



Resource Guide to the Philosophy of Sport and Ethics of Sport

Introduction

Philosophy of Sport

The philosophy of sport is concerned with the conceptual analysis and interrogation of ideas and issues of sports and related practices such as coaching, sports journalism and sports medicine. At its most general level, it is concerned with articulating the nature and purposes of sport. The philosophy of sport is never fixed. Its methods (see below) require of scholars in the philosophy of sport to develop inherently self-critical thinking, continuously challenging their own preconceptions and guiding principles both as to the nature and purposes of philosophy and of sports. The philosophy of sport not only gathers insights from the various fields of philosophy (noted below) as they open up our appreciation of sports practices and institutions, but also generates substantive and competing views of sport itself:

- Aesthetics (e.g. can aesthetic sports have objective judging?)
- Epistemology (e.g. what does knowing a technique entail?)
- Ethics (e.g. what, if anything, is wrong with gene doping?)
- Logic (e.g. are constitutive and regulative rules distinct?)
- Metaphysics (e.g. are humans naturally game playing animals?)
- Philosophy of education (e.g. can dominant models of skill-learning account for phenomenological insights?)
- Philosophy of law (e.g. can children give consent to use performance enhancing drugs?)
- Philosophy of mind (e.g. is mental training distinguishable from mere imagination?)
- Philosophy of rules (e.g. can constitutive and regulative rules of sport be fully distinguished?)
- Philosophy of science (e.g. is it true that only natural sciences of sport deliver the truth?)
- Social and political philosophy (e.g. are competitive sports hostage to a capitalist world-view?)

Within these diverse compartments of philosophy, there has been a tendency for one philosophical tradition to dominate: analytical philosophy. This is not to deny that continental philosophy has developed a philosophy of sport literature. While the

labels themselves are somewhat misleading, both approaches are traditions of Western philosophy and take no significant account of Eastern philosophy, which in Japan has spawned a significant volume of sport philosophical literature.

Given that philosophical research is intrinsically related to the expression of ideas, the idiom of that expression somewhat shapes the boundaries of what can be said. In contrast to the idea that the biomedical sciences of sport represent a universal language housed in technical rationality ('the' scientific method) philosophers working in the continental tradition have largely developed research within the fields of existentialism, hermeneutics and phenomenology. Although the label is itself driven by geographical considerations (the work emanated from communities of scholars in France, Germany and elsewhere in continental Europe), one finds philosophers of sport right across the globe drawing upon those traditions. Similarly, analytical philosophy though the dominant tradition in Anglo-American philosophy is misleading in the sense that some of its founding fathers were indeed from continental Europe. The drawing of distinctions to represent our experience of sportsworlds, however, is common to all schools or traditions of sport philosophical endeavour. Given the dominance of the analytic tradition – and the English-speaking counterparts of it – a few more specific words are required in order to make sense of recent developments in the philosophy of sport.

Analytical philosophy emerged as an essentially conceptual enquiry whose aim was foundational. It is often captured in Locke's famous remark about philosophical work being akin to an underlabourer working in the garden of knowledge. As a second-order activity, its central aim was to provide secure foundations for other disciplines by articulating their conceptual geography. Its pre-eminence was captured by the insistence that conceptual work precedes all proper empirical enquiry. Its exponents were equipped with the analytical tools of dissecting concepts for constituent criteria, drawing conceptual distinctions by their logical grammar and seeking fine-grained differences in their employment. The discipline of philosophy was reduced in some quarters to the detailing of ordinary linguistic usages and necessary and sufficient conditions in order to detect the proper meaning of concepts others had to operate with and between. Despite this 'new' direction there remained a strong sense of continuity here with the ancient past. Philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle too were concerned with marking distinctions, bringing clarity where before there was puzzlement or, worse, commonsensical acquiescence.

Many philosophers argue now that we are in a period of post-analytical philosophy. What this means is not entirely clear. We are living through a period of exciting intellectual development in the subject which is very much reflected in the Philosophy of Sport. While the careful attention to conceptual analysis will always be an essential component of the philosophers' toolkit, research-driven analyses of the key concepts of sports, games and play, have to a clear extent declined. Of much greater prevalence in the contemporary literature has been the development of substantive axiological issues ranging from social and political philosophy of sport to the rapidly growing field of ethics of sport. Philosophers have been clear about the need to abandon the aim of neutrality traditionally found in much analytical philosophy in favour of arguing for substantive positions in relation to the 'commodification' of sports, their 'commercialisation', and their 'corruption'. The development of substantive normative positions has proceeded in addition - rather

than in opposition - to the careful articulation of precisely what those concepts logically entail. If these debates have also raged in the social scientific literatures then it is clear that academics in this portion of the philosophy of sport have made their own important contributions, premised on a clear understanding of the potentially diverse conceptualisations of sport. Similarly, in ethics, philosophers of sport have attempted to argue for the aptness of different moral philosophical theories to capture sports' nature and the nature of sporting actions therein. In these fields, philosophers have generated new ideas about the contested nature of sports ethics itself – whether as contract, duty/obligation, utility or virtue. In doing so, they have often connected with the empirical research of other bodies of knowledge, which would have been unimaginable to the 'ordinary language philosophers', who saw themselves as neutrally dissecting the language of others.

Ethics of Sport

Among the different sub-disciplines of philosophy that are worked by philosophers of sport, in the last decade there is little doubt that the sub-field 'ethics of sport' has seen the most growth and activity. Typically, some confusion surrounds the precise nature and scope of the concept 'sports ethics' itself. While it is both difficult and undesirable to police language and to prescribe usage that dissipates conceptual confusion effectively, it may be helpful to observe some important distinctions before describing the work of philosophers in the area of 'ethics of sport'.

In the first instance, the words 'ethics' and 'morality' are used interchangeably in everyday language. Many mainstream philosophers have come to question the concept 'morality' as a peculiarly Western convention whose ambitions to universalise guides to right conduct were overly ambitious in scope.

Along with the project of modernity, philosophers were looking to universalise ethics along the lines that scientists had so powerfully done in discovering natural laws and thereby 'mastering' the world. A number of traditions of moral thinking emerged which shared certain features in their development of systems of thought that ought to guide the conduct of citizens of the globe wherever they existed.

In this modern philosophical vein, then 'ethics' was used to refer to the systematic study of morals; i.e., universal codes or principles of right conduct. The distinction between rules, guidelines, mores or principles of living ('morality') that exist in time and space and systematic reflection upon them ('ethics') is still worth observing. The idea that morality refers to that which all reasonable persons ought to conform requires much more careful attention.

Having suggested then, a distinction between 'morality' and 'ethics', it is worth noting that the very concept of 'ethics' itself is a hotly contested one. There are a host of theoretical positions too numerous to list here (but including contractarianism, emotivism, intuitionism, and rights theory in the West, and a host of religio-ethical systems such as Confucianism in the east). One common way of capturing the contested nature of the terrain has been caught up in the terms 'descriptive ethics' and 'normative ethics'.

Ultimately, the distinction cannot survive close logical scrutiny, but it can be useful in detecting what are at least prima facie differences in the aims of certain philosophical

and social scientific scholars interested in a range of concepts and practices such as admiration, cheating, deceiving, lying, promising, respecting, virtues and vices and so on.

In the sports related literature, most of what is called 'ethics' is simply social science by another name. It is better, perhaps, to call it social scientific descriptions of ethically problematic practices, persons or policies. The older label 'descriptive ethics' was designed to capture precisely such operations. Here researchers seek to describe that portion of the world that is ethically problematic by the received methods of social science; observation, ethnography, interview, questionnaire and the like.

The most common examples of 'ethics' in sport that spring up in casual conversations, as well as the academic literature, are matters of equity (i.e. social justice in terms of unequal pay for male and female sports stars) and/or of access (for example, with respect to racism or disabled sportspersons), deviant sub-cultures and practices (for example, so-called football 'hooliganism' and cheating, sexual-abuse/harassment or doping), the prevalence of sport as a site of child abuse and exploitation, homophobia, and so forth.

There is another conception of 'ethics' which as noted above is quite simply moral philosophy. Under this conception of ethics, academics are engaged in the systematic conceptual enquiry of reflective questions regarding how we ought to live our lives. This entails the analysis of central concepts such as duty, right, harm, pain, pleasure and promise within (often ignored) theoretical perspectives such as Deontology, Utilitarianism, Virtue Ethics, and so forth. Each of these moral philosophical traditions aims to systematise thinking about the nature of ourselves in the contexts of good and right living and conduct. Nevertheless, their nature and scope differs widely. At some points they are coherent and comparable, at other times, and pressed into particular questions, they throw up radically divergent norms for conduct.

The distinction between descriptive ethics – which was supposed to be an entirely value-free endeavour, and normative ethics – which was supposed to issue in authoritative guidance - is, unsurprisingly enough, a contentious one. It is conceived of differently according to how one understands the nature of 'Ethics' itself. Questions such as whether there are moral facts; whether there is a clear distinction between facts and values; how the fact/value relationship is characterised; whether moral obligations override considerations of virtue and so on, are not answerable from outside a given theoretical perspective. But there are difficulties with any attempt to distinguish one programme that sets out to describe the world, from another that prescribes a programme for action; the two are intertwined in complex ways. Most philosophers working in mainstream ethics and in the ethics of sport have given up the idea of a neutral, descriptive, ethics (of sports) and pursue normative programmes for which they attempt to give reasonable support in terms of the clarity and coherence of their developed position. Nonetheless, the distinction need not be sharp to be important.

Ethical Theories in the Ethics of Sport

In most writings in the ethics of sport, three families of theories have been adopted; two modern and one ancient. Modern moral philosophy was dominated by the universalistic ethics of either consequentialism or deontology. Over the last twenty years or so (a relatively recent time period in philosophical thought) there has been a revival of virtue-theoretical work in mainstream ethics and in the ethics of sports. Some introductory remarks and references to indicative sources in the literature must suffice here.

Deontology (from the Greek word 'deon'; roughly, duty), is the classical theory of the right action. Before we act, deontologists (the German philosopher Kant is the key figure here) argue that we must consider those duties (usually in the form of principles or rights), which we owe others in our transactions with them. The system of principles is usually thought to have its foundation in a super-rule (often called the Golden rule – enshrined in Christian thought among others) that one ought always to treat others with respect. To cheat, deceive, harm or lie to people is to disrespect them. Warren Fraleigh's classic 'Right Actions in Sport' is a beautiful statement of the deontological ethic in sport. It attempts to cash out a system of guides to right conduct for participants and coaches engaged in sports. In other cases (see Lumpkin, Beller and Stoll, 1999) philosophers have simply assumed a deontological framework and applied it to good effect without necessarily interrogating the theoretical basis upon which their sports ethics is based.

Of course, philosophically troubling questions such as 'what is meant by respect?'; 'does respect always trump other moral values?'; 'does respect entail not harming others even when they consent to it?' and so on still trouble deontological ethicists. Fraleigh (1984), for example, argues that boxing is immoral since it involves the intentional harming of another – even though they consent to that harm. While deontology (whether as rights or duties) remains a commonsense ethic for many people, there are others who think it simply starts from the wrong place.

