

ETHICS AND MORALITY IN SPORT

The Ontario Track and Field Association looks to build character and to encourage the development of the virtues of dedication, perseverance, commitment, and self-discipline. The O.T.F.A. recognizes that in athletic competition we must learn from defeat as well as from victory. Through our many programs, we provide the opportunity to impart to our members the moral and social values that we contribute to a healthy and well-integrated society. Unethical behaviour in sport will not be condoned by the O.T.F.A. Winning is not the sole purpose or only outcome in sport. This is the message we, as an association wish to stress to our athletes, coaches, officials and administrators.

Justice Dubin said:

Sport, through the discipline, which it requires, brings home the necessity of order and the benefits of voluntary, organized effort. The team activity often involved in sport develops a respect for the loyally established hierarchy, a sense of equality, solidarity and interdependence. Sport is undoubtedly an excellent apprenticeship for human relationships; a remarkable school of sociability!

Sport can be used to teach a great number of desirable things: how to master skills and the satisfaction that follows; good general work habits and cooperation; how to break down racial and class prejudices; how to build respect for and responsibility toward other people.

Whether athletes compete internationally for an Ontario team or for a club, they are ambassadors for Canada, Ontario or their home club. As such, they should represent the values and principles that society recognizes as being important. Cheating is not and cannot be such a principle. Ethics and morality transcends all, and we shall devote the full attention and effort of the O.T.F.A. to support and enforce these values. We ask that our membership also recognize this objective and commit to supporting its achievement.