

RM 4–SI: Moral Dilemmas in Sport

The fundamental nature of positive sporting behaviour is a commitment to compete within the letter and spirit of the rules, to treat the game itself and all participants with respect, and to be gracious in both victory and defeat. For many sport participants and spectators the dilemma is to know what is cheating or what is just a part of the game.

Here are 14 scenarios that test your attitude toward sporting behaviours. Identify each of the behaviours described in the scenarios below as one of the following:

C - Cheating

P - Part of the Game

Be prepared to support your choices.

Scenarios	C	P
1. To get a needed time out, a coach instructs a soccer player to fake an injury.		
2. After every score, a basketball player taunts the defender in an effort to “psyche him or her out.”		
3. To gain an edge, a golfer illegally alters equipment.		
4. A baseball coach instructs a pitcher to throw the ball at the other team’s best batter’s head to brush the batter back from the plate.		
5. To motivate players, a coach uses foul language and insults.		
6. In basketball, a player commits a deliberate foul to stop the clock in the final minute of play.		
7. In soccer, a coach teaches players to grab and hold shirts illegally without being detected.		
8. In volleyball, a player says nothing after a referee erroneously says the player never touched the ball.		
9. To set a new scoring record, a football team facing a badly overmatched opponent runs up the score to 96-7.		
10. In baseball, a fielder traps the ball against the ground, but tries to convince the umpire that he or she caught it cleanly.		
11. A wrestling coach instructs an athlete to attack a recent injury of the opponent.		
12. In ice hockey, a coach sends in a player to instigate a fight with the other team’s top scorer.		
13. In a close tennis match, the referee calls a sideline shot you have made “in.” You know it was out but don’t say anything.		
14. You are fouled in a close basketball game with the time running out. The coach calls you and another teammate over and instructs the other player to go to the shooting line in your place.		
15. Other		