In apparent contrast, consequentialism is a teleological theory (from the Greek word 'telos'; roughly nature/purpose). It is a family of theories of the good, which justify actions according to their yielding the most favourable and least unfavourable consequences. The dominant strand of thinking here is 'utilitarianism' which comes in a variety of shapes and sizes but is based upon the maximising of 'utility' or good. In distinguishing good from bad we merely need to add up the potential consequences of different courses of action and act upon that which maximises good outcomes.

There are very few sustained efforts at utilitarian thinking in sports but see Claudio Tamburrini's (2000) defence of Maradona's infamous 'Hand of God' incident. He also attempts to argue, from a utilitarian perspective, for controversial conclusions to the doping issue (he is in favour of abolishing bans) and gender equity (he is often in favour of non-sex segregated sports).

Consequentialism and deontology, while taking opposing foundations for the justification of moral action (in sports, as in life) share certain important conceptual features. In the first instance they are universal in scope: moral rules apply in all places and times – it's just that they have different moral principles (respect and

utility). Equally important is the idea (often ignored in naïve discussion of utilitarianism as an ideology) that they enshrine impartiality.

In both theoretical traditions, no one person or group must be favoured over another. Everyone is equally deserving of respect, just as everyone should be counted in the decisions as to which course of action should be taken (not just whether to commit a strategic foul in terms of good consequences for my team, but the opposition and the good of the game).

Finally, they share the idea that the moral rules have force: once you understand them you must act in a manner that brings the conclusion to life in your actions, for to fail to do so would be irrational not just immoral. But it is difficult to imagine any theory of ethics (or religion for that matter) which did not make such a claim.

The recent revival of virtue theory has usually taken the form of a resuscitation of Aristotle's work. Here ethics is based upon good character and the good life will be lived by those who are in possession of a range of virtues such as courage, co-operativeness, sympathy, honesty, justice, reliability, and the absence of vices such as cowardice, egoism, dishonesty.

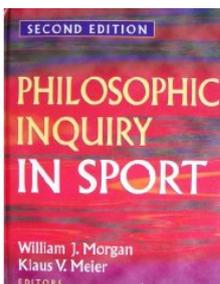
Russell Gough's (1997) admirable book is a user-friendly application of virtue ethics in sports. This language has an immediate application in the contexts of sports in theory, but in practice spitefulness, violence and greed often characterise elite sports. Moreover, we often question the integrity of certain coaches or officials just as we chastise players who deceive the officials.

This sketch of underlying ethical theory and its application to sports is not merely suggestive, it is also a rather traditional one. Scholars have more recently been questioning an exciting array of issues; the use of genetic engineering in sports, the ethics of sports medicine, the place of adventurous activities in a risk avoiding culture, the role of sports in sustaining and subverting communities, identities and sexualities; environmental ethics for sports in a global world; ethical audits of sports organisations and cultures; and much more.

Annotated Bibliography

Philosophy of Sport Edited Collections and Anthologies

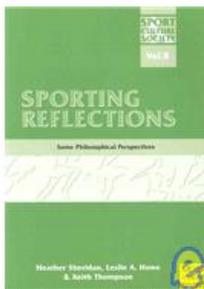
In the sections that follow books and collections have been evaluated and labelled (fairly loosely) according to the following scheme: Beginner (**B**) (aimed at Level 1 undergraduate or even some good A level students); Intermediate (**I**) (undergraduates at Levels 1, 2 and potentially level 3); and Advanced (**A**) (Level 3 undergraduates, Masters, or even Research). It is assumed that all journal articles fall between (**I/A**) but will typically be (**A**).



Morgan, W. J. and Meier, K. V. (eds) (1995) *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport*, second edition, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics. (B/I/A**)**

Morgan, W. J. and Meier, K. V. (eds) (1988) *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport*, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics. (B//A)

The two editions of Morgan and Meier's *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport* have long been the classic anthologies of work in the philosophy of sport. The 1988 edition contains fifty-six chapters ranging from extracts from the work of philosophers such as Plato, Descartes and Sartre to articles by contemporary philosophers of sport. The book contains six sections: The Nature of Sport, Play and Games; Sport and Embodiment; Sport, Play and Metaphysics; Sport and Ethics (divided into two sections, the first on Competition, Sportsmanship, Cheating and Failure and the second on Drugs and Sport); Sport and Social-Political Philosophy; and Sport and Aesthetics. Each section contains a bibliography of additional material on the topic of the section. The second edition contains some of the same material as the first, but is significantly different from the original edition. The second edition is divided into two parts (Ontological Frameworks and Axiological Frameworks). The first part contains three sections (The Nature of Play, Sport and Games; Embodiment and Sport; and Play, Sport and Metaphysics). The second part contains five sections (Fair Play, Sportsmanship and Cheating; Drugs and Sport; Gender Issues and Sport; The Morality of Hunting and Animal Liberation; and Sport, Aesthetics and Art. In total the second edition contains fifty-four chapters.



Sheridan, H., Howe, L. and Thompson, K. (2007) *Sporting reflections*, Aachen: Meyer and Meyer. (I/A)

This is a rare example of an edited collection which offers samples of work from throughout the philosophy of sport.

Part One: Using Sport

- Days of youth: political aesthetics and physical culture (Lev Kreft)
- What is art? James and Collingwood on sport (Andrew Edgar)
- Vicarious pain and genuine pleasure: some reflections on spectator transformation of meaning in sport (Leslie A. Howe)
- Cricket, politics and moral responsibility: where do the boundaries lie? (Emily Ryall)

Part Two: Boundaries

- Alain and Dwain, Rio and Greg – not guilty? (Jim Parry)
- Offside and involvement (Keith Thompson)
- The Olympic way: an exploration of problems faced by teachers of kendo when a traditional culture is challenged by modern pressures (Sotaro Honda)

Part Three: The Engaged Participant

- Should self-deceivers in elite sport be held morally responsible for their state? (Leon Culbertson)

- A philosophical critique of the concept of well-being evident in the exercise psychology literature (Andrew Bloodworth)
- An experience and Heidegger's analysis of authentic existence (Ivo Jirásek)
- Dialogue with our 'body' (Irena Martínková)
- In-between spaces in sport: corporeal re-creation and the trick skater (Linnet Fawcett)

Ethics of Sport Edited Collections and Anthologies



McNamee, M. J. and Parry, S. J. (eds) (1998) *Ethics and Sport*, London: Routledge. (I/A)



This volume was the first international edited collection of essays in the ethics of sports and made a very significant contribution to establishing the field of sports ethics. Its scope was broad and included topics from East and West but also included representatives from a variety of philosophical perspectives. It attempted to explore the links between sports ethics and what is sometimes referred to as 'mainstream' philosophy, various traditional contexts for sports ethics (Physical Education and Coaching) and to raise contemporary issues with some philosophical depth. It was only partly intended as a teaching resource, operating at a fairly advanced level, but the paucity of available literature at the time meant that it became used internationally as an undergraduate text also. Since that time, with the development of many more resources, it tends to be used as a text in graduate classes.

Introduction (Jim Parry)

Part One: Ethics and Sport – the Contribution of Philosophy

- Are there philosophical issues with respect to sport (other than ethical ones)? (Graham McFee)
- Soft Metaphysics: a precursor to good sports ethics (R. Scott Kretchmar)
- Ethics and the double character of sport: an attempt to systematize discussion of the ethics of sport (Johan Steenbergen and Jan Tamboer)

Part Two: Fair Play and Sporting Behaviour

- Games, rules and contracts (Simon Eassom)
- Fair play: historical anachronism or topical ideal? (Sigmund Loland)
- 'Merely meat'? Respect for persons in sport and games (Ceil Tuxill and Sheila Wigmore)

Part Three: Ethics, Physical Education and Sports Coaching

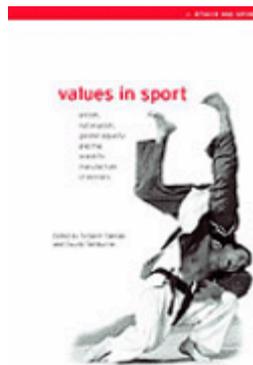
- What moral educational significance has physical education? A question in need of disambiguation (David Carr)

- Moral development research in sports and its quest for objectivity (Russell Gough)
- Celebrating trust: virtues and rules in the ethical conduct of sports coaches (Mike McNamee)
- Sport is for losers (Anthony Skillen)

Part Four: Contemporary Ethical Issues in Sports

- Multinational sport and literary practices and their communities: the moral salience of cultural narratives (William J. Morgan)
- Violence and aggression in contemporary sport (Jim Parry)
- Cheating and self-deception in sport (Gordon Reddiford)
- Private autonomy and public morality in sporting practices (Terence J. Roberts)
- In the zone: Heidegger and sport (Paul Standish)

This text is reviewed in Reid, H. (1999) 'Review Essay: Ethics and Sport', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXVI: 113-16.



Tännsjö, T. and Tamburrini, C. M. (eds) (2000) *Values in Sport: Elitism, Nationalism, Gender Equality and the Scientific Manufacture of Winners*, London: Routledge. (I/A)

This edited collection covers a range of ethical issues in sport, some of which (rules, nationalism, gender equity and doping) are revisited after considerable previous debate within the philosophy of sport literature. The most notable feature of this book, however, is the fact that it introduces the first work on elitism in sport, and one of the first publications on the ethical issues raised by the possibility of using genetic transfer technology for performance-enhancement in sport.

Introduction (Claudio M. Tamburrini and Torbjörn Tännsjö)

Part One: Elitism

- Is it fascistoid to admire sports heroes? (Torbjörn Tännsjö)
- Sports, fascism and the market (Claudio M. Tamburrini)
- The logic of progress and the art of moderation in competitive sports (Sigmund Loland)

Part Two: Nationalism

- Sports as the moral discourse of nations (William J. Morgan)
- A justification of moderate patriotism in sport (Nicholas Dixon)
- Patriotism in sports and in war (Paul Gomberg)

Part Three: Gender Equality

- Against sexual discrimination in sports (Torbjörn Tännsjö)
- Gender verification in competitive sport: turning from research to action (Berit Skirstad)
- On the definition of 'woman' in the sport context (Angela J. Schneider)

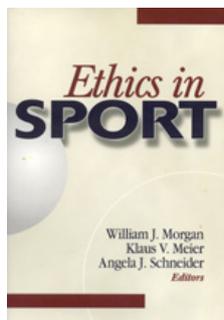
Part Four: The Rules of the Game

- Against chance: a causal theory of winning in sport (Gunnar Breivik)
- Justice and game advantage in sporting games (Sigmund Loland)
- Spoiling: an indirect reflection of sport's moral imperative? (Graham McFee)

Part Five: The Scientific Manufacture of Winners

- A philosophical overview of the arguments on banning doping in sport (Angela J. Schneider and Robert B. Butcher)
- What's wrong with doping? (Claudio M. Tamburrini)
- Selected champions: making winners in the age of genetic technology (Christian Munthe)

This text is reviewed in Davis, P. (2001) 'Reviews: Values in Sport', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXVIII (1): 117-19.

