

Sports Ethics for Sports Management Professionals **(2nd Edition)**

By Walter T. Champion, Jr., Richard T. Karcher, and Lawrence S. Ruddell.
Published 2020 by Jones & Bartlett, Burlington, MA. \$76.95. 283 pp. ISBN
9781284171303

Reviewed by Andy Gillentine, University of South Carolina, USA

Walter T. Champion, Jr., Richard T. Karcher, and Lawrence S. Ruddell, the authors of *Sports Ethics for Sports Management Professionals*, should be commended for challenging readers of this text to consider the ethical considerations in multiple sport-based scenarios. They identify an “ethical malaise” that currently seems to be prominent in the sport industry. In the preface of the book, the authors identify multiple topics—race and discrimination, gender equity, gambling, violence, and drug use/abuse (among others)—that are prominent concerns not only in the sport context but also in society in general. As such, a sport management professional (SMP) must not only be well versed in each of these issues but also be aware of the impact of occurrences outside of the sports setting and vice versa. The stated goal for the book is admirable: “to assist the SMP in making the right decision when the situation arises” (p. vii).

To facilitate this goal, the authors have structured the book into 12 chapters, each containing multiple case studies (both historic and current) to help readers practice their decision-making skills. The case studies also serve as a prompt for the careful consideration of all components of a given situation and encourage readers to examine the viewpoint of others to better understand the depth of the issue and/or problem. Each case study also contains specific questions developed by the authors for the reader to consider. In addition, each chapter ends with a brief summary of important points from the chapter. Also included in each chapter is a well-constructed research list of materials used in the chapter. This also serves as a treasure trove for additional examination into each topic covered in the book.

In Chapter 1, “Ethical Concepts in Sports,” the authors address the question “Why study sports ethics?” They clearly describe the perceived roles of sport in society (specifically in the United States) and identify the complex relationship these roles have with ethical decision making. They further state the importance of SMPs’ making ethical decisions in order to “perform their duties honestly, professionally and ethically” (p. 2). To help facilitate this obligation, the chapter introduces ethical reasoning and ethical models for the SMPs. Chapter 1 offers the reader a brief snapshot of basic ethical theories to provide a base for considering ethical implications of situations. This brief overview is well developed and does not “overwhelm” readers who may not be versed in ethics theory. The chapter concludes by introducing the concept of ethical decision making for SMPs and addresses major considerations for this process that they may encounter.

The concepts of “Sportsmanship, Gamesmanship, and Cheating” are addressed in Chapter 2. The basic quest addressed in the chapter is how people win. The concept of sportsmanship is defined and discussed and includes identification of ethical considerations when winning and sportsmanship are compared. The concept of gamesmanship is examined, and it is acknowledged that there is a fine line between sportsmanship and gamesmanship behaviors. The authors offer multiple current and historical occurrences for the reader to examine. The chapter also makes good use of baseball’s “unwritten rules” to further examine the concepts of sportsmanship, gamesmanship, and cheating. The chapter concludes with an examination of spying and espionage that uses examples of current and historic occurrences.

Chapter 3 examines the impact of gambling on all aspects of the sport industry and society. The long and established relationship between gambling and sport is clearly described, and multiple historic references are well described. The chapter uses multiple case studies to offer additional historical context to the depth of gambling in sport and its impact on outcomes. The authors delineate between gambling in professional sport and college sport but acknowledge the commonalities, as well as the differences. The last case study in the chapter poses the question “Should states get in on the action?” This is especially relevant for SMPs in light of current changes in sports-gambling regulations.

“Ethical Issues Involving Coaches” is the focus of Chapter 4. The authors clearly identify the many varied roles that coaches play regarding their relationships in the sport industry, with athletes, and in the context of the community. Specifically, the issues of duty of safety, duty to supervise and instruct, coach abuse, and the coach as role model are addressed. The chapter further examines the development and use of a code of ethics for coaches.

Chapter 5 explores “Ethical Considerations Involving Parents and Fans.” Dealing with parents is a difficult situation for any SMP, and, as the authors note, unethical behavior by parents seems to be a growing problem. The chapter also addresses the issues involved with fans and unethical behavior. These unethical behaviors include fan heckling, fan rage, fan stalking, and other forms of inappropriate fan conduct. The authors note and recommend appropriate standards for fan behavior for all levels of competition.

“Violence in Sports” is discussed in Chapter 6, which begins by introducing several historical instances of violence in sport and discusses rules and regulations designed to curb unnecessary acts of violence in sport. The chapter concludes by also discussing “off the field” acts of violence and offers examples of sport organizations that have dealt with these occurrences. Importantly, hazing is also included in this chapter.

Chapter 7 considers “The Ethics of Drug Use and Testing.” This chapter provide a good background into the use and abuse of drugs in sport. The authors offer insight into the reasons for drug use and abuse, as well as questioning the ethical concerns of not only the use of drugs but also the rules (or lack thereof) regarding the use of specific drugs. The chapter also tackles the difficult question of drug testing from both the professional and the amateur vantage points.

“Ethical Considerations of Race in Sports” is the focus of Chapter 8. This area of ethical concern has a long and complicated history in the sport industry. The chapter provides a good historical look into the problems associated with the topic, as well as offering information on current events. The acknowledgment of racial