

## Why would I want my child to participate in sport?

Sport certainly receives a good deal of negative press attention. However, positive moral behaviour is regularly displayed in sporting competition. In trying to promote such behaviour it can be helpful to draw attention to good moral behaviour in sport. These instances are more common than we might think!

Sportspeople who have progressed to higher competition levels may be very focused on winning. Nevertheless, many excellent sportspeople are very concerned with the process of improving their technical ability and learning more about the sport itself. Many have an immense respect for the sport they play, the demands it presents, and have strong feelings about how best to embrace and overcome challenges. There are plenty of examples of high level sportspeople who have recognised the moral dimension to a sporting scenario and acted morally.

In one high profile example, Liverpool FC player Robbie Fowler, appealed to the referee to overturn a penalty decision in his favour, because the opposition player had not made contact with him.

In another example, when Stan Warwinka was playing Roger Federer in the Australian open, Warwinka encouraged Federer to challenge a call on his serve when he knew the call was wrong.

The ways in which we can demonstrate good moral behaviour in sport can vary from such high profile examples as those above to more ordinary but equally admirable instances. These may include showing respect and concern for opponents or verbally encouraging and supporting players. The process of seeking to overcome the challenge that sport provides, often in cooperation with others can itself be understood as a positive moral behaviour. As a parent, you can encourage your child to develop and demonstrate good moral behaviours by sharing high-profile examples with your child, encouraging them to seek out opportunities to demonstrate sporting behaviours.