

Ensuring fairness and transparency in sports through compliance to legal principles and ethical standards

Garantizar la equidad y la transparencia en el deporte mediante el respeto de los principios jurídicos y las normas éticas

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Abstract. The objective of the study is to analyze sports ethics within the legal framework in order to guarantee fairness and transparency. The objective was achieved by employing a systematic literature review methodology. The data was collected by searching Google Scholar, specifically focusing on articles indexed in the Scopus databases between 2019 and 2024. The study employed certain keywords, such as "Sports Ethics AND Legal Framework AND Guarantee OR Assurance AND Fairness AND Openness". The search generated a total of 27,500 articles. After undertaking multiple phases of the screening process, the study finally identified 9 articles that aligned with the chosen themes and fulfilled the inclusion criteria. In addition, this study complied with the PRISMA technique during the article selection process. The study revealed that the absence of clear definitions and coordination across governmental agencies has led to significant problems with implementing and enforcing ethical standards in sports. To enhance ethical discipline, it is imperative to implement improved training, establish explicit norms, ensure transparency, and enforce accountability. It is crucial to establish a framework for evaluating sports technology that takes into account ethical considerations in order to maintain fairness and honesty in the face of technological progress. The principle of equity, which advocates for equal and unbiased possibilities in the categorization of paralympic sports, emphasizes the importance of a fair classification system to maintain the integrity of competition. Similarly, the ethical dilemmas in eSports reflect those found in traditional sports. Placing a strong focus on ethical principles in sports research, which includes providing clear rules for research methods and addressing clinical obstacles that may arise in specific situations, can reinforce the importance of maintaining integrity and credibility in sports science.

Keywords: Sports Ethics, Legal Framework, Guarantee, Fairness, Openness

Resumen. El objetivo del estudio es analizar la ética deportiva dentro del marco jurídico para garantizar la equidad y la transparencia. Para ello, se utilizará una metodología sistemática de revisión bibliográfica. La recogida de datos se ha realizado a través de una búsqueda en Google Scholar, centrándose específicamente en los artículos indexados en las bases de datos Scopus que hayan sido publicados entre 2019 y 2024. La palabra clave especificada es «Sports Ethics AND Legal Framework AND Guarantee OR Assurance AND Fairness AND Openness». Se descubrieron un total de 27.500 artículos de diversas fuentes según los resultados de la búsqueda. Tras pasar por múltiples fases del proceso de selección, hemos identificado 9 artículos que se ajustan a los temas elegidos y cumplen los criterios de inclusión. Esta investigación se adhiere a la técnica PRISMA para la operacionalización estándar. El estudio reveló que la ausencia de una definición clara y de coordinación entre los organismos gubernamentales ha provocado importantes problemas en la aplicación y el cumplimiento de las normas éticas en el deporte. Para mejorar la disciplina ética, es imperativo implementar una mejor formación, establecer normas explícitas, garantizar la transparencia y hacer cumplir la rendición de cuentas. Es crucial establecer un marco de evaluación de la tecnología deportiva que tenga en cuenta consideraciones éticas para mantener la equidad y la honestidad frente al progreso tecnológico. El principio de equidad, que aboga por posibilidades iguales e imparciales en la categorización de los deportes paralímpicos o paraolímpicos, subraya la importancia de un sistema de clasificación justo para mantener la integridad de la competición. Del mismo modo, los dilemas éticos en los eSports reflejan los que se encuentran en los deportes tradicionales. Prestar especial atención a los principios éticos en la investigación deportiva, lo que incluye proporcionar reglas claras para las técnicas de investigación y abordar los obstáculos clínicos que pueden surgir en escenarios específicos, puede reforzar la importancia de mantener la integridad y la credibilidad en el campo de las ciencias del deporte.

Palabras clave: Ética deportiva, marco jurídico, garantía, imparcialidad, apertura

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Introduction

The importance of sports ethics in modern sports is undeniable, as it plays a crucial role in upholding justice, transparency, and integrity within the sports industry. As Breivik (2019) articulated, the concept of virtue ethics, particularly fair play and sportsmanship, is important in competitive sports. These principles not only govern the behavior of athletes but also affect broader societal values, such as tolerance, cooperation, and respect (Marivoet, 2014; Şakar, 2022). Moreover, promoting ethics and fair play in sports

is crucial for upholding the integrity of the sport and fostering the well-being of society (Constantin et al., 2021). Additionally, other research indicates that it is crucial for effectively handling concerns such as violence, fraud, scoring integrity, and doping (Constandt et al., 2020). In summary, promoting ethical principles in sports not only ensures fair competition but also upholds the broader values of justice and respect within society.

