti-Doping Norway, ADNO, directly deals with doping issues in the nation, especially in the field of sports. Their aim is to promote sportsmanship in order for all athletes to compete on equal terms and conditions. They publish regular articles to spread awareness. They also host workshops and webinars for athletes, once again simulating a fair play environment.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The concept of the Olympic Truce was introduced in the 9th century BCE, Greece. This idea upholds the values of sportsmanship, safety of athletes, coaches and spectators, and most importantly fair play norms. The IOC today have created multiple resolutions with the intention to revive the inspiration from the Olympic Truce, once again fostering equality during sports.

- **The Olympic Truce resolution (IOC) voted in 1993**
 - This treaty was the first Olympic Truce adopted by 116 co-sponsors, It facilitated the participation of athletes from the former Republic of Yugoslavia in the winter Olympic Games of Lillehammer in 1994.
- **The Olympic Truce in the New York UN Millennium Summit (06/09/2000-08/09/2000), with the inclusion of the Millenium Declaration by the United Nations (UN) (08/09/2000)**
 - The millennium declaration only has one goal to promote - equality. The Olympic Truce was mentioned in part II, Peace, Security and Disarmament. It encourages individuals to “promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.” A vivid example of the Olympic treaty post the adoption of the Millennium Declaration can be seen in the Sydney 2000s Olympic games, where North and South Korea athletes are seen parading together under the flag of the Korean Peninsula.
- **The Tokyo 2019 Olympic Truce resolution by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**
 - This treaty was adopted by 186 co-sponsors, further encouraging the values of equality, fair play and sportsmanship. This resolution was reiterated multiple times in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic posed problems for hosting the olympics that year, hence, was postponed to 2021 whilst maintaining the qualities of the treaty..

Timeline

23rd June 1894	Creation of the IOC by mr. DeCoubertin in Paris, France.
1908	First publication of the olympic charter affirms the permanence and self-recruitment of the IOC, ensuring that no country can have more than three Members. These Members are elected to serve indefinite terms. The President, responsible for representing and managing the Committee, has the authority to appoint a secretary and a treasurer. Initially elected for a 10-year term, the President is also eligible for re-election.
1913	First public presentation of the five ring symbol: Coubertin designed the five-ring logo, symbolising the five continents of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania united by Olympism and in which – together with the white flag fabric.
1921	Foundation of the Executive Board of the IOC
1981	First female IOC member Norma Enriqueta Basilio. She greatly contributed to the participation of women in the Olympic Games
1992	The IOC launched their first appeal for the Olympic Truce promoting its values taught in the 9th century BCE. The IOC
7th February 1998	The Olympic Truce was introduced to member nations during the Winter Olympics in Nango 1998. This caused a great dispute, which led to a set up of a meditation mission, an exercise to engage in mental peace.
6th-8th September 2000	The UN Millennium Summit in New York adopted their Millennium Declaration, including a paragraph on the Olympic Truce, highly encouraging individuals to support this resolution once more promoting olympism.
8th August 2008	In the Beijing Olympics, the UN Secretary General restated the importance of olympism values, promoting the Olympic Truce.
December 2020	Breakdancing became an official sport in the Olympic games and will be included in the 2024 Paris Olympic game. This was made to attract a younger audience and promote inclusivity.

July 2021	Sha'Carri Richardson was disqualified from the 100m at the Tokyo Olympics after she tested positive on marijuana. A lot of people argued that marijuana shouldn't be considered as a doping agent.
March 2023	The governing body for track and field, World Athletics, banned athletes from Russia and Belarus from competing in international events, including the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 Paris Olympics. This is due to the ongoing invasion of Ukraine committed by Russia. It is important to note that Russian and Belorussian athletes can still participate in the Paris 2024 Olympics as neutral if they meet the required criteria.

Possible Solutions

- **Enhanced anti-doping measures:** strengthening anti-doping measures directly tackles the possibility of using drugs to boost an athlete's performance, this can be done by conducting more frequent random drug testings, collaborating internationally with anti-doping organisations, and enforcing penalties for doping offences.
- **Technological advancements:** the use of technology is vivid in this generation, therefore with fair play measures it can help with accurately identifying right and wrong. This can be done with advanced video replay systems and data analytics for athletes to see their progress rate.
- **Whistleblower confidentiality:** having whistleblowers report their findings on immoral activity needs to be kept extremely private, especially for their safety. This can be done by creating confidential channels which whistleblowers can report through, guaranteeing legal protection for whistleblowers, and placing penalties on those who leak the information provided.
- **Increased communication and awareness:** making sure everyone in the sports industry has a clear understanding of what fair play laws are is imperative to reaching a more equal playing field. This can be done by creating publicly accessible educational material, conducting briefing sessions and workshops with athletes and coaches, and ensuring that internationally, the idea of fair play is similar, in order to foster global awareness and collaboration.

Bibliography

Useful Links

[List of Olympic Scandals and Controversies](#) - This can help you with choosing a stance and with coming up with possible clause ideas by understanding what went wrong in the past.

[IOC website](#) - the main IOC page, is extremely useful in understanding the current situation and what they are doing.

[Heroes and Legends - Role Models of Fair Play](#) - Some prime examples of athletes who have shown outstanding sportsmanship in the past, it can help you understand what qualities are good in an athlete for fair play.

[What Role Does Ethics Play in Sports?](#) - An article to further understand the difference between ethics and sportsmanship.

[International Fair Play Committee](#) - A short article in understanding the International Fair Play committee on a brief level, you can further research more about it if needed.

[Transgender athletes banned from elite international track and field events | GMA](#) - An interesting video to showcase different perspectives. Is this promoting fair play or discrimination against transgender athletes?

[6 Austrians banned from Olympics for life in doping scandal](#) - This video shows how serious a doping offence can be, with 'zero tolerance' from the IOC.

[World Fair Play Day - Message From Austria](#) - A video to show how fair play has been disregarded over these years and how on world fair play day we should promote a change in this law. Other videos on the same youtube channel 'International Fair Play Committee' are also helpful and I would recommend you to take a look at them.

[Fight against doping and health promotion IOC](#) A fact sheet that explains the fight of the IOC against doping which started in 1963

[Anti-doping Rule Violations during or after the Games](#) A interesting document on the number of violations concerning anti doping.

Works Cited

- [Articles of the Olympic Academy](#)
- [Olympians Receive Fair Play Awards](#)
- [A Three Pronged Approach to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games](#)
- [A Brief History of Fair Play at the Olympics](#)
- [Bushido Philosophy](#)
- [What is Fair Play?](#)
- [Developing Positive Behaviour Within A Culture Of Fair Play](#)
- [JFA \(Japan Football Association\) - Respect and Fair Play](#)
- [Sport - Canada](#)
- [Australia's National Integrity Framework](#)
- [New Zealand Code Of Conduct](#)
- [Anti-Doping Norway \(ADNO\)](#)
- [Whistleblower Confidentiality](#)
- [List of Olympic Games Scandals and Controversies](#)
- [Russia State-Sponsored Doping Scandal](#)
- [International olympic committee history and values](#)
- [Strong and independent anti-doping programme to protect integrity of Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022](#)
- [Olympic Truce Resolutions](#)
- [Olympic principles are united nations principles](#)
- [Olympic Truce IOC](#)
- [UN Millenium Declaration](#)
- [1998 Winter Olympics opening ceremony](#)