



FISA Youth Coaches Conference

Ethics in High Performance Rowing



25.10.2013

4:30 pm

Hamburg 2013

> German Rowing Federation

600 clubs

82.000 members

Touring, Masters, Club, League and High Performance
Rowing

14 Olympic boat classes

250-300 athletes

Oldest German sports federation

Olympic Medals 1900-2008

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medals
Germany	56	23	21	100
United States	31	31	22	84
Great Britain	24	17	9	50
Romania	19	10	8	37
Russia	12	20	11	43
Italy	10	13	12	35
Australia	10	10	12	32
Canada	9	14	12	35
France	7	14	13	34

> What are ethics in sports ?

Generally » Ethics » are externally provided and rule based

They are rules of conduct in a given system,

- **underlying**
 - **diverse**
 - **multidimensional**
 - **rapidly and subliminally altering**
 - **not able to be influenced by an individual**
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- Most recent example: Code of Ethics for the 2022 Olympic bid (transparency int'l)





Hard factors in ethics for a federation are of course the current anti-doping debate as well as game fixing.

They are « legally » unacceptable and morally wrong.



Soft factors concerning the athlete and the federation are everywhere. They are part of the fabric of the continuous interaction in the sport and play into every element.

Ethical question in daily practice

- coming in third in a race instead second or first
- lightweight rowing (body alteration, diets)
- being injured at test events
- Are selection criteria, that are subject to individual determination ethical?
- Early performance orientation in juniors (A.G.)
- engaging in an athlete / coach relationship
- advertising against the federations/athletes interest
- Distribution of funds (equally, performance vs project based, ...)



Soft factors - expectation

- Personal
- Coach
- Federation
- Financial sources
- Friends & Family
- Public

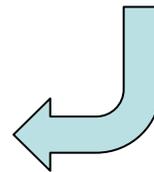




Codes of Conduct in German Rowing exist for administrative staff, for coaches as part of government regulation and athletes when participating at the Olympic Games.

They do not exist on a daily basis for coaches and athletes in their relationship with the federation.

- Very little money to be made in the sport.
- High morale standards
- Overlaying issues to be dealt with



➤ **Ethics ...**

... is not a law.

... is heartfelt & individual & and a moral obligation.