What does Fair Play mean to me?

Fair Play is a set of ethical and moral laws based on an individual’s inner belief about the nobility and justice in sports. The main slogan of Fair Play is "Unspoken virtue in regulated conflicts". The origin of the concept is not related to sports, but rather to ethical medieval concepts that go back to the rules of jousting. For the first time, the phrase fair play is used in Shakespeare’s The Life and Death of King John. The modern interpretation of the concept refers to the formation of modern sports as competitions within the established rules in Victorian England of the XIX century.

Back then, sports were mostly a hobby of the middle and upper class. For them, playing sports was more of an entertainment that did not generate income. Then there was a certain code of a gentleman, for whom the main thing is the process, not the result. Further development of the concept refers to the development of the modern Olympic movement at the end of the XIX century. The humanistic ideas laid down by Baron Coubertin brought a selfless, purely competitive, beginning to modern sports, contributing to the development of the athlete and the person as a harmonious personality. "Olympism, which combines sport with culture and education, seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, on the educational value of good example, and on respect for universal basic ethical principles. Coubertin himself and the founders of the modern Olympic movement were forced to admit numerous cases of fraud and unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of athletes. In this regard, in 1920, at the Olympic Games in Antwerp, the Olympic Oath of athletes was introduced for the first time. With the growing popularity of sports in the world, it has become increasingly difficult to follow the basic Olympic principle of strict amateur status of athletes. As the stakes increased, athletes everywhere began to hide their true professional status or continue their careers as professionals. The infrastructure of high-performance sports, the education of a world-class athlete, the coverage of major sports forums in the media—all this requires significant investment and contradicts the concept of an amateur
athlete. By the middle of the XX century, the dialectical opposition of sports and "fair play" was manifested.

On the one hand, the ancient idealistic idea of an athlete improving himself as a person. On the other hand, there is a cynical approach to sports: winning at any cost, using deception, doping and biased refereeing. Modern post-industrial society increasingly associates sports with games and entertainment. On the contrary, in the public mind, sports are associated with business. Despite the deep contradictions of the idea of fair play, most experts do not see an alternative to it. Without a set of ethical laws, sports lose their meaning and appeal. Fair play axiologically justifies sports, transferring it from the consumer sphere to the sphere of higher spiritual values of a person.

An example of true sports behavior was the action of the captain of the USSR national football team Igor Netto. In the match of the group tournament of the 1962 World Cup, the USSR national team met with the national team of Uruguay. Netto drew the attention of the referee to the fact that the ball scored by the Soviet team flew into the goal of the Uruguayans through a hole in the net, on the side of the post, and should not be counted. The referee canceled the goal (although the USSR team still won the match). The first athlete awarded for fair play was the Italian bobsledder Eugenio Monti, who helped his rivals win Olympic gold several times with his own hands.

The basic principles of Fair Play include:

Respect for the opponent

Respect for the rules and decisions of the judges— to accept all the decisions of the judges and challenge them correctly in a separate order

Doping and any artificial stimulation may not be used

Equal chances — all athletes at the start of the competition can equally expect to win
Self-control of the athlete-restraining your emotions, be able to adequately perceive any outcome of the match.

These principles constitute athletic behavior and deny victory at any cost. A handshake is an elementary manifestation of fair play. The fair play movement on a global scale is led by the ICSSP, The International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), founded in 1958. There are many different organizations that support fair play at all levels.

In 1964, the CIFP (Committee International for Fair Play) was formed under the SIPSS. The organization "European Fair Play Movement" was founded in 1992 as a division of the EOC (European Olympic Committee). The Russian Fair Play Committee (RKFP), as a division of the NOC of Russia, was formed in 1992. All major national Olympic committees and the world's largest federations for individual sports, such as FIFA (UEFA), IAAF, FIVB and others, have special units that promote and defend the ideas of fair play. The main tasks of fair play organizations at all levels: promotion of the ideas and principles of fair play, especially in the environment of children's and youth sports, awarding athletes and teams with prizes. So, in 2004, a special CIFP prize was awarded to Alexey Nemov.

Выполнил: Очельдиев Дмитрий Евгеньевич
Ученик 8 класса – 15 лет
школы : МКОУ «Основная общеобразовательная школа» с.Вязовна Бабынинского района Калужской области, Россия.