

A QUESTION OF FAIR PLAY



Everyone likes to be happy, have fun, smile, laugh, and enjoy life. Playing is a good way to have fun. In American society, both children and adults play. Fairness, following the rules of the game, and good sportsmanship are expected of all players in athletic competition. In professional and nonprofessional sports, you risk injuries if games are played unfairly. Good sportsmanship also gives competitors opportunities to demonstrate their true athletic skills. Think of "play" and "game" as similes and metaphors for LIFE as you read the next statement.

"Life is like a game in which the players have to exhibit fairness and good sportsmanship. This fairness and equality should apply to people of every race, color, religion, and culture so that they can be happy. Some people play the game of life unfairly by not applying the rules that would equalize opportunities to win for everyone. By withholding equality and freedom from certain members of society, some powerful or biased people make the lives of their fellow human beings unhappy. As a result of this unfairness, injustice, and lack of equal opportunity, some people do not have a chance to develop and demonstrate their talents and skills. How can playing games and competitive sports by the rules help us to see the need for granting equality to all members of society, despite their age, race, color, gender, culture, or ethnic origin?"

What can competitive sports teach us about following the "rule of law" as guaranteed to every U.S. citizen by our U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights?"

EQUAL PROTECTION	RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE	COMPROMISE	LIBERTY
SELF-DISCIPLINE	FAIR PLAY	JUSTICE	FREE SPEECH
OTHER _____	OTHER _____	OTHER _____	

Using some of the words above, react verbally or in writing to the unfairness, injustice, or inequality in each of the situations below:

- Several young people, good friends, walk in upon a situation in which one of their other friends is beating up a new kid in the neighborhood. The new kid is wearing a turban.

Your Reaction: _____

- The star quarterback on the school's championship football team did not like the referee's call on his last play. He glared at the referee, cursed at him, and spit at him.