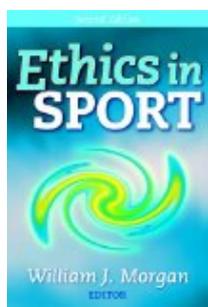


Morgan, W. J., Meier, K. V. and Schneider, A. J. (eds) (2001) *Ethics in Sport*, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics. (I/A)

This collection is similar to Morgan and Meier (1988) and Morgan and Meier (1995) in that it draws upon key articles from the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, but it focuses specifically on ethical topics rather than philosophy of sport as a whole. The book contains twenty-nine chapters divided into the following five parts:

- Fair play, being a good sport, and cheating: at what price victory?
- The limits of being human: the case of performance-enhancing drugs
- Women in sport: gender equity and gender identity
- Animals and their use in sport: where do we draw the moral line?
- The social ethics of sport: is sport good for society?

This text is reviewed in McNamee, M. J. (2003) 'Ethics in Sport', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXX (2): 182-84.



It has recently gone into a significantly revised second edition (with only William Morgan as Editor) with a new section on metaethical considerations and slightly revised foci (eg genetic enhancement in addition to doping) and a slightly broader social issues section.

Part I. Metaethical Considerations of Sport

- The Nature of Sport (Bernard Suits)
- Games and the Good (Thomas Hurka)
- Internalism and Internal Values in Sport (Robert Simon)
- Broad Internalism and the Moral Foundations of Sport (J.S. Russell)
- Sport and the View From Nowhere (Randolph Feezel)
- Why the “View From Nowhere” Gets Us Nowhere in our Moral Considerations of Sport (William Morgan)

Part II. Competition and Fair Play: Considerations of Winning, Cheating, and Gamesmanship

- The Meaning of Sport: Competition As a Form of Language (Paul Gaffney)
- Fair Play As Respect for the Game (Robert Butcher and Angela Schneider)
- Sportsmanship As a Moral Category (James Keating)
- Sportsmanship (Randolph Feezel)
- On Winning and Athletic Superiority (Nicholas Dixon)
- In Defense of Competition and Winning: Revisiting Athletic Tests and Contests (Scott Kretchmar and Tim Elcombe)
- Some Reflections on Success and Failure in Competitive Athletics (Edwin Delattre)
- Cheating and Fair Play in Sport (Oliver Leamon)
- Intentional Rule Violations—One More Time (Warren Fraleigh)
- The Ethics of Strategic Fouling: A Reply to Fraleigh (Robert Simon)

Part III. The Limits of Being Human: Doping and Genetic Enhancement in Sport

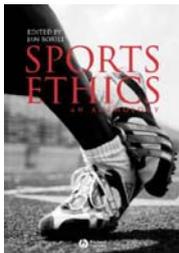
- Listening to Steroids (John Hoberman)
- Good Competition and Drug-Enhanced Performance (Robert Simon)
- Paternalism, Drugs, and the Nature of Sports (W. M. Brown)
- Sports and Drugs: Are the Current Bans Justified? (Michael Lavin)
- Selected Champions: Making Winners in the Age of Genetic Technology (Christian Munthe)
- After Doping, What? The Morality of the Genetic Engineering of Athletes (Claudio Tamburrini)

Part IV. Gender and Sexual Equality in Sport

- Sex Equality in Sport (Jane English)
- Women, Sex, and Sports (Raymond Belliotti)
- Title IX: Equality for Women's Sports? (Leslie Francis)
- Being and Playing: Sport and the Valorization of Gender (Leslie Howe)
- Against Sexual Discrimination in Sports (Torbjorn Tännsjö)

Part V. Select Issues in the Social Ethics of Sport: Violence, Exploitation, Race, Spectatorship, and Disability

- The Exploitation of the Student Athlete (Alan Wertheimer)
- Violence in Sport (Robert Simon)
- Boxing, Paternalism, and Legal Moralism (Nicholas Dixon)
- Darwin's Athletes: A Review Essay (John Valentine)
- Sports, Political Philosophy, and the African American (Gerald Early)
- Is Our Admiration for Sports Heroes Fascistoid? (Torbjörn Tännsjö)
- The Ethics of Supporting Sports Teams (Nicholas Dixon)
- Convention and Competence: Disability Rights in Sports and Education (Leslie Francis)



Boxill, J. (Ed.) (2003) *Sports Ethics: an anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell.

(I/A)

The thirty-five essays in this anthology aim to illustrate the broad range of ethical issues in sport. It is divided into eight sections of varying size that examine the relationship between sport and education, sportspersonship, competition, drugs, violence, gender, race, and role models. It draws upon the philosophical analysis of many authors in the sport arena including, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, coaches, and journalists. Although it does have a bias towards a US perspective on these issues, it is designed to appeal to undergraduates and academics, and will also be of interest to those working within the sport arena who are concerned with relating ethical theory to practice.

Part One: Sport & Education

- Relativism, and Moral Education (Robert L. Simon)
- Why Everyone Deserves a Sporting Chance: Education, Justice, and School Sports (Janice Moulton)
- Moral Development and Sport: Character and Cognitive Developmentalism Contrasted (Carwyn Jones, and Mike McNamee)
- Philosopher in the Playground: Notes on the Meaning of Sport (Peter Heinegg)
- Foul Play: Sports Metaphors as Public Doublespeak (Francine Hardaway)

Part Two: Sport & Sportspersonship

- Sportsmanship as a Moral Category (James W. Keating)

- Three Approaches Toward an Understanding of Sportsmanship (Peter J. Arnold)
- Deception, Sportsmanship, and Ethics (Kathleen M. Pearson)
- On Sportsmanship and "Running up the Score" (Nicholas Dixon)
- Sportsmanship and Blowouts: Baseball and Beyond (Randolph M. Feezell)

Part Three: Sport & Competition

- The Ethics of Competition (Jan Boxill)
- On Winning and Athletic Superiority (Nicholas Dixon)
- In Defense of Winning (R. Scott Kretchmar)
- Winding Down, Looking Ahead (Dean Smith)
- Personal Best (W. M. Brown)
- Fair Play as Respect for the Game (Robert Butcher, and Angela Schneider)

Part Four: Sport & Drugs

- Good Competition and Drug-Enhanced Performance (Robert L. Simon)
- Enhancing Performance in Sports: What is Morally Permissible? (Laura Morgan)
- Sports and Drugs: Are the Current Bans Justified? (Michael Lavin)

Part Five: Sport & Violence

- What is Sports Violence? (Michael Smith)
- Values and Violence in Sports Today: The Moral Reasoning Athletes Use in their Games and in their Lives (Brenda Jo Bredemeier, David L. Shields, and Jack C. Horn)
- Violence and Sports (Robert E. Leach)

Part Six: Sport & Gender

- Sex Equality in Sports (Jane English)
- Human Equality in Sports (Peter S. Wenz)
- Gender Equity and Inequity in Athletics (Robert L. Simon)
- Title IX and Gender Equity (Jan Boxill)
- Why Women do Better than Men in College Basketball, or "What is Collegiate Sport for, Anyway?" (Nicholas Hunt-Bull)
- Women, Self-Possession, and Sport (Catharine MacKinnon)
- Stronger Women (Mariah Burton Nelson)
- The Sports Closet (Liz Galst)

Part Seven: Sport & Racial Issues

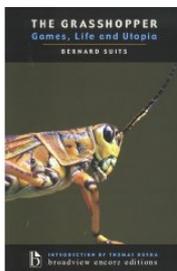
- Racial Differences in Sports: What's Ethics Got to Do With It? (Albert Mosley)
- Race and College Sport: A Long Way to Go (Richard E. Lapchick)
- Sport and Stereotype: From Role Model to Muhammad Ali (Mike Marqusee)

Part Eight: Sport & Role Models

- Do Celebrated Athletes have Special Responsibilities to be Good Role Models? An Imagined Dialog between Charles Barkley and Karl Malone (Christopher Wellman)
- Get the Message? (Rick Reilly)

This text is reviewed in Sheridan, H. (2004) 'Sports Ethics: An Anthology', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXI (1): 103-05.

Sport, Play and Games



Suits, B. (2005) *The Grasshopper; Games, Life and Utopia*, Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview. (A)

This text was first published in 1978 by the University of Toronto Press. The 2005 edition contains an introduction by Thomas Hurka and two appendices by Suits, 'The fool on the hill' and 'Wittgenstein in the meadow'.

This is the most widely discussed book in the philosophy of sport, yet it was not really conceived as a book in the philosophy of sport. Suits's primary concern is to respond to Wittgenstein's claim that it is not possible to define terms such as 'game'. Suits disagrees, and defines *games* as 'the voluntary attempt to overcome unnecessary obstacles'. Suits explains sport as a subset of games; they are games which require physical skill, have stability and a wide following. Suits also makes the additional claim that games should be thought of as central to any conception of Utopia. All this is done through the medium of a dialogue between the Grasshopper of Aesop's fable and his disciples (the most prominent of which is named Skepticus) on the nature of the good life.

This text is reviewed by both J. S. Russell and Steven Edwards in *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy*, vol. 1, issue 1 pp. 105-112.

The literature on the definitional project in relation to the topics of sport, play and games is extensive and includes the following:

D'Agostino, F. (1981) 'The Ethos of Games' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. VIII: 7-18 This article is the classic account and critique of formalism - the view that games (or sports) should be defined exclusively by their formal rules. D'Agostino argues that games not only have rules, but also an ethos, or set of conventions, which determines how the formal rules are applied in concrete cases.

McBride, F. (1979) 'A Critique of Mr. Suits' Definition of Game Playing' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. VI: 59-65. Reprinted in Morgan and Meier (1988)

McFee, G. (2004) *Sport, Rules and Values: Philosophical Investigations into the Nature of Sport*, London: Routledge (A)

The first chapter of McFee's book offers a sophisticated response to Suits and other advocates of the definitional project. McFee's response is motivated by a particular reading of Wittgenstein, and concludes that 'a definition (of sport) is neither possible nor desirable'. The second chapter provides a detailed critique of formalism.

Meier, K. V. (1988) 'Triad Trickery: Playing With Sport and Games' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* vol. XV: 11-30. Reprinted in Morgan and Meier (1995)

Morgan, W. J. (1987) 'The Logical Incompatibility Thesis and Rules: A Reconsideration of Formalism as an Account of Games' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XIV: 1-20

Schneider, A. J. (2001) 'Fruits, Apples, and Category Mistakes: On Sport, Games and Play', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXVIII (2): 151-59
Schneider argues that both Suits (1988) and Meier (1988) lead readers to misrepresent their positions by giving the impression (through their use of Venn and Euler diagrams) that they have both committed a category mistake. Suits (2004) argues that it is Schneider who has made the category mistake.