Coaches have a crucial role in maintaining a balance between the stress level and the overall well-being of athletes

(Dohsten et al., 2018). They make a substantial contribution to developing an ethical and sportsmanlike culture, which enhances the overall ethical foundation of sports. The ethical implications in sports affect both individual athletes and the broader community, as sports provide a platform for personal growth and moral instruction (Cunha & Hellmann, 2022); (Costa et al., 2016). By fostering a culture that promotes ethics and sportsmanship, coaches ensure that sports serve as a vehicle for both performance and ethical development, benefiting individuals and society.

While coaches play a pivotal role in cultivating ethics and sportsmanship, it is also imperative to establish a solid legal framework to support these values. Incorporating sports ethics into the legal framework is essential to ensure fairness and openness. The process of sports professionalization and the growing impact of corporate interests have brought about fresh ethical dilemmas, necessitating a reevaluation of conventional ethical norms (Wang et al., 2023). The legal framework governs the conduct of individuals in the sports sector, establishing principles and guidelines that dictate the behavior of various stakeholders, such as athletes, coaches, and officials (Sultan & Amir, 2023). This framework establishes boundaries for acceptable conduct and functions as a mechanism of responsibility and safeguards for all related parties (Souza-Lima et al., 2024). An established legal framework is crucial for effectively dealing with matters such as scoring, aggression, harassment, and discrimination. It provides a formal system for reporting and managing such incidents (Auko, 2023). Furthermore, the sports sector must highly consider legal and ethical factors, including data ownership, athlete rights, and data governance standards (Bowles & McGee, 2023). The overlap between sports ethics and the legal framework extends beyond personal conduct to encompass the principles and standards of the broader society, guarantee equitable competition, and promote moral instruction through sports (Bodemer, 2023). Integrating sports ethics and legal frameworks is crucial for promoting fairness, openness, and responsibility in the sports sector. This can be achieved by regulating individual behavior, addressing significant concerns, and considering athlete rights and data practices.

When discussing ethical aspects in sports, it is important to examine more than just fair competition. These considerations also extend to broader societal issues, including social inclusion and sustainable development (Sholanke & Eleagu, 2024). Sport possesses the capacity to foster values such as tolerance, respect, cooperation, and fair play. However, it faces ongoing obstacles in maintaining its ethical integrity due to issues such as doping, scoring, and advancements in technology (Bjärsholm & Norberg, 2021; Marivoet, 2014). To overcome this challenge, one must demonstrate a steadfast dedication to maintaining ethical principles and guaranteeing fair opportunities for all individuals involved (Grandisson et al., 2019). Sports can promote social integration by offering inclusive chances for individuals with varying capacities to engage in and derive pleasure from sports activities (Montoya et al., 2024).

