

Introduction

Dear readers,

You are holding the third number of JAHR – the annual published by the Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities of University of Rijeka School of Medicine. Its major part consists of the Proceedings of 11th Bioethics Round Table of Rijeka (Rijeka Croatia, May 7, 2010), dedicated to the ethics of sport. This international meeting was organized as a part of 12th *Days of Bioethics*.

The selection of topic reflects the fact that we live in the age in which the need for highly qualified professionals is great and the necessity of engaging in sports activities is an unquestionable presumption of long and quality life. At the same time we have been witnessing numerous unethical elements related to sport so that when terms ethics and sports are mentioned and connected, or more precisely ethics in sports or ethics of contemporary sport, usually negative (unethical) aspects of sports today are considered.

Athlete – a category which unites numerous moral values – is today seriously endangered by the possibility of metamorphosis into a phenomenon with immoral or amoral associations. Under the pressure of everyday circumstances and surroundings in which sport develops, some new values have been imposed on athletes and sport's immanent values have eroded. A contemporary athlete is at the crossroads: bow to pressure or, on the contrary, persevere in keeping the values and ideas the sport includes in itself.

With the purpose of highlighting the values immanent to sport and ways to preserve them, promote them and develop them further, 34 authors from 3 European countries in 17 papers and from different perspectives have tried to contribute with their reflections, ideas, viewpoints and research.

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