

Ethics and Sport – Foreword*

I have gladly accepted the organizer's request to write a forward for the Proceedings of the 11th bioethics round table of Rijeka held in Rijeka on 7th of May in the organization of the Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities.

It was a very interesting professional and scientific conference with the purpose to creatively and a bit provocatively raise the issues of some aspects of bioethics in sport. The conference was, naturally, also motivational in order for the bioethics in sport to be applied in practice. In that sense the organizer made utmost effort to even place this topic into the title, and all the authors managed to justify the organizer's confidence through their papers, which they fit into the selected title of the conference. Of course, a series of questions or dilemmas were opened which showed the extent of the topic, depending on the point of view.

Ethics is a very extensive and multi-level science, practically unlimited, so in the future it will have to be gradually differentiated and dimensioned into segments. Simultaneous need for the interpretation of daily situations, dilemmas or problems, which are huge, must be sped up. It would surely be useful and necessary for the professional and scientific and multidisciplinary conferences to be held in a row and that they are focused on a certain level.

Whether we want it or not, we cannot and should not avoid multidisciplinary at this moment because, naturally, many topics are interrelated and selected theses should be better focused.

The definition of sport or individual sports should be more precisely defined globally, theoretically, but also locally or regionally and legally.

It has not been done here yet and it is time for us to make a decision on models of what kind of sport do we want, how do we want to finance it and with how much money, etc. The logical conclusion is that at the moment we are lacking the strategy of the development of sport.

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A "story about doping" also sends a bad message and it is something you can read about in this issue. In comparison with the last year we have formally adopted a recession lay and because of the technical and administrative reasons not only are we standing still, but we are also losing dynamics, especially on the international level.

There is a need to follow certain dynamic in the discussion of the future of bioethics in sport since there is a series of possibilities for better and faster actions due to many scientific and technical possibilities, one of them being the use of media such as TV with the options of speeding up or slowing down, etc. Just like it is possible for the laboratories to keep the blood and urine samples for a longer time.

Going through the items from 2010, I remember the discussions and dilemmas related to the chronological and physical integrity of a child (categorization?) and differentiations of so-called top sports in relation to professional sport, commercialization, i.e. amateurism. There is also the question of social definition of professional sport, all within the phenomenon and the fact of the politics involved in sport. Bioethics should define its opinion on so called "dirty sport" which includes betting places, fixing results, etc. There is also the opinion on the military sport which, with all positive perception, also provokes thinking about testing the maximum of human abilities, whatever that meant, and it can all be covered as a military secret. We must not forget that these topic would also be of interest for the veterinary medicine, as well, because all animals are also subject to possible manipulation in the bioethical sense so in the future the circle of participants could be extended.

Sport is an important part of the culture (UNESCO) and of some basic principles such as *do not cheat, fair play*, quality and focused medical exams depending on age.

With all that has been stated, including the inborn talent and drill in achieving sports result, there also has to be passion and enthusiasm because otherwise the main idea of the sport is lacking, and that is competition, rivalry, etc. In some future discussions, behavior and messages of socialization in "Olympic villages" should be revised. It is also very important to understand that today there is a complete freedom of information, including the sports information, because we live in the age of the internet, which has it positive and negative connotations. There are some dilemmas left, such as homosexuality and sexuality in general in sport, medical, moral and ethical aspects of a pregnant woman competing in top sport. At this moment there is a possibility for a criminal procedure in case of any manipulations regarding anything related to top sport, particularly regarding doping. On the other hand, it is highly unlikely that the spectators will fill a big stadium and directly watch a bad game or a slow race. There is also a dilemma on how much alternative medicine should be present in the medical treatment of athletes. There are (too) many deaths

in sport generally, and particularly in specific conditions of extreme sports. There is a question whether inborn "flaws" can and may serve the top sport. And finally, for the commercialization – introducing sport shows, circus acrobatics, etc.

A particularly delicate topic that is becoming more present in the sense of medically justifiable reasons is the topic of so-called medical racism because people simply are of biologically different materials so some are objectively better in some sports. From similar or traditional reasons, new sports are born and some old-new sports of regional characters are made up.

In conclusion, it is expected that any of the given facts deserves at least one conference on sports and ethics or bioethics, as stated previously.

It is important to mention that last year's conference was of the international character and that the message was sent to the region and beyond in the sense of unavoidable and speedy inclusion of bioethics into sport.

Perhaps it might have been expected that more participants would attend the conference, either actively or as listeners and observers.

To JAHHR Annual I wish a long and prosper life because the making of each proceedings is a very difficult job, so once again I thank the organizer, particularly Morana Brkljačić Žagrović, Ph.D. and her associates.

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