



## Teaching Awareness of Ethical Governance in Sport

### The Coach-Athlete Relationship: an introduction to socio-cultural issues in coaching

#### Overview:

This topic will consider concepts of *power* in the coach-athlete relationship and the impact on moral and ethical decision-making in coach-athlete relationship. An integral part of modern sport, the coach-athlete relationship is reliant on trust, integrity and respect but can often be a site for struggle and corruption.

#### Aim:

The aim of this topic is to introduce concepts related to the construction of power and consider how the coach and athlete relationship is developed through an understanding of the rights, roles, and responsibilities of the coach.

#### Objectives:

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

- ❖ Recognise how the coach-athlete relationship can be corrupted by power
- ❖ Recognise the rights, roles, and responsibilities of the coach
- ❖ Understand duty of care and the role of moral and ethical decision making
- ❖ Understand the social construction of knowledge and power
- ❖ Appreciate the issues in gendered relationships and particularly the legal issues of working with minors

#### Case Study Compendium:

- ❖ **Case 30 - Athlete R v British Swimming** (selection, gap in selection policy, no detriment others, decision not to select upheld – example of preference for certainty over substantive/individual justice. Also principles of due process and transparency in decision making)
- ❖ **Case 41 – Coach B v ITF** (sexual harassment, racism etc – example of internal sports regulation internalising external legal rules on harassment and racism)



- ❖ **Case 26 – Athlete B v British Shooting** (Transparency of decision making, procedural fairness/ bias)

Recent Issues in the Public Domain:

- ❖ **The FA v Eniola Aluko [2018] – Bias & Issues of Racism**

[Use above as mini-arbitration hearing: students to use case compendium to come up with arguments for GB and athlete]

### **Resource Handout - Readings and recommended URLs**

#### *Articles*

Jowett, S., & Poczwardowski, A. (2007). Understanding the Coach-Athlete Relationship. In S. Jowette & D. Lavallee (Eds.), *Social Psychology in Sport* (pp. 3-14). Champaign, IL, US: Human Kinetics.

Ashley E. Stirling & Gretchen A. Kerr (2009) Abused athletes' perceptions of the coach-athlete relationship, *Sport in Society*, 12:2,227-239, DOI: [10.1080/17430430802591019](https://doi.org/10.1080/17430430802591019)

Ashley E. Stirling & Gretchen A. Kerr (2013) The perceived effects of elite athletes' experiences of emotional abuse in the coach-athlete relationship, *International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, 11:1, 87-100, DOI: [10.1080/1612197X.2013.752173](https://doi.org/10.1080/1612197X.2013.752173)

Tomlinson A. & Ilkay Yorganci I (2016) Male Coach/Female Athlete Relations: Gender and Power Relations in Competitive Sport. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* 2016 21:2, 134-155

FA Hearing DCMS Governance <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/c520b0fc-bc69-4c06-bd99-962023c15b36> Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

**Wednesday 18 October 2017** Meeting started at 2.30pm, ended 6.27pm

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/digital-culture-media-and-sport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/sports-governance-17-19/publications/>

written evidence aluko <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/culture-media-and-sport/SPG%2020Eniola%20Aluko%20with%20attachments.pdf>