Suits, B. (2006) 'Games and Their Institutions in *The Grasshopper*' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, Vol. XXXIII (1): 1-8

Suits, B. (2004) 'Venn and the Art of Category Maintenance', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXI (1): 1-14

Suits, B. (1988) 'Words on Play' in Morgan, W. J. and Meier, K. V. (eds) (1988) *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport*, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics, pp. 17-27. Originally published in *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. IV (1977)

Suits, B. (1988a) 'The Elements of Sport' in Morgan, W. J. and Meier, K. V. (eds) (1988) *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport*, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics, pp. 17-27. Originally published in Osterhoudt (1973). Also reprinted in Morgan and Meier (1995)

Suits, B. (1988b) 'Tricky Triad: Games, Play and Sport' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XV: 1-9. Reprinted in Morgan and Meier (1995)

Suits, B. (1981) 'McBride and Paddick on *The Grasshopper*' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. VIII: 70-78

Suits's claim about the role of sports in Utopia has also prompted considerable secondary literature, such as:

Holowchak, A. M. (2007) 'Games as Pastimes in Suits's Utopia: Meaningful Living and the 'Metaphysics of Leisure', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXIV (1): 88-96

Thompson, K. (2004) 'Sport and Utopia', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXI (1): 60-63

Sport and Art

There seems little doubt that it is possible to have some aesthetic appreciation of sporting activity, and that some sports, such as gymnastics and diving, have an aesthetic dimension. A question which received much attention in the philosophy of sport literature during the 1970s and 1980s is whether these observations about sport constitute grounds on which to claim that sport can be a form of art. The most prominent critic of this suggestion is David Best. He draws a distinction between purposive sports and aesthetic sports in recognition of the fact that certain sports have an aesthetic dimension. However, he also draws a distinction between the *artistic* and the *aesthetic*. For Best, aesthetic contemplation is possible by the observer of activities such as sports, but for something to be art, it requires certain intentions on the part of the participant. Best denies that sport meets such criteria and claims that as a result it should not be thought of as art.

Best, D. (1985) 'Sport Is Not Art' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XII: 25-40.

Best, D. (1980) 'Art and Sport' *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 14: 69-80.

Best, D. (1978) *Philosophy and Human Movement*, London: George Allen & Unwin. (I/A)

Best, D. (1974) 'The Aesthetic in Sport' *British Journal of Aesthetics* 197-221

Cordner, C. D. (1988) 'Differences Between Sport and Art' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XV: 31-47

Cordner, C. D. (1984) 'Grace and Functionality' *British Journal of Aesthetics*, 24 (4): 301-13

Cordner is broadly sympathetic to Best's conclusions, but takes issue with certain details of his arguments for those conclusions. In the two articles above he explores those details and offers what he regards as a corrective to Best's position.

Edgar, A. (2007) 'What is Art? James and Collingwood on Sport' in Sheridan, H., Howe, L. and Thompson, K. (2007) *Sporting Reflections*, Aachen: Meyer and Meyer, pp. 20-31

The topic of sport and art has received little attention in recent years as a result of a fairly wide-spread acceptance of Best's position. However, Edgar's piece in many ways moves the topic in another direction. Edgar regards sport as 'at least a near-cousin of the arts'. As such, he regards sport as sharing with the arts the ability to act as a cultural resource through which 'communities externalise and articulate their understanding of themselves and their historical existence'.

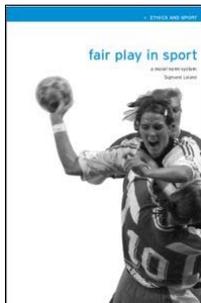
Roberts, T. J. (1986) 'Sport, Art and Particularity: The Best Equivocation' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XIII: 49-63

In this article Roberts takes issue with Best's claim that purposive sport has no *inherent* aesthetic dimension, and his views on the relationship between means and ends in distinguishing art from the aesthetic.

Wertz, S. K. (1984) 'Context and Intention in Sport and Art' *Southwest Philosophical Studies*, vol. VIII (5): 144-47

Wertz is critical of what he regards as the overly-restrictive nature of the contextualism that he takes Best to be advocating. In response, Best (1985) points out that Wertz misunderstands his position on conventions of use in relation to terms, and as a consequence misconstrues his view of context.

Fair Play



Loland, S. (2002) *Fair Play in Sport: A Moral Norm System*, London: Routledge. (I/A)

This book provides a comprehensive and sophisticated account of fair play in sport. It aims to provide a synthesis between traditional moral principles and their practical application in order to offer an understanding of the concept in modern sport. Topics covered within this book include the concepts of fairness, justice and equality, what constitutes 'good' competition, and the value of sport as an activity in

itself.

This text is reviewed in Fraleigh, W. (2003) 'Fair Play in Sport: A Moral Norm System', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXX (1): 93-96.

Loland, S. and McNamee, M. J. (2000) 'Fair Play and the Ethos of Sports: An Eclectic Philosophical Framework', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXVII: 63-80.

Simon, R.L. (1991). *Fair Play: Sports, Values, and Society*. Colorado: Westview Press.

Simon, R.L. (2004). *Fair Play: The Ethics of Sport*. Second edition Colorado: Westview Press.

The second edition of this text is reviewed in Holowchak, M. A. (2004) 'Fair Play: The Ethics of Sport, 2nd ed.', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXI (92): 245-47.

Doping

While it is widely accepted that there is (at least) something morally problematic about the use of performance-enhancing drugs, it has proved remarkably difficult to develop a broadly uncontested argument for the contention that doping is morally wrong. The best short introduction to the arguments on doping is Schneider and Butcher (2000). This piece provides an overview of the various *types* of argument and as a consequence it is good preparation for a reading of the extensive more detailed literature. Schneider and Butcher categorise the arguments on doping under four headings: cheating and unfairness; harm; perversion of sport; and unnaturalness and dehumanisation. The category of harm is further divided into harm to athletes who dope (the users); harm to other (clean) athletes; harm to society; harm to the sports community; and harm caused by bans.

Schneider, A. J. and Butcher, R. B. (2000) 'A Philosophical Overview of the Arguments on Banning Doping in Sport' in Tännsjö, T. and Tamburrini, C. M. (eds) (2000) *Values in Sport: Elitism, Nationalism, Gender Equality and the Scientific Manufacture of Winners*, London: E & FN Spon, pp. 185-99

Holowchak, M. A. (2002) 'Ergogenic Aids and the Limits of Human Performance in Sport: Ethical Issues, Aesthetic Considerations', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXIX (1): 75-86

Holowchak, M. A. (2000) "'Aretism" and Pharmacological Ergogenic Aids in Sport: Taking a Shot at the Use of Steroids', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXVII: 35-50

Holowchak argues that consideration of the concept of autonomy in relation to sport can be the basis of support for the bans on doing, rather than for lifting the bans as is commonly assumed.

Tamburrini, C. M. (2000) 'What's wrong with doping?' in Tännsjö, T. and Tamburrini, C. M. (eds) (2000) *Values in Sport: Elitism, Nationalism, Gender Equality and the Scientific Manufacture of Winners*, London: E & FN Spon, pp. 200-16

This is a provocative piece which argues in favour of lifting the ban on doping. Tamburrini acknowledges that this will lead to certain damage as a consequence of doping, but he argues that 'working always breaks down workers' health, so why should sports jobs be different?'

Morgan, W. J. and Meier, K. V. (eds) (1995) *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport*, second edition, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics

Morgan, W. J., Meier, K. V. and Schneider, A. J. (eds) (2001) *Ethics in Sport*, Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics

The two texts above each contain a section eight pieces on drugs and sport. While there is considerable overlap between the two texts, they each contain some different material.

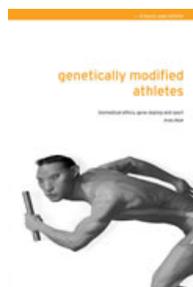
Morgan and Meier (1995) contains the following:

- Sport and the technological image of man (John M. Hoberman)
- Good competition and drug-enhanced performance (Robert L. Simon)*
- Paternalism, drugs, and the nature of sports (W. M. Brown)*
- On performance-enhancing substances and the unfair advantage argument (Roger Gardner)
- Sports and drugs: are the current bans justified? (Michael Lavin)*
- Practices and prudence (W. Miller Brown)
- Blood doping and athletic competition (Clifton Perry)
- Privacy and the unanalysis testing of athletes (Paul B. Thompson)*

Morgan, Meier and Schneider contains those above marked (*) plus the following:

- Listening to steroids (John M. Hoberman)
- As American as Gatorade and apple pie: performance drugs and sport (W. M. Brown)
- Drug testing of college athletes: the issues (Richard R. Albrecht, William A. Anderson and Douglas B. McKeag)
- The ethics of blood testing as an element of doping control in sport (Alister Browne, Victor LaChance and Andrew Pipe)

Genetic Technology and Sport



Miah, A. (2004) *Genetically Modified Athletes: Biomedical Ethics, Gene Doping and Sport*, London: Routledge (I/A)

Genetically Modified Athletes: Biomedical Ethics, Gene Doping and Sport was the first book-length work on the ethical issues arising from the prospect of the application of genetic transfer technology to sport. The book aims to outline and analyse the various ethical and broader philosophical issues that the prospect of genetically modified athletes

raises. However, it is not a textbook, but a full study of the topic and as a result, another aim of the text is to make the case for a qualified acceptance of genetic technology in sport. The book is comprised of an introduction and eleven chapters. These are divided into four parts – Anti-doping and performance enhancement, Conceptualising genetics in sport, The ethical status of genetic modification in sport, and Genetically modified athletes.

The first part of the book is concerned with arguing that adopting an approach to genetic modification that is modelled on the arguments against doping in sport is mistaken. Part two begins with an informative chapter on what may or may not be possible in relation to the application of genetic transfer technology to sport. Part three returns to the issue with which part one closes – what does it mean to be human?, and continues (in chapter seven) by looking closely at the distinction between therapy and enhancement, arguing that it is far more complex than is generally assumed. This discussion is followed (in chapter eight) by a survey of

ethical issues that arise from non-sporting genetic modification. This includes consideration of concerns over eugenics, or social engineering, concerns over knowledge and access in relation to personal genetic information, the problem of current modifications being based on the values which we presently hold and the concern that this amounts to an engineering of future values, which, even limited historical knowledge would suggest, is likely to be problematic. The issues of interfering with evolution, or playing God, genetic essentialism, the treatment of life as a means rather than an end, and the creation of a genetic super-class are also covered.

Part Four develops the discussion of general ethical concerns over genetic modification by looking (in chapter nine) at how these concerns, and those raised in relation to doping in sport (chapter ten), apply when considering the prospect of genetic modification in sport.

Chapters nine and ten are a useful summary of the key ethical issues around genetic modification in sport and are particularly useful for teaching purposes when read in conjunction with chapter one (on arguments against doping in sport), chapter three (on the four major types of application of genetic technology to sport) and chapter eight (on the general ethical concerns one might have over any form of genetic modification).

This book is reviewed in Culbertson, L. (2006) 'Genetically Modified Athletes: Biomedical Ethics, Gene Doping and Sport' *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, XXXIII (1): 103-05.



Tamburrini, C. M. and Tännsjö, T. (eds) (2005) *Genetic Technology and Sport: Ethical Questions*, London: Routledge (I/A)

While much ink has been spilt on pharmacological doping, recent advances in genetic technology brought a whole raft of new ethical and political issues and questions to sports philosophy. This collection, also includes an introduction to the basic science of genetic technology as well as explorations by medical ethicists and sports ethicists.