Sports-based interventions strive to promote inclusivity in sports and society by utilizing sports activities to foster greater social integration (Ekholm & Dahlstedt, 2019). It has a crucial role in advancing social inclusion, aligning with the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to foster inclusive, equitable, and sustainable societies (Said & Amine, 2022). Utilizing sports as a means for social integration and growth can strengthen social inclusion and socio-professional integration, thereby contributing to the sustainable development of a region (Morgan & Parker, 2021). The field of ethics in sport comprises principles of fair competition, equal participation, and long-term environmental and social well-being. While sports can foster positive ideals, the presence of problems like drugs and technology necessitates a steadfast dedication to ethical principles. Ultimately, sports not only promote social integration but also contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building on the discussion of ethical challenges in sports, the introduction of technological advancements in sports, such as esports and performance-enhancing equipment, presents new and complex ethical dilemmas that necessitate ongoing oversight (Abanazir, 2021; Bialecki et al., 2024). This breakthrough has brought forth a novel aspect in ethical discussions, raising concerns and apprehensions around doping, scoring, and technology that enhances performance (Ardha et al., 2024; Czakó et al., 2023). Preserving ethical principles amid this advancement is essential to guaranteeing fair competition for all individuals involved. The rapid expansion of esports inside the sports business has raised numerous ethical problems. The inclusion of esports in major sporting events such as the Olympics prompts reflection on the values and commercialization within the esports ecosystem (Xu, 2024; Zhuang et al., 2020). The advancement of esports research and technology has converted esports into a multifaceted social and technological phenomenon, necessitating a more profound comprehension of its ethical ramifications (Karadakis & Painchaud, 2022). The convergence of esports with performance-enhancing substances and technology has sparked concerns regarding equitable competition and the integrity of esports tournaments. The viewpoints of professional esports players about the usage of performance-enhancing chemicals and non-invasive brain stimulation procedures to improve training and performance bring attention to the ethical dilemmas encountered in the field of esports (Chiva-Bartoll et al., 2019; Murray et al., 2022). The growing emphasis on the varied ethical landscape in esports is highlighting the need for a framework that can support the design of esports curricula in higher education and handle fraud-related issues and audience ethics (Schubert et al., 2022; Scott et al., 2021). Therefore, the progress of technology in sports and esports presents intricate ethical dilemmas that necessitate ongoing surveillance to uphold the principles of fairness and honesty in competition. The presence of performance-enhancement equipment and the integration of

esports into big events highlight the importance of maintaining strong ethical standards.

By examining the relationship between ethics, law, and sports integrity, this study aims to offer a more profound understanding of how ethical principles in sports may promote openness and fairness. Additionally, it explores how the legal framework can serve as a robust regulatory basis in the face of the growing complexity of the sports industry. In sports, rules refer to a set of standards and regulations that dictate the organization and execution of competitions and sporting activities. These regulations are crucial for establishing an equitable, safe, and organized atmosphere during sports training (Zulhidayat et al., 2022).

Indeed, research on human movement has touched on many areas. For example, some popular studies investigated the achievement of physical education learning outcomes (Martono et al., 2024; Komari et al., 2024a; Komari et al., 2024b; Septiantoko et al., 2024; Suyato et al., 2024; Widiyanto et al., 2024), motor development (Susanto et al., 2024; Susanto et al., 2024). Other studies examined specific areas of PE or sports, such as health and fitness sports (Widiyanto et al., 2024a; Widiyanto et al., 2024b; Syaekani et al., 2024; Pranoto, et al., 2024; Astuti et al., 2024), law and sports education (HB et al., 2024), sports communication (Charlina et al., 2024), active lifestyle with exercise (Tafuri et al., 2024a), interval training and physiological (Latino et al., 2024a), circuit training programme (Tafuri et al., 2024b; Tafuri et al., 2024c; Latino et al., 2024b), injury risk on sports (Fahrosi et al., 2024; Anam et al., 2024a), endurance training and physiological (Latino et al., 2024c), therapeutic sports (Zanada et al., 2024), movement skills (Susanto et al., 2023; Anam et al., 2024b; Pranoto et al., 2024), and sports training and performance (Kurniawan et al., 2024; Susanto et al., 2024), curriculum and management of physical education learning (Mardiyah et al., 2024a; Yani et al., 2024;

(Mardiyah et al., 2024b), and the management of sports education and archery (Hamsyah et al., 2024; Komari et al., 2024; Mulyanti et al., 2024; Setyawan et al., 2024a; Setyawan et al., 2024b; Destriani et al., 2024).

Despite the myriad research, there is a lack of scholarly research on the ethical principles of sports within the established legal structure in order to ensure fairness and transparency. The dearth of studies on this topic can impede understanding and scientific development in the field. Hence, it is imperative to research this issue by thoroughly reviewing existing literature studies

Material & Methods

To achieve the above goals, this study used the systematic literature review method to identify, evaluate, and interpret all pertinent research findings. The systematic literature review followed the "Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses" (PRISMA) guidelines. These guidelines create a transparent, comprehensive, and precise report, ensuring that reviews are of high quality and reproducible (Page et al., 2021). According to Martín-Moya & González-Fernández (2022), a systematic literature review compiles all existing scientific evidence based on the specified inclusion and exclusion criteria. Likewise, this study applied certain inclusion and exclusion criteria for defining the scope of the review and ensuring that the selected studies were relevant and of high quality. For example, the study searched articles from a globally recognized journal indexed by Scopus. The search was performed through Google Scholar. It employed several keywords, such as "Legal AND Social AND Supporter Violence AND Sport". Finally, all the articles must be published between 2019 and 2024. Hence, those published other than this period were eliminated. The detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria applied in this study are presented in Table 1.

