

# The Challenges Of Modern Sport

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Over the past three or four years, the world of sport has been shaken by many different types of scandals, that have all been very serious. This accumulation of problems over a relatively short period of time has profoundly tarnished the image of sport and damaged its prestige and credibility.

Sport no longer makes people dream. This is especially the case for youngsters, but also for the wider public. Can sport again be a dream and inspiration for so many people?

To achieve this, it will require serious introspection and an in-depth analysis of the reasons which have led to this current situation: Doping, manipulation of competitions, corruption, poor governance.

Since the beginning of time, the human species has been in competition with each other and this situation has continued, even in our present society. In this context, humans have always sought to get the most from their mind and body, even if this has meant using forms of deception and cheating. Doping is precisely a form of cheating and it is part of human nature. It has essentially always existed, in one form or another, and continues to exist in many areas of modern life, and not just in sport.

The manipulation of competitions is another form of cheating which harms the reputation of sport. The phenomenon has grown significantly with the arrival of the Internet. It can lead to huge financial gains from illegal betting and is often controlled by organised crime. This problem will be one of the themes of the symposium.

Corruption is one of the scourges of elite sport. The few major cases which have appeared in recent years have particularly shocked the viewing public because they occurred in the world of supposed sporting idealism.

Even twenty years ago, the term "good governance" was unheard of in sport, as with most other areas of human activity. However, this principle is now forcefully imposed and it requires the replacement of many long-standing practices with new rules and processes. Often, this involves a change of culture. However, this has not yet occurred in many sports governing bodies and their poor governance harms the credibility of sport in general.