

Statement on Fair Play, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports

Fair Play

The notion of Fair Play is a universally understood concept, which underpins all of sport. Without fairness, sport is devoid of any meaning or purpose. Worse still, it can be a detrimental experience for its participants.

But Fair Play is also a philosophy - one of respect for others, and respect for the institution of sport. It leads to an agreement, between all of those involved in sport, on the values and lessons that we want sport to teach our children, and ourselves.

Playing fair also has to do with making choices. As we interact with each other in sport, or as spectators of sport, we must regularly consider and define what we think is right and what is not. Sport engages us in a collective effort to pursue human excellence. As our children interact with each other in sport, their ability to make good choices about fair play issues matures along with their ability to think and learn about what makes for a rewarding and fulfilling life in society.

CCES

www.cces.ca

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The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports' vision of Canadian sport embraces the entire sport system and includes the international, national, provincial/territorial and local levels involved in the development and delivery of sport in Canada.

A fundamental cornerstone of the CCES' mission is the values associated with sport in Canada, and the provision of opportunities for all Canadians to participate and pursue excellence in sport by fair and ethical means. We therefore envision a Canadian sport system which:

1. Promotes and strengthens the values associated with sport, where:
 - the institution of sport is valued in and of itself
 - sport is based on and reflects positive values and ethics including: achievement, enjoyment, responsibility, safety, teamwork, respect, and fair play
 - sport includes the pursuit of excellence and the desire to win within a fair and ethical environment
 - sport is accessible for all Canadians; opportunities exist for all Canadians to progress from recreational to high performance sport according to personal interest, aspirations, and abilities
 - sport is athlete centred in its policies, programs and practices
 - the fundamental rights of participants are defined and protected
 - all participants in sport (including athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and professional staff) exemplify the highest standards of ethical conduct.

2. Makes a significant contribution to the physical, moral, and social development of Canadians through sport experiences by:
 - providing the opportunity and the means for personal enjoyment and satisfaction
 - providing opportunities for the pursuit of excellence
 - contributing to moral education and development
 - encouraging and supporting personal achievement, self-esteem, and teamwork
 - enhancing personal health and well being.

3. Makes a unique contribution to Canadian society and the public interest through sport experiences by:

- acting as a basis for community building and development
- providing opportunities for social interaction and cohesion
- promoting pride and identity through achievement
- having significant and positive economic impacts
- influencing the values and practices of both individuals and the society at large
- acting as an inspiration for Canadians as athletes succeed in competition
- enhancing Canada's international reputation and world standing.

Born out of a landmark merger between the Canadian Centre for Drug-free Sport and Fair Play Canada, the CCES' purpose is to promote ethical conduct in all aspects of sport in Canada. Founded on the principles of fair play and drug-free sport, this merged organization has built upon the solid foundation of the internationally acclaimed and recognized pioneering organizations, in order to create and promote the kind of sport environment Canadians desire and deserve.

*As a non-profit organization independent from sport organizations and government, the CCES is responsible for a range of issues important to sport and society. It strives for a just, fair and ethical sport system, including the achievement of fair play, drug-free sport, equity, safety and non-violence. As part of our comprehensive approach, the CCES provides top-quality services and resources to a broad range of clients, including athletes, coaches, sport organizations, the media and the general public. **WWW.CCES.CA***

The London Declaration: Expectations for Fairness in Sport

enacted by the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Sport Ministers, August 10, 2001.

Whereas sport enriches the lives of Canadians in a multitude of ways: in their roles as participants, spectators, coaches and volunteers;

And Whereas, sport offers opportunities for the personal, moral and value-centred development of children and young people;

And Whereas, ethically-based and safe sport promote an active lifestyle, self-esteem, healthy bodies, lifelong learning and strong team spirit;

And Whereas, sport is an arena for the development and realization of human excellence;

And Whereas, sport helps to build a civil society by forging healthy and cooperative communities;

Now Therefore, the Canadian Ministers of Sport, meeting at their 2001 Conference, August 10, 2001 in London, Ontario, in conjunction with the 18th Canada Summer Games, agree to place new emphasis on reinforcing the ethical foundation of sport in Canada.

For a listing and discussion of the principles and policies which emerged from the London Declaration see: True Sport **www.truesportpur.ca**