Table 1.
Inclusion and Exclusion Criterion

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Period	Journal Published in 2019 – 2024	Journal Published outside 2019-2024
Indexed	Scopus-indexed international journals	Non-Scopus-indexed international journals
Access	Open access	Close access (subscription-based)
Language	English Language	Non-English Language
Article Type	Original research article and review article	Conference proceeding, book, book chapter, book series, editorial, etc.
Full Text	Article matching the research scope/topic	The article did not match the research scope/topic
Topic of Discussion	The content of the articles was relevant to sports ethics within the legal framework to guarantee fairness and openness.	The content of the article was not irrelevant to the ethical theme of sports within the legal framework to guarantee fairness and openness.

To ensure a comprehensive and relevant selection of studies, an extensive initial search was conducted. The initial search generated a total of 27,500 articles obtained from diverse sources of journal databases, such as Scopus and other database sources. Through the filtering process, 9 articles that aligned and fulfilled the inclusion criteria were

selected. These studies were selected to enhance the study debate. As argued earlier, the article selections followed the PRISMA techniques to increase the reports' transparency, comprehension, and precision. The process of data selection is depicted in Figure 1 below:

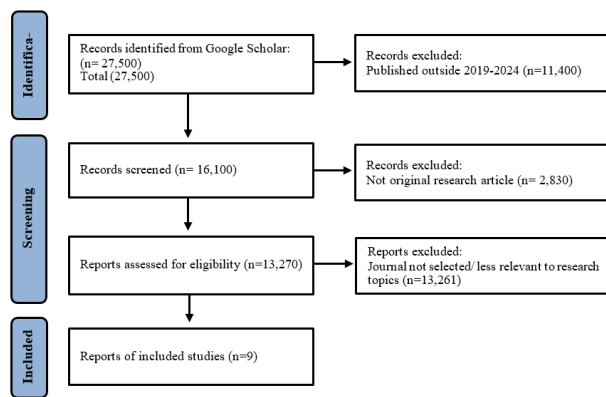


Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart of the article selection process

Results

In this section, we present the findings of our systematic review, which synthesizes the data from the selected studies. The analysis of the 9 articles included in this review reveals several key themes and trends relevant to the research question. These results are categorized and discussed in detail to highlight the implications of technological advancements, ethical considerations, and their impact on both sports and esports. A summary of the results is provided in Table 2, offering a clear and concise overview of the key findings from each study. The synthesis of these findings aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape and identify areas for future research and development.