Part One: The State of the Art

- The international anti-doping policy and its implementation (Arne Ljungqvist)
- The basics of gene doping (Peter Schjerling)
- Genetic enhancement of athletic performance (Angela J. Schneider)
- Gene doping: the shape of things to come (Andy Miah)

Part Two: The Genetic Enhancement of Athletes

- Genetic engineering and elitism in sport (Torbjörn Tännsjö)
- What's wrong with admiring athletes and other people? (Ingmar Persson)
- Educational or genetic blueprints, what's the difference? (Claudio M. Tamburrini)

- Sport and genetics: moral and educational considerations regarding ‘athletic predestination’ (Ivo Van Hilvoorde)

Part Three: Genetic Testing of Athletes

- Ethical aspects of controlling genetic doping (Christian Munthe)
- Nutrigenomics, individualism and sport (Ruth Chadwick)
- Compulsory genetic testing for APOE epsilon 4 and boxing (Julian Savulescu)

Part Four: Genetic Technology and the Ethos of Sport

- *Citius, altius fortius ad absurdum*: biology, performance and sportsmanship in the twenty-first century (Lincoln Allison)
- The vulnerability thesis and use of biomedical technology in sport (Sigmund Loland)
- Sport, gene doping and ethics (Gunnar Breivik)

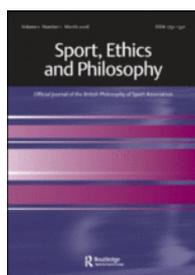
Part Five: Gender Equality and Gene Technology in Sport

- The genetic design of a new Amazon (Claudio M. Tamburrini and Torbjörn Tännsjö)
- Resisting the emergence of Bio-Amazons (Susan Sherwin and Meredith Schwartz)
- Bio-Amazons – a comment (Ruth Chadwick and Sarah Wilson)
- What is gender equality in sports? (Simona Giordano and John Harris)

This text is reviewed in Morgan, W. M. (2006) ‘Genetic Technology and Sport’, *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXIII (2): 215-17.

Ethics of Sports Medicine

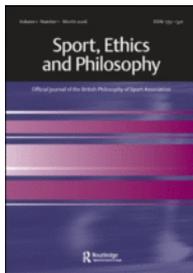
The development of interest in the ethical issues raised by the potential use of genetic transfer technology in sport has developed into a broadened set of concerns that are referred to as ‘the ethics of sports medicine’. This includes any ethical issues arising from the role of sports medics and medical technology in performance-enhancement in sport. Such concerns necessitate consideration of the nature and purpose of medicine and the role of medical practitioners of all kinds involved in sport, along with reflection on some of the central concepts of medical ethics, such as, therapy/enhancement, suffering, pain, health, dignity and human-ness.



***Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* – Special Issue: The Ethics of Sports Medicine (Guest Editors: Claudio M. Tamburrini and Torbjörn Tännsjö) (I/A)**

This is the first collection of articles on the topic of sports medicine ethics. As such, it may prove to be an agenda-setting publication for future work in the area. It will shortly be produced as an edited book by Routledge (2009).

- Introduction: Transcending human limitations (Claudio M. Tamburrini and Torbjörn Tännsjö)
- Doctoring risk: Responding to risk-taking in athletes (Lynley Anderson)
- Doping under medical control – conceptually possible but impossible in the world of professional sports? (Søren Holm)
- Genetics, bioethics and sport (Andy Miah)
- Respecting privacy in detecting illegitimate enhancements in athletes (Sarah Teetzel)
- Genetic enhancement, sports and relational autonomy (Susan Sherwin)
- Whose Prometheus? Transhumanism, biotechnology and the moral topography of sports medicine (Mike McNamee)
- 'Human-ness', 'dehumanisation' and performance enhancement (Leon Culbertson)
- Is enhancement in sport really unfair? Arguments on the concept of competition and equality of opportunity (Christian Lenk)
- What's wrong with genetic inequality the impact of genetic technology on elite sports and society (Claudio M. Tamburrini)
- Who's afraid of Stella Walsh? On gender, 'gene cheaters', and the promises of cyborg athletes (Kutte Jönsson)



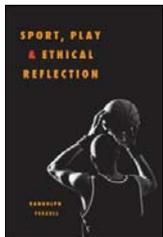
***Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* – Special Issue: Ethics, Dis/Ability and Sports (Guest Editors: Ejgil Jespersen and Mike McNamee) (I/A)**

This is the first collection of articles on a rather neglected topic within the philosophy of sports. It ranges over the philosophy and ethics of disability sports, Paralympic sports and Adapted Physical Activity. It too is intended to be an agenda-setting publication for future work between the philosophy of sports, and scholarship in the fields surrounding Adapted Physical Activity and Disability Sports. It will shortly be produced as an edited book by Routledge (2009).

- Philosophy, Adapted Physical Activity and Dis/ability (Ejgil Jespersen; Mike McNamee)
- Disability or Extraordinary Talent—Francesco Lentini (Three Legs) Versus Oscar Pistorius (No Legs) (Ivo van Hilvoorde; Laurens Landeweerd)
- Should Oscar Pistorius be Excluded from the 2008 Olympic Games? (S. D. Edwards)
- Tackling Murderball: Masculinity, Disability and the Big Screen (Michael Gard; Hayley Fitzgerald)
- Imagining Being Disabled Through Playing Sport: The Body and Alterity as Limits to Imagining Others' Lives (Brett Smith)
- Ethical Considerations in Adapted Physical Activity Practices (Yeshayahu Hutzler)

- Self-Regulated Dependency: Ethical Reflections on Interdependence and Help in Adapted Physical Activity (Donna L. Goodwin)
- Conversion Gait Disorder—Meeting Patients in Behaviour, Reuniting Body and Mind (Anika A. Jordbru; Ejgil Jespersen; Egil Martinsen)
- Celebrating the Insecure Practitioner. A Critique of Evidence-Based Practice in Adapted Physical Activity (Oyvind F. Standal)
- The 'I' of the Beholder: Phenomenological Seeing in Disability Research (Christina Papadimitriou)
- The Remarkable Logic of Autism: Developing and Describing an Embedded Curriculum Based in Semiotic Phenomenology (Maureen Connolly)
- Ethical Aspects in Research in Adapted Physical Activity (Anne-Mette Bredahl)

Other Books in the Philosophy and Ethics of Sport



Fezell, R. (2004) *Sport, Play and Ethical Reflection*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press (B/I/A)

This book is a contribution to the virtue ethics tradition of sports ethics. It is divided into two parts and ten chapters as follows:

Part One: Sport: Attraction and Paradox

- Sport, Bodily Existence and Play
- The Freedom of Play
- Sport, the Aesthetic, and Narrative
- Play and the Absurd
- Sport and the View from Nowhere

Part Two: Sport and Ethics

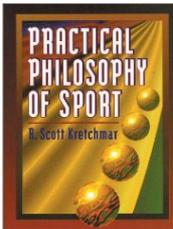
- Sportsmanship
- On Cheating in Sports
- Sportsmanship and Blowouts
- Sport, Character and Virtue
- Respect for the Game

Much of the text is based on previous publications, but a significant number of these are in philosophy journals rather than philosophy of sport journals.

This text is reviewed in Russell, J. S. (2006) 'Sport, Play and Ethical Reflection', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXIII (1): 100-02.

**Fraleigh, W. P. (1984) *Right Actions in Sport: Ethics for Contestants*,
Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics (B//A)**

This is a classic text which was a key driver in the emergence of ethical issues in sport as the dominant consideration of the philosophy of sport. It is a canonical statement of the deontological or duty based ethics of sports. The text outlines a structure for establishing *guides* to moral action in sport. This structure has three elements: the establishment of a point of view, development of guides and the specification of ends which are consistent with point of view. The first chapter provides an introduction which identifies the basic problem of dealing with sporting cases in which there appears to be a range of possible answers. Five illustrative cases are outlined: the case of faked injury; the case of the intentional foul; the case of the tennis linesman's error, the case of anabolic steroids and the case of the uneven contest. It is argued that a moral basis is required for guides to right action. Part One of the book (Chapters 1 and 2) identifies the problem under consideration and outlines a structure to establish guides. Part two (chapters 3-7) looks at the moral nature of sport in more detail by considering the ends of sporting contests, winning/losing and the quality of play, rules, relationships between opponents and values in sporting contests. Part Three (chapters 8-10) outlines a whole range of guides to moral action in sport and Part Four (chapters 11 and 12) address the problem of context and application (chapter 11) and the moral agent, reasons for action and moral maturity (chapter 12).



**Kretchmar, R. S. (1994) *Practical Philosophy of Sport*,
Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics (B)**

This is one of the most popular introductory texts in the philosophy of sport. The book is written for students and professionals and as a consequence has the virtues of clarity and simplicity. The book is divided into three parts: Getting Started; The Values of Sport,

Exercise Science and Physical Education; and Improving Life Through Our Profession: Applications of Philosophic Thinking. Part One deals with developing philosophic skills, mind/body dualism and holism in relation to the mind/body problem. Part Two addresses the social role and significance of sport, values in relation to sport, dance and exercise, the extrinsic and intrinsic nature of the value of fitness, knowledge, skill and pleasure. Part Three considers changes that can be made as a consequence of philosophical thinking in relation to sport, the significance of play and games and how to make sound ethical decisions.

**Kretchmar, R. S. (2005) *Practical Philosophy of Sport*, second edition,
Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics (B)**

While most of the material in the first addition of *Practical Philosophy of Sport* remains, in one form or another, in the second edition, there are numerous additions in the second edition and the text has been completely restructured. The content of the second edition is as follows:

Part One: The Nature and Methods of Philosophy

- Philosophy and Kinesiology

- Pursuing Philosophic Answers

Part Two: Human Beings and Physical Activity

- Mind-Body Dualism
- Scientific Materialism
- Tournaments of Dualism and Materialism
- Holism
- Holism: From Theory to Practice

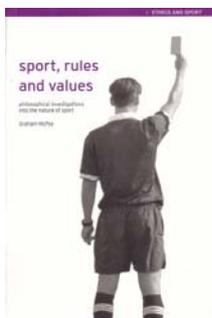
Part Three: The Subject Matter of Kinesiology

- Creating Movement Playgrounds
- Understanding Games, Competition, and Winning

Part Four: Ethics, Value Choices and the Good Life

- Developing Sound Professional Ethics
- Physical Activity and the Good Life
- The Active Lifestyle
- Appendix: Case Studies

The second edition of Kretchmar's text is reviewed in Hardman, A. R. (2007) 'Practical Philosophy of Sport and Physical Activity', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXIV (1): 97-99.



McFee, G. (2004) *Sport, Rules and Values: Philosophical Investigations into the Nature of Sport*, London: Routledge. (A)

This is a philosophically sophisticated treatment of sport in a Wittgensteinian mode. It operates at graduate level. The book begins by offering a detailed critique of the idea that it is possible to define terms such as 'sport' (or, for that matter, 'play' and 'games') as Suits claimed to have succeeded in doing. Having argued against the possibility and utility of the definitional project, McFee moves on to consider the issue of rule-following, first in relation to formalism and then in relation to rule-formulations. The book then considers the issue of normativity and the notion that sport is some form of practice. The second part of the book explores the issue of judging sport through consideration of aesthetic sports, the role of principles in the application of rules and spoiling and cheating. In the process McFee develops an occasion-sensitive account of understanding. This is developed further in the third part of the book when McFee develops a view of sport as a moral laboratory which rests on a form of moral particularism. The structure of the book is as follows:

Introduction: Sport, Rules and Values

Part One: Rules and Explaining Sport

- Definiteness and Defining Sport
- Rule-following and Formalism in Sport
- Rule-following and Rule-formulations
- Practices and Normativity in Sport

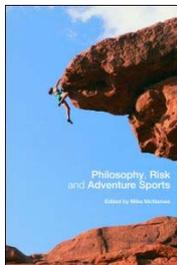
Part Two: Rules in Judging Sport

- Aesthetic Sports, Publicity and Judgement Calls
- Principles and the Application of Rules
- Spoiling, Cheating and Playing the Game

Part Three: Rules in Valuing Sport

- The Project of a Moral Laboratory; and Particularism
- The Value of Sport
- Relativism, Objectivity and Truth
- Conclusion: Sport, Rules and Philosophy

This text has been reviewed in Edgar, A. 'Sport, Rules and Values: Philosophical Investigations into the Nature of Sport', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXII (1): 119-121.



