



Teaching Awareness of Ethical Governance in Sport

An Introduction to the Ethics of Sports Governance

Overview:

This topic will introduce students to the concept of governance in sport and in particular, what constitutes good and ethical governance. The theoretical concepts of ethics and axiology will be introduced and discussed in relation to 'real-life' examples.

Aim:

The aim of this topic is to introduce students to the module and the topics covered within it. It will provide students with an overview of the concept of good governance and a way to consider and understand ethics more generally.

Objectives:

By the end of the lecture, seminar and independent study tasks, students will be able to:

- Articulate a variety of definitions of governance
- Identify practices in sport which are considered examples of good and bad governance
- Recognise the difference between descriptive ethics and normative ethics
- Situate ethics within the broader concept of axiology

Activities:

- Introduce students to the module
- Ask students to produce a list of the worst practices in sport; discuss whose responsibility it is to eliminate them (i.e. individual athletes, clubs, governing bodies, governments)
- In groups, allocate a topic for students to find examples of in the media; get students to report back on the examples they've found to discuss
- Provide Dowling et al.'s (2018) overview of different definitions of governance and discuss the differences and merits between them
- Provide Henry and Lee's (2004) 5 principles of good governance and get students to provide a definition for each of them and an example of what this would look like in practice



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- Provide a conceptual analysis of the term 'ethics', focusing on descriptive v. normative ethics, and relative v. absolute ethics.
- Discuss the place of ethics within sport in comparison to other sporting values, e.g. entertainment, commercialism, power (note that axiology is the term that covers value more generally)

Recommended Reading:

Dowling, M., Leopkey, B. and Smith, L. (2018) Governance in Sport: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Sport Management*. 32: 439

Henry, I. & Lee, P.C. (2004) Governance and Ethics. In S. Chadwick and J. Beech (eds.) *The Business of Sport Management* (1st edition). Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd.

Kretchmar, R. S. (2005) *Practical Philosophy of Sport and Physical Activity*. 2nd Edition. Leeds: Human Kinetics.

'Ethics, Ethical Inquiry and Sport: An Introduction' from Morgan, W.J. (2018) (ed.) *Ethics in Sport* (3rd Ed.) Leeds: Human Kinetics.

McNamee, M. J. and Fleming, S. (2007) "Ethics Audits and Corporate Governance: The Case of Public Sector Sports Organizations," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 73(4), pp. 425–437.

Morgan, W.J. (2006) *Why Sports Morally Matter*. London: Routledge.

Chapter 13 ('What is the value of sport?') from Ryall, E. (2016) *Philosophy of Sport: Key Questions*. London: Bloomsbury.

Twietmeyer, G. (2017) *Fundamentals of Sports Ethics*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.