

Answer Key: Ted Lasso's Ethics: College Sportsmanship & Applied Philosophy Quiz

Develop high-level ethical reasoning through 10 challenging scenarios exploring the intersection of gamesmanship, social contracts, and athletic integrity.

1. In the context of 'Deontology' in sport, how would a collegiate athlete evaluate the use of 'tactical fouls' in the final minutes of a championship game?

Answer: B) Unacceptable, as it violates the categorical imperative to uphold the intrinsic rules of the game regardless of the outcome.

Deontology focuses on the adherence to duty and universal rules; from this perspective, intentionally breaking a rule is ethically wrong even if it leads to a desirable result.

2. The concept of 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' historically suggests that athletic excellence is intrinsically linked to the moral virtues of the participant, rather than just physical output.

Answer: A) True

The Olympic motto and the philosophy of Pierre de Coubertin emphasized 'Olympism,' which views sport as a tool for holistic human development, merging physical strength with moral character.

3. The ethical tension between 'gamesmanship' (using the rules to gain an advantage) and 'sportsmanship' (honoring the spirit of the game) is best described by the _____ framework.

Answer: C) Formalist/Interpretivist

Formalists believe the game is defined strictly by the rules, while Interpretivists argue the game includes unwritten conventions and the 'spirit' of the competition.

4. An elite cyclist notices their main rival has suffered a mechanical failure during a non-competitive neutral zone. If the cyclist chooses to slow the peloton, which ethical principle are they demonstrating?

Answer: B) Virtue Ethics

Virtue ethics focuses on the character of the individual; the cyclist acts out of a sense of 'fairness' and 'nobility' (virtues) rather than a calculation of points or rules.

5. According to the 'Broken Windows Theory' applied to sports, small acts of gamesmanship (like minor flopping) have no measurable impact on the overall integrity of a sport's culture.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer: B) False

The theory suggests that tolerating minor ethical 'cracks' leads to a systemic decay of sportsmanship, eventually normalizing cheating and disrespect for officials.

6. Evaluate the 'Bloodgate' scandal in rugby. Beyond the immediate rule-breaking, why was this considered a supreme failure of sportsmanship at the institutional level?

Answer: B) It demonstrated a premeditated conspiracy to manipulate medical substitution rules, undermining the social contract of the sport.

Institutionalized cheating (using fake blood capsules) destroys the trust between competitors and the governing body, which is the foundation of organized sport.

7. When a coach rewards a player for 'simulating' a foul to win a penalty, they are prioritizing performing _____ over moral agency.

Answer: A) Instrumental Value

Instrumental value views the action as a 'means to an end' (winning), whereas intrinsic value would view the act of playing fairly as an end in itself.

8. In NCAA athletics, the 'compliance' culture often focuses on avoiding sanctions. How does this differ from the 'ethics' of sportsmanship?

Answer: B) Compliance is about following the minimum legal standard; ethics is about aspiring to the highest moral standard.

One can be 'in compliance' with rules while still acting in poor sportsmanship by exploiting loopholes that the rules haven't yet closed.

9. The 'Ethical Egoism' theory argues that an athlete is behaving sportsmanship-like if they help an opponent, but only because it improves their own public brand and endorsement potential.

Answer: A) True

Ethical Egoism suggests that actions are morally right if they promote the individual's long-term self-interest; if an act of 'sportsmanship' serves that interest, it is deemed 'right' by that theory.

10. A situation where an athlete must choose between reporting their teammate's PED use (honesty) and remaining silent (loyalty) is known as a _____.

Answer: C) Right-vs-Right Dilemma

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Coined by Rushworth Kidder, this describes a conflict between two deeply held positive values, requiring complex moral reasoning to resolve.