McNamee, M. (ed.) (2007) *Philosophy, Risk and Adventure Sports*. London: Routledge (I/A)

This collection of essays provides a comprehensive consideration of the concept of risk in adventure sport. It covers a spectrum of philosophical perspectives that illuminate our understanding of maintaining the fragile balance between ecstasy, thrill, danger, authenticity, life and death.

- Adventurous activity, prudent planners and risk (Mike McNamee)
- The quest for excitement and the safe society (Gunnar Breivik)
- Legislators and interpreters: an examination of changes in philosophical interpretations of 'being a mountaineer' (Paul Beedie)
- Philosophy outdoors: first person physical (John Michael Atherton)
- Adventure, climbing excellence and the practice of 'bolting' (Philip Ebert, and Simon Robertson)
- Reading water: risk, intuition, and insight (Douglas Anderson)
- Nature and risk in adventure sports (Kevin Krein)
- Aesthetic and ethical issues concerning sport in wilder places (Alan P. Dougherty)
- Outline of a phenomenology of snowboarding (Sigmund Loland)
- The performative avant-garde and action sports: Vedic philosophy in a postmodern world (Robert E. Rinehart)

- Extreme sports and the ontology of experience (Ivo Jirasek)
- Kant goes skydiving: understanding the extreme by way of the sublime (Jesus Ilundain-Agurruza)
- Can BASEjumping be morally defended? (Gunnar Breivik)
- Walking the edge (Verner Moller)

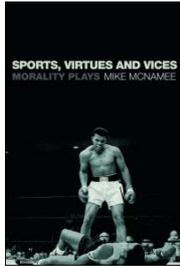


McNamee, M. (ed.) (2005) *Philosophy and the Sciences of Exercise, Health and Sport: Critical Perspectives on Research Methods*, London: Routledge (A)

This text covers many of the perennial issues in the philosophy of science, with a specific focus on the assumptions and methods adopted by scientists working in the sport, exercise and health sciences. Topics covered include Popper's principle of 'falsification', Kuhn's paradigm thesis, questioning the traditional supremacy of, and faith in, quantitative methods and statistical analysis, sports psychologists' aversion to Freudian perspectives, and the dominance of male orientated research in the sports sciences.

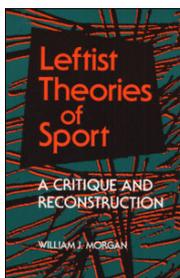
- Positivism, Popper and Paradigms: an introductory essay in the philosophy of science (Mike McNamee)
- Must scientists think philosophically about science? (Jim Parry)
- Can physiology be both Popperian and ethical? (Neil Spurway)
- How does a foundational myth become sacred scientific dogma? The case of A.V. Hill and the anaerobiosis controversy (Tim Noakes)
- Why doesn't sports psychology consider Freud? (Graham McFee)
- Do statistical methods replace reasoning in exercise science research? (Stephen-Mark Cooper and Alan Nevill)
- What are the limitations of experimental and theoretical approaches in sports biomechanics? (M.R. Yeadon)
- Can we trust rehydration research? (Tim Noakes)
- Is sport and exercise science a man's game? (Celia Brackenridge, Nanette Mutrie and Precilla Choi)
- Autoethnography: self-indulgence or rigorous methodology? (Jacquelyn Allen Collinson and John Hockey)
- Is investigative sociology just investigative journalism? (John Sugden)
- Is research with and on students ethically defensible? (Roger Homan)
- Obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus and the metabolic syndrome: What are the choices for prevention in the twenty-first century? (Simon Williams And Rhys Williams)

This book is reviewed in Jones, C. (2006) 'Philosophy and the Sciences of Exercise, Health and Sport: Critical Perspectives on Research Methods', *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, vol. XXXIII (2): 218-21.



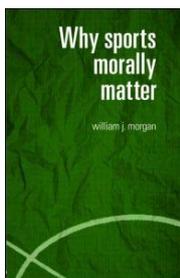
McNamee, M. (2008) *Sport, Virtues and Vices: Morality Plays*. London: Routledge (I/A)

This book is underpinned by the central thesis that sports function as a modern version of a morality play and thus situates ethics at the very core of sports. It takes a virtue-ethics approach to understanding the role that sport plays in shaping us as ethical creatures and explores key issues such as, sport as the facilitator in building good character; a dispositional account of racism; an examination of humility, greed and envy; an analysis of doping in relation to virtue and vice; virtuous and vicious responses to suffering for sport; and a critical exploration of the challenges that biotechnology presents to elite athletes in their ethical development.



Morgan, W. J. (1994) *Leftist Theories of Sport: A Critique and Reconstruction*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press (I/A)

This book is perhaps more widely read by sociologists of sport than philosophers of sport because of the relative neglect of social and political philosophy within the philosophy of sport since the 1970s (Morgan is the most notable exception). However, the book is an illustration of the way the conceptual rigour of philosophy can greatly inform other disciplines (in this case sociology, cultural studies and social theory). The book has two parts; the first providing a critique of certain leftist theories of sport and the second offering a reconstructed theory. The first two chapters are detailed, and damaging, critiques of New Left and hegemonist theories of sport respectively. Morgan's own proposed critical theory stresses the importance of the logical integrity of sport and the deliberations of the various practice communities of sport. This text remains the only book-length treatment of sport from the perspective of the philosophy of sport (as opposed to social theory), and as such it is the natural point of departure for anyone interested in the application of social and political philosophy to sport.



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

This book is, like *Leftist Theories of Sport*, an investigation of ethical issues in sport from the perspective of social and political philosophy. The focus of this book, however, is much more explicitly on the moral dimension of sport. Morgan is heavily critical of the nature of contemporary sport and regards capitalism and the individualism which accompanies it as largely responsible for the poor moral state of modern sport. However, he is far from pessimistic about the potential for sport to be an important contributor to the moral development of individuals and wider societies.

Weiss, P. (1969) *Sport: A Philosophic Inquiry*, Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press (B/I)

This is the first book-length text in the philosophy of sport. In 1969 there was no such thing as an academic discipline called 'the philosophy of sport', and a comparison of

this text with contemporary work in the philosophy of sport would illustrate the degree to which the discipline has changed, however, this book is still interesting in virtue of its content in addition to its historical significance in the development of the philosophy of sport. The most striking difference between Weiss's text and modern work is that he had no literature explicitly on the philosophy of sport on which to draw. This book was not part of an academic dialogue at the time it was written because it constituted the first sentence in the subsequent dialogue. The text is also much more metaphysical in nature than most contemporary work in the philosophy of sport.

Book Series

A series on philosophical and social scientific ethics of sport is edited by McNamee, M. J. and Parry, S. J. under the title 'Ethics and Sport' and is published by Routledge. Another book series Sport, Culture and Society is published by Meyer & Meyer Sport, Aachen, Germany starting in the year 2000. This series developed edited by K. Volkwein (USA), K. Gilbert (Australia), and O. Schantz (France) is interdisciplinary and cross-cultural in nature, including a sport philosophical approach, and focuses on current and controversial topics in sport in the world.

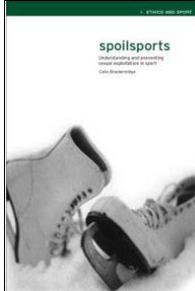
Routledge Ethics and Sport Book Series (Edited by Mike McNamee and Jim Parry)

This series, following the success of the McNamee and Parry edited volume, has published research from leading scholars in the ethics of sports. They range from undergraduate to postgraduate levels. The series is comprised of mainly philosophical books but also includes some descriptive ethics work by social scientists (n.b. Brackenridge; Howe; and Loland, Skirstad and Waddington). Many of the books in this series have already been discussed; full details are listed below.

- **Giordana, S. (2009) *Moral choices, eating disorders and exercise: ethical and legal issues***
- **Jespersen, E. and McNamee, M. J. (2009) (eds) *Ethics, Dis/Ability and Sports*.**
- **Tamburrini, C. and Tannsjo, T. (2008) *The Ethics of Sports Medicine*.**
- **McNamee, M. J., Olivier, S., and Wainwright, P. (2006) *Research Ethics in Exercise, Health and Sciences*.**
- **Walsh, A. and Guillianotti, R. (2006) *Commercialism, Commodification and the Corruption of Sport*.**
- **Loland, S., Skirstad, B. and Waddington, I. (eds) (2005) *Pain, Injury and Sport*.**
- **Tamburrini, C and Tännsjö, T (eds) (2005) *Genetic Technology and Sport: Ethical Questions*.**
- **Miah, A. (2004) *Genetically Modified Athletes: Biomedical Ethics, Gene Doping and Sport*.**
- **McFee, G. (2003) *Sport, Rules and Values: Philosophical Investigations into the Nature of Sport*.**
- **Loland, S. (2002) *Fair Play: A Moral Norm System*.**
- **Brackenridge, C. (2001) *Spoilsports: understanding and preventing***

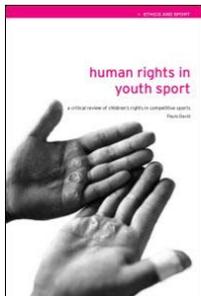
sexual exploitation in Sport.

- Tamburrini, C and Tännsjö, T (eds) (2000) *Values in Sport: Elitism, Nationalism, Gender Equality and the Scientific Manufacture of Winners.*
- McNamee, M. J. and Parry, S. J. (Eds) (1998) *Ethics and Sport.*



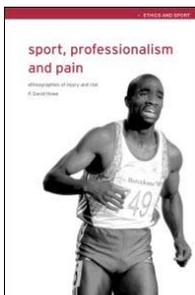
Brackenridge, C. (2001) *Spoilsports: Understanding and Preventing Sexual Exploitation in Sport*, London: Routledge (B/I)

This text is not overtly philosophical in nature; rather it is social scientific enquiry into sexual exploitation in sport by one of the leading academics in that field. The book is a work of descriptive ethics insofar as it deals with an ethical issue from the perspective of academic disciplines other than moral philosophy. For philosophers the book is perhaps most useful for the range of questions that it raises.



David, P. (2005) *Human Rights in Youth Sport: A Critical Review of Children's Rights in Competitive Sport*, London: Routledge (B/I)

This text includes considerable ethical discussion, case studies and policy development material regarding the range of issues in children's sports. In particular David sets the context of ethical discussion for Children's sports in the context of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child and how they are often overridden in the world of sports.

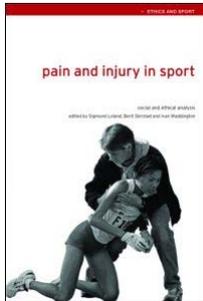


Howe, D. P. (2004) *Sport, Professionalism and pain: Ethnographies of Injury and Risk*, London: Routledge (B/I)

Working in the boundaries between the anthropology and sociology of sport, sport medicine and risk, this volume extends the discussion of professionalisation of sports medicine. It examines the rise of professionalism in sports too and challenges our understanding of the constructed meanings of embodiment, injury and risk in the light of three case studies: Paralympic Sports, Rugby Union, and Track and Field Athletics.

