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Fairness, Inclusion, and Safety: Exploring sport's ethical principles

Alan C. Oldham

Western University, aoldham2@uwo.ca

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Oldham, Alan C.

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Fairness, Inclusion and Safety in Sport

Sport is a human right. This declaration—attested to by a growing chorus of influential organizations including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and various arms of the United Nations (UN) as well as supra-governmental federations such as the European Union (EU)—aims to enable, ensure and enhance access to the benefits of sport for people the world over. Yet, a question looms: by what principles ought participation in and facilitation of this human right (sport) be deemed ethically acceptable? Besides the well established seven ‘fundamental principles of Olympism’ or the broadly applicable ‘four principles of medical bioethics’—beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, justice—sport scholars are increasingly discussing a three-principle model: fairness, inclusion, safety. As a field-first investigation into their ethical foundations, my research explores the relationship amongst these three principles of sport and the ways in which they intersect with the two other dominant principal frameworks most often applied to sport.