

Fair play

The definition of "Fair play" includes more than just following the rules in sports activities: it includes the concepts of friendship, respect and reverence for the atmosphere in which sports activities are carried out. Fair play is a way of thinking, not just behavior. It excludes deception, doping, violence, insults (physical and verbal), as well as unequal opportunities, excessive corruption.

Sports as a type of individual activity, which, when fairly conducted, provides opportunities for self-improvement, self-expression and realization of personal achievements, acquisition of skills and demonstration of skills; social interaction, good spending of free time, health and well-being. Speaking at competitions, a sportsman is responsible for his results to the city, and sometimes to the country.

Unfortunately, in our time, sports cannot be called fair. I am engaged in synchronized swimming and have the rank of Master of Sports of Russia, but even in it not everything is as honest as you think. To win in a team or in solo, it all depends on which coach you train with. When we come to the competition in my city, all the places have been distributed for a long time and it does not matter that another athlete received zero points for the element, she will still have results higher than the athlete who performed her program perfectly.

When we come to the Russian Championship, your result depends not only on you and the coach you train with, but also on the city from which you came. Also, if the sport-girl is unknown, then she will never get high scores, even if she is stronger than many, she will take the last places.

And at the Olympic Games, everything depends on the political situation of the country, I would not be surprised if countries pay millions for their team to perform and win. As far as I know, Russian athletes after the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi picked up the first places from Russian athletes, but this information did not say it in the news. How can this be called a fair sport, where the strongest not wins?

But fans and athletes know the truth. In order to confirm my words that there is no more fair sport, I can give an example that you may have heard. Alexey Nemov went to the 2004 Games in Athens to finish his career beautifully. The four-time Olympic champion and seven-time medalist, who won in Atlanta in 1998, when most of his potential rivals took their first clumsy steps in gymnastics, wanted to win a fifth gold medal and say goodbye to the big sport. He has proved everything to everyone for a long time, but he did not have time to prove it to himself. And he wanted to correct this misunderstanding at the home of the Olympic Games. Nemov's performance on the crossbar was flawless. Almost perfect. A small mistake on the bounce after a brilliantly executed complex program is a potential loss of one tenth of a point. There were very few Russian fans in the packed stands, but there were thousands of true gymnastics fans. Their assessment was unanimous: the ovation that lasted for a couple of tens of seconds eloquently spoke for itself. It remained to wait for the judges' ratings, although it was clear to everyone – at least 9,830 and the main bid for victory, because two serious Russian opponents had already shown the same result of 9,787.

The audience gasped and buzzed when they saw the score on the screens-9, 725. It was incredible. Alexey and his coach smiled shyly, trying to understand what was happening. And they couldn't believe it. But the audience believed it right away. Shouts of "Shame» in a dozen different languages were replaced by incessant whistling and cursing at the judges. The continuation of the competition was out of the question: the referees conferred for 10 minutes, after which they announced a review of the scores. For the first time in the history of gymnastics. The pause, during which the people held their breath in anticipation of the triumph of justice, ended with an angry cry-9,762. It was a disgusting handout: the

judges admitted that they had underestimated Nemo for the first time, but the "recount" also left him behind the competitors.

And all because the fans, which saw the mocking, change in the rating, really got even angrier. The hottest heads showed their intention to support the gymnast not only in words, but also in deeds. Nemo did not even need to get up from his seat: in about five minutes, the scores would have been brought into line, because the failure of the Olympic tournament would have entailed a serious trial with sad consequences for all those who arranged it. The person in the arena raises his hands up and down in a smooth motion, clearly indicating: calm down, everything is fine. I understand I appreciate; I'm with you, but no more. And the crowd quiets, obeying the will of the one who has conquered it. Can anyone remember the name of the Olympic champion of Athens in gymnastics in the crossbar exercises? Maybe the silver medalist covered himself with unfading glory? And the name of Alexey Nemo, who took only the fifth place, was well remembered by the whole world. The heart of sports does not beat in the offices of officials. It is located in the stands of the arena.

Do you think this is the only case? How do you like the game of football players? Or that Norway can cut a Russian athlete right at the finish line and deprive him of victory, but at the same time, go unpunished.

You probably ask me if there is a fair game somewhere, then I will answer you that it is. Swimming and athletics are fair sports where spectators cannot be fooled. But if you think that my opinion is only, then you can approach any fan, and he may tell you more about unfair sports than me.

In conclusion, we can say that fair play exists, but nevertheless wants to believe in it. But justice can prevail if we, spectators, fans and athletes, are tolerant and solidary towards each other, and we will not to close our eyes to the truth. If we react to foul play like the Greeks in Athens in 2004, then we can make the whole sport fair.

Anastasia Ponomareva

17 years old from the Russian Federation