- Introduction
- Part One: Sports Medicine: Pain and Injury in Context
- Investigating Sports Medicine: Medical Anthropology in Context
- Sporting Bodies: Mortal Engines
- Pain and Injury: Signal and Response
- Part Two
- Professionalism and Commercialism and the Culture of Risk
- How Professional Attitude Commercialises Sport
- The Importance of Injury in the Commercialised World of Sport
- Risk Culture as 'a Product'

- Part Three: Theory into Practice
- Distinctive Community: The Welsh Rugby Club
- At Any Cost: Success in Athletics
- Bodily Dysfunction: The Paralympics as an Arena for Risk
- Part Four: Conclusions

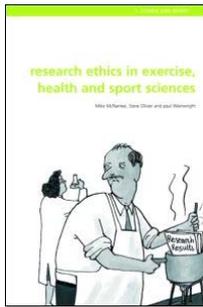


Loland, S., Skirstad, B. and Waddington, I. (eds) (2006) *Pain and Injury in Sport: Social and Ethical Analysis*, London: Routledge (I/A)

Pain and injury in sport highlights the significant part that culture plays in the concept of pain. In doing so, it rejects the orthodox medical model that concentrates solely on the physiological function and takes an interdisciplinary perspective on understanding more about these concepts. As such, it probes a series of questions as to

what extent is pain and suffering a necessary and acceptable part of sport, the influence of coaches and medical staff, and the function of sports medicine and drugs.

- Introduction (Ivan Waddington, Sigmund Loland, and Berit Skirstad)
- The sociology of pain and injury in sport : main perspectives and problems (Martin Roderick)
- Sport and the psychology of pain (Kirsten Kaya Roessler)
- Three approaches to the study of pain in sport (Sigmund Loland)
- The place of pain in running (John Bale)
- Pains and strains on the ice : some thoughts on the physical and mental struggles of polar adventurers (Matti Goksoyr)
- Injured female athletes : experiential accounts from England and Canada (Hannah Charlesworth, and Kevin Young)
- Sport and the systematic infliction of pain : a case study of state-sponsored mandatory doping in East Germany (Giselher Spitzer)
- Pain and injury in boxing : the medical profession divided (Ken Sheard)
- The intentional infliction of pain in sport : ethical perspectives (Jim Parry)
- Sports medicine : a very peculiar practice? : doctors and physiotherapists in elite English rugby union (Dominic Malcolm)
- Ethical problems in the medical management of sports injuries : a case study of English professional football (Ivan Waddington)
- The ontology of sports injuries and professional medical ethics (Yotam Lurie)
- The role of injury in the organization of Paralympic sport (P. David Howe)
- Suffering in and for sport : some philosophical remarks on a painful emotion (Mike McNamee)
- Pain, suffering and paradox in sport and religion (Jeffrey P. Fry)



McNamee, M., Olivier, S. and Wainwright, P. (2007) *Research Ethics in Exercise, Health and Sports Sciences*, London: Routledge (I/A)

This book focuses upon the ethical considerations required in the preparation and design for ethically sound research. It provides both a theoretical analysis and practical examples and case studies, and includes commentary on the need for confidentiality clauses, ensuring information and data protection, plagiarism and misappropriation of authorship, and research involving vulnerable populations. Its overall rationale is to provide an accessible theoretical framework in ethical investigation for anyone conducting research in the areas of sport, health and exercise.

Selected General Bibliography

The philosophical literature concerning sport is extensive. Historically important and contemporary books in the field notably include the following:

Abe, S. (Ed.). (1977). *The Philosophy of Physical Education*, (sixth edition). Tokyo: Shoyo Shoin

Arnold, P. J. (1997). *Sport, Ethics and Education*, London: Cassell

Arnold, P.J. (1988). *Education, Movement and the Curriculum*. Lewes: Falmer

Arnold, P.J. (1977). *Meaning in Movement, Sport and Physical Education*. London: Heinemann

Best, D. (1974). *Expression in Movement and the Art*. London: Lepus

Best, D. (1978). *Philosophy and Human Movement*. London: Allen and Unwin

Brohm, J.-M. (1978). *Sport - A Prison of Measured Time*. London: Ink Links

Caillois, R. (1961). *Man, Play, and Games*. New York: Free Press

Cantelon, H. & Gruneau, R.S. (Eds.)(1982). *Sport, Culture and the Modern State*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press

Davis, E.C. & Miller, D.M. (1961). *The Philosophic Process in Physical Education* (Second edition). Iowa: W C Brown

Fraleigh, W.P. (1984). *Right Actions in Sport: Ethics for Contestants*. Champaign, Ill: Human Kinetics

Galasso, P.J. (Ed.). (1988). *Philosophy of Sport and Physical Activity Issues and Concepts*. Toronto: Canadian Scholarsbb Press

Gerber, E. W., & Morgan, W.J. (Eds.). (1979). *Sport and the Body: A Philosophical Symposium* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger

Gruneau, R.S. (1999). *Class, Sports, and Social Development*, (second edition). Champaign, Ill: Human Kinetics

Grupe, O., & Dietmar, M. (1988). *Lexikon der Ethik im Sport*. Verlag Karl Hofmann: Schorndorf

Haag, H. (1991). *Sportphilosophie*. Frankfurt: Diesterweg-Sauerländer

Haag, H. (Ed.). (1996). *Handbuch Sportphilosophie*. Schondorf: Verlag K. Hofmann

Hargreaves, J. (Ed.). (1991). *Sport, Culture and Ideology*. Cambridge: Polity

Harper, W.A., Miller, D.M., Park, R.J & Davis, E.C. (1977). *The Philosophic Process in Physical Education*, (3rd ed.). Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger

Hoberman, J.M. (1984). *Sport and Political Ideology*. Austin: University of Texas Press

Huizinga, J. (1970). *Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play Element in Culture*. London: Paladin

Hyland, D.A. (1994). *Philosophy of Sport*. Maryland: University Press of America

Hyland, D.A. (1984). *The Question of Play*. Washington: University Press of America

Keating, J.W. (1978). *Competition and Playful Activities*. Washington: University Press of America

Kleinman, S. (Ed.). (1986). *Mind and Body: East Meets West*. Champaign: Human Kinetics

Kretchmar, R. S. (1994). *Practical Philosophy of Sport*. Champaign: Human Kinetics

Landry, F. & Orban, W.A.R. (Eds.). (1978). *Philosophy, Theology and History of Sport and of Physical Activity*. Quebec: Symposia Specialists

Lenk, H. (1969). *Social Philosophy of Athletics*. Illinois: Stipes Publishing

Lenk, H. (Ed.). (1983). *Topical Problems of Sport*. Schorndorf: Verlag Karl Hofmann

Loland, S. (2001). *Fair Play: A Moral Norm System*. London: Routledge

Loland, S., Skirstad, B. and Waddington, I. (eds) (2005) *Ethics, Pain and Sport*, London: Routledge

Lumpkin, A., Stoll, S.K., & Beller, J.M. (1999). *Sport Ethics: Applications for Fair Play*. (second edition). Boston: McGraw Hill

McFee, G. (2004) *Sport, Rules and Values*, London: Routledge

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McNamee, M. J., Olivier, S and Wainwright, P. (2006) *Research Ethics in Exercise, Health and Sport Sciences*, London: Routledge

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Miah, A. (2004) *Genetically Engineered Athletes*, London: Routledge

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Morgan, W. J. (ed) (2007) *Ethics in sports*, Champaign; IL: Human Kinetics (2nd edition)

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Postow, B.C. (Ed.). (1983). *Women, Philosophy, and Sport*. New York: Scarecrow Press

Rigauer, B. (1982). *Sport and Work*. New York: University of Columbia Press

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Simon, R.L. (1991). *Fair Play: Sports, Values, and Society*. Colorado: Westview Press

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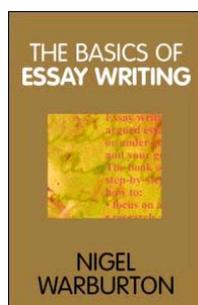
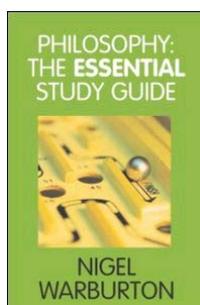
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Zeigler, E.F. (1968). *Problems in the History and Philosophy of Physical Education and Sport*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall

Introductory Philosophy Texts & Writing Philosophy Essays



Warburton, N. (2004) *Philosophy: The Essential Study Guide*. London: Routledge.

Warburton, N. (2007) *The Basics of Essay Writing*. London: Routledge.

These two texts are excellent resources for students getting to grips with writing essays in philosophy. They are small and easily accessible, and though they tend to use examples from more traditional philosophical problems and literature, they will prove invaluable to any new undergraduate studying the philosophy of sport for the first time.

Blackburn, S. (1999) *Think: A compelling introduction to philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

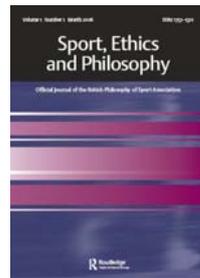
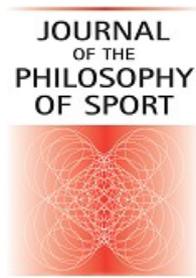
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Annotated Guide to Journals



Philosophers of sport have tended to publish their research in a wide variety of outlets from scientific to professional journals. Many philosophers have published their work in national and international multi-disciplinary journals on sports. Equally, it is very common for philosophers to publish in national and international social scientific sports journals. The International Association for the philosophy of sport's (IAPS) own publication is the *Journal of the*

Philosophy of Sport (<http://humankinetics.com/JPS/journalAbout.cfm>), which has been published annually since 1974, and bi-annually since 2001 and is currently under the Editorship of Professor John Russell (jrussell@langara.bc.ca). In addition, the British Philosophy of Sport Association (BPSA) produced its own Journal *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* as of 2007 which is published tri-annually, with the middle issue of each year being a special issue devoted to an area of particular interest or a dedicated monograph (<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/rsepauth.asp>). Its Editor is Professor Mike McNamee (m.j.mcnamee@swansea.ac.uk). Both journals consider the full range of philosophic issues pertinent to sport irrespective of the school of thought from which it emerges; and are tightly refereed and internationally indexed.

Guide to Internet Resources

Recommended Websites for philosophy of sport, ethics of sport and philosophy more generally:

The International Association for the Philosophy of Sport

<http://www.iaps.net>

This site contains information on IAPS, including conferences, the newsletter, membership and the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*.

The European Association for the Philosophy of Sport

<http://www.philosophyofsport.eu>

This site contains information on EAPS, including conferences, membership and other European issues in the philosophy of sport.

British Philosophy of Sport Association

<http://www.philosophyofsport.org.uk/>

This site contains information on the BPSA, including conferences, the BPSA Study Group, membership and *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy*.

Philosophy of Sport Blog

<http://philosophyandsports.blogspot.com/>

This is a recently established blog designed to encourage international discussion on issues in the philosophy of sport and ethics of sport and includes contributions by a host of internationally renowned scholars in the field.

Critical Olympism Blog

<http://olympism.wordpress.com/>

This blog was established by Andy Miah and Beatriz Garcia and accompanies the online magazine 'Culture @ the Olympics', which can be found at: <http://www.culturalolympics.org.uk/>

Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

This is a comprehensive and searchable philosophy resource covering all aspects and areas of philosophical thought.

The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

This philosophy resource is based at Stanford University, USA, and is designed and maintained by philosophical scholars around the world.

Debate Wise

<http://www.debatewise.com/>

This is a useful resource for students to practice their critical thinking skills and contains a specific section dedicated to issues in sport.

Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

This is a very useful and comprehensive guide to constructing a written philosophical argument.

Other Online Resources

The Philosophers' Magazine

<http://www.philosophers.co.uk>

E-Philosopher Forum

<http://www.ephilosopher.com>

Papers from the 20th World Congress in Philosophy – The Philosophy of Sport

<http://www.bu.edu/wcp/MainSpor.htm>

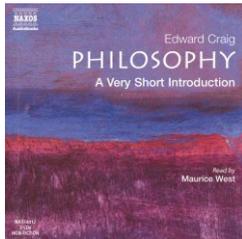
EpistemeLinks.com – Philosophy Resources

<http://www.epistemelinks.com/>

Guidebook for Publishing/ Philosophy: Journals

<http://www.smith.edu/~jmoulton/jend.htm>

Audio CD resources and Radio pod casts



Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction. Edward Craig, read by Maurice West. Naxos Audio Books

BBC Radio 4
The Ethics Committee

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/ethicscommittee.shtml>

The Moral Maze is a programme where experts debate current moral issues

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/religion/moralmaze.shtml>

Congress/Workshop Proceedings

Proceedings of some Annual Meetings of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS), formerly Philosophic Society for the Study of Sport, have been published in various forms on an irregular schedule since 1973. IAPS has also published a newsletter, IAPS News, tri-annually since 1987. Two recent publications of conference proceeding in the philosophy of sport are:

Gymnica, vol. 36 (2), Palacký University: Olomouc, 2006: Containing proceeding from the IAPS Annual Conference in Prague, Czech Republic in 2005

Macura, D. and Hosta, M. (2004) *Philosophy of Sport and Other Essays*, Ljubljana: Eleventh Academy: Containing proceedings from an international conference in the philosophy of sport in Ljubljana, Slovenia in November 2003

Data Banks

IAPS (Philosophic Society for the Study of Sport) has published several versions of a comprehensive bibliography concerning the philosophy of sport in its *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*. This bibliography is periodically brought updated.

Listservs

IDEACETL-SPORT

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/IDEACETL-SPORT.html>

This List is used by those participating in the Sport Theme Team of the Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied CETL. Sub-list of IDEA-CETL.

PHILSPORT

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/PHILSPORT.html>

Email list for the British Philosophy of Sport Association, for discussion of news, issues, and events.

SPORTPHIL

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/SPORTPHIL.html>

Official email list for the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport.

PHILOS-L

<http://listserv.liv.ac.uk/archives/philos-l.html>

Email list for primarily UK based philosophers.

PHILOSOP

<http://www.louisiana.edu/Academic/LiberalArts/PHIL/philosop.html>

PHILOSOP is the largest internet e-mail list for Philosophy in the world.

Organisational Network

International Level

IAPS (<http://www.iaps.net>) has world-wide membership. It has both held meetings and/or has had representation regularly at the World Congress of Philosophy. It has recently become a member of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) and is a member of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie.

The purpose of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport is to stimulate, encourage, and promote study, research, and writing in the philosophy of sporting (and related) activity; to demonstrate the relevance of philosophic thought concerning sport to matters of professional concerns; to organise and conduct meetings concerning the philosophy of sport; to support and to co-operate with local, national, and international organisations of similar purpose; to affiliate with national and international organisations of similar purpose; and to engender national, regional, and continental affiliates devoted to the philosophic study of sport (from the Constitution of IAPS).

Regional Level

Regional/continental affiliates of the IAPS are now under development in East Asia, Oceania/Southeast Asia, Central/Southern/Eastern Europe, United Kingdom/Ireland, and Scandinavia.

National Level

Japan has a long standing, formally developed, national organisation devoted to the philosophy of sport. The British Philosophy of Sport Association (<http://www.philosophyofsport.org.uk>) was instituted in 2002 which, because of the active involvement of scholars across Continental Europe, spawned the European Association for the Philosophy of Sport (<http://www.philosophyofsport.eu>), whose constitution is subject to ratification at its meeting in 2008. In North America regular meetings have been held in Canada and the USA. In the United States, the 'American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance' (AAHPERD) has a chapter in their organisation devoted to Sport Philosophy - the 'Academy of Sport Philosophy' under NASPE (National Association for Sport and Physical Education). The 'Academy of Sport Philosophy' is represented with lectures, workshops and symposia during the annual AAHPERD meetings, and publishes in the AAHPERD sponsored journals *Research Quarterly* and *JOPERD (Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance)*. In Germany there is a 'Sektion Sportphilosophie' of the 'Deutsche Vereinigung für Sportwissenschaft' (dvs). Other countries have similar organisational patterns at the National Level.

Specialised Centres

The major centres for advanced study and research (in alphabetical order) in the philosophy of sport are:

- Centre for Research Ethics and Ethical Deliberation Edge Hill University
- Department of Exercise and Sport Science, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, U.S.A
- Department of Philosophy, University of Nottingham, England
- Department of Philosophy, University of Leeds, England
- Department of Philosophy, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A
- Department of Philosophy, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A
- Department of Philosophy, History and Law, School of Health Science, Swansea University, Wales, UK
- Department of Physical Education and Recreation, Victoria University of Technology, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- Department of Physical Education and Sport, State University of New York College at Brockport, Brockport, New York, U.S.A
- Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln, Cologne, Germany
- Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, Center for Ethics, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, U.S.A
- Faculty of Human Movement Sciences, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
- Faculty of Health & Life Sciences, York St John University, England
- Faculty for Sport, Health & Social Care, University of Gloucestershire, England
- Institut für Sportwissenschaft, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- Institute of Health and Sport Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
- Nippon College of Education, Tokyo, Japan
- Norwegian University of Sport Sciences, Oslo, Norway
- School of English, Communication and Philosophy, Cardiff University, UK
- School of Health Science, Swansea University, UK
- School of Sport, University of Wales Institute Cardiff, UK
- Stockholm Bioethics Centre, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Teaching and Learning Issues and Strategies

The philosophy of sport can be regarded as having something of a classic curriculum containing topics such as the following:

- Definitional issues in relation to 'sport', 'play' and 'games'
- Rules and rule-following
- Fair play, cheating, spoiling etc.
- Sport, aesthetics and art
- Doping
- Sport and moral education

However, the development of the ethics of sport has led to a whole range of topics emerging as possible features of curricula in the philosophy of sport and ethics of sport. The complexity of philosophical issues is such that it is quite possible to design complete courses/modules on ethical issues raised by the possible application of genetic transfer technology in sport, the ethics of sports medicine, or the ethics of performance-enhancement in general. Such issues can be particularly productively explored when contrasted with the more traditional material on doping, rules and fair play. A central question here might be whether any of the modern technological developments raise any additional ethical considerations beyond those found in the more traditional topics, such as doping.

Philosophy is an activity. Far from passively absorbing facts and theories, the study of philosophy requires the digestion of ideas wherein concepts are analysed and assumptions are questioned. Although there is disagreement amongst philosophers as to the extent to which philosophical problems are essentially problems concerning language, a fundamental part of philosophy is the clarification of conceptual terms. For instance, the distinctions between 'sport', 'game', 'play' and 'leisure', or what is meant by ideas such as 'the spirit of sport'. This method is designed to facilitate a shared understanding from which solutions to philosophical problems may progress.

Another fundamental aspect of the philosophical method is that of critical thinking, whereby arguments are analysed into their constituent elements, reconstructed and assessed as to their logical validity and overall soundness. This requires an ability to engage with arguments and ideas carefully by focusing upon the main thesis or conclusion that is being offered, and the reasons that are given in support of that conclusion.

The ability to think critically entails a willingness to be thorough and patient, as well as the development of a disposition to attempt to 'get things right' and to be open to critique and even refutation. Additionally, philosophical thought requires creativity and originality in identifying problems and proposing solutions. As a consequence the focus of curricula in the philosophy of sport and ethics of sport should (arguably) not be on covering a list of compulsory or prescribed topics in the field. The intellectual skills needed for and developed in philosophy do not respect boundaries whether in the natural or social sciences of sports, or indeed in everyday discussions of sport regarding.

So in discussion of, say, who was the greatest ever athlete; whether a rule change for the betterment of a given sport; or whether doping is against the spirit of sport, we find it necessary to consider such as definitions of sport, the criteria of sporting excellence, the ethics of genetic transfer technology, fair play, rules, conceptions of human-ness and dignity, the role of sports medicine and potentially many other topics. Equally, such a discussion could entail consideration of (and therefore opportunity to teach) ethical theories, meta-ethical issues such as the debate around moral realism, or that around moral particularism, the logical analysis of inferences, the identification of necessary and sufficient conditions for the application of concepts, matters in the philosophy of language such as occasion-sensitivity and related issues in epistemology such as the role of context in truth, and a whole host of ethical concepts. Such potential chaos is not something that should be feared, but rather something which should be viewed as the basis of an opportunity to teach at a

much less superficial level than is often possible in subject areas which are much more dependant of students developing propositional knowledge (knowledge which can be stated in a sentence which is either true or false).

Assessment

Given the points above about curriculum design and the nature of philosophical discussion, it is hardly surprising that the philosophy of sport and the ethics of sport are not well suited to assessment by the kinds of short answer testing that is apt for scientific disciplines. Instead, it is necessary for assessment to allow a judgement of the development and expression of ideas and, importantly, the ability to argue with an interlocutor. This need not always be done in written form (philosophy does, after all, have a long oral tradition). Practicalities often prohibit *viva voce* assessments, but presentations and seminars which provide opportunity for questioning, discussion and debate are also widely used forms of assessment.

About the Authors

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Professor Mike McNamee

Mike McNamee is Professor of Applied Ethics in the Dept. of Philosophy, History and Law in Healthcare, in the School of Health Science, Swansea University, Wales, where he teaches medical ethics. He is a former President of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport, the former and founding Chair of the British Philosophy of Sport Association, and the founding Vice-Chair of the European Philosophy of Sport Association. He has edited and co-edited, authored and co-authored many books in the philosophy (and particularly the ethics) of exercise, health and sports. His most recent book *Sports, Virtues and Vices: morality plays* was recently published by Routledge and he is currently completing a co-edited volume on Elite Sports, Doping and Public Health (Odense: Southern Denmark University Press), and the Routledge Reader in Sports Ethics. He has supervised many doctoral studies in the philosophy and ethics of sport and has recently established the Sports Medicine Ethics Research Network.

Dr Emily Ryall

Emily Ryall is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy in the faculty of Sport, Health and Social Care at the University of Gloucestershire. She is a member of the executive committee of the British Philosophy of Sport Association, the European Association for the Philosophy of Sport and the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport. She is currently writing a text book aimed at undergraduates entitled *Critical Thinking for Sports Students*.



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