Table 2.
Literature Review Results

Author	Study objectives	Main Findings
(Vasilyev, 2023)	The research investigated the impact of legalizing ethical standards in sports on enhancing accountability for actions that tarnish one's reputation. Within this framework, the paper analyzed the diverse extant policies and regulations and their influence on the integrity of sports. The study also aimed to identify deficiencies in the existing legal framework and put up solutions to enhance the efficacy of disciplinary mechanisms in addressing ethical transgressions in sports.	Research indicated that the application and enforcement of ethical regulations in sports were frequently inconsistent despite the presence of a legal framework. This inconsistency was caused by several issues, such as a lack of precise comprehension of the term "disrepute" and insufficient coordination among sports regulatory bodies. This study proposed that enhancing the training of those involved in sports and establishing more explicit criteria could contribute to enhancing ethical conduct in sports. Furthermore, the study emphasized the significance of transparency and accountability in the disciplinary process to keep the integrity of the sport.
(Robertson et al., 2023)	The objective of the project was to create a uniform and evidence-based framework for evaluating the quality of sports technology. The primary goal of developing this framework was to offer explicit and quantifiable guidance to sports stakeholders in assessing sports technology, guaranteeing that the technology meets industry standards, and streamlining purchasing decisions and product development for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness.	The study yielded 25 quantifiable characteristics, categorized into five primary quality pillars: Quality Assurance and measurement, Defined Benefits, Ethics and safety, User Experience, and Data Management. The framework was established by conducting a comprehensive analysis of current literature, standards, and recommendations, in addition to seeking input from 55 professionals in the sports sector. The conclusive findings demonstrated that this framework was applicable not only for the purpose of designing and refining sports technology but also for establishing a shared vocabulary across organizations, producers, investors, and consumers. Consequently, this framework enhances the effectiveness of decision-making processes of sports technology.
(McNamee et al., 2021)	The study investigated the implementation of the principle of Fair Equality of Opportunity (FEOP) within the framework of Paralympic sport classification. The author assessed the sports equipment policy of the IPC and contended that additional clarity, theorization, and revision of the rules are necessary to ensure that athletic achievement at the Paralympics is predominantly influenced by physical prowess rather than technological advancements in equipment.	This research found that a fair classification system is crucial for the integrity of Paralympic sports. In their research, the impact of athletes' inability to perform in some sports was greatly influenced by the technology and equipment used. Furthermore, this study highlighted the need to improve IPC equipment policies in order to mitigate the impact of technology on competition outcomes. In particular, the policy should focus on the importance of background fairness and procedural fairness.
(Devine, 2022)	This research aimed to develop the theory of excellence in sports. The author identified four distinct elements of excellence and four corresponding ways in which excellence might be hindered in sports. Therefore, this study proposed the Principle of Excellence, which provides a normative framework for evaluating and interpreting norms, rules, and practices in sports.	This study identified four key components that contribute to excellence in sports: the cluster of excellence, the volume of excellence, the clarity of excellence, and the balance of excellence. The study derived the Principle of Excellence from these factors, an interpretative guideline for establishing and fostering excellence in sports. This research also demonstrated that brilliance is not solely contingent upon physical ability but also upon cognitive abilities and determination, which contribute to attaining desired goals in sports.
(Edgar, 2019)	The objective of the study was to investigate and comprehend the current state and consequences of eSports within the framework of conventional sports. The study found and analyzed several philosophical arguments that validate whether eSport can be regarded as a legitimate type of sport. Furthermore, the study aimed to assess the influence of emerging technologies on the definitions and practices of sports. It also examined how eSport informs and challenges the conventional distinctions between games, sports, and entertainment.	Research findings indicated that eSports posed substantial philosophical issues concerning the definition and boundaries of sports. Some scholars argued against classifying eSports as a sport primarily due to the absence of conventional physical elements. Nevertheless, the study also revealed that eSports emphasized the significance of physical engagement in the digital realm and sparked conversations about how technology has transformed our comprehension and encounters with sports. Moreover, ethical concerns surrounding the utilization of performance-enhancing substances in esports indicated that despite its distinct nature, esports have moral dilemmas similar to conventional sports.
(Harvey & McNamee, 2019)	This project attempted to enhance comprehension of the sport's integrity through a multidisciplinary approach, providing valuable insights for both researchers and practitioners. This article examined various aspects of sports integrity, including sports governance, athlete rights, match-fixing, and sports organization management practices. The research employed a comprehensive methodology that encompassed ethical theory, empirical studies, and historical studies to cultivate a holistic comprehension of the topics under investigation.	The research findings in this article demonstrated a broad spectrum of intricate and varied matters in sports integrity. Research indicated that integrity concerns within the South Australian National Football League (SANFL) cover not only player misconduct, such as gambling and recreational drug use, but also organizational challenges, including elite reserve teams participating in sub-elite leagues, inadequate representation for sub-elite players, and unfavorable working conditions. This article high-

<p>(Harriss et al., 2022)</p> <p>The objective of the research was to revise and elucidate the ethical norms in sports and exercise science research. This article offers precise information on many ethical dilemmas commonly encountered in sports medicine research. It addressed concerns such as modifications in data collection procedures, methodologies, and the use of remote data collection techniques during the COVID-19 epidemic. The research strived to guarantee that it was carried out in compliance with ethical norms acknowledged nationally and internationally.</p>	<p>lighted that preserving the integrity of SANFL is not solely the responsibility of the governing body but also rests with the players.</p> <p>This paper proposed that the implementation of ethical principles in sports and exercise science research needs to consider several new factors, particularly in relation to the distant research methodologies that have been established due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Studies indicated that remote investigation techniques have notable ethical concerns, such as protecting participants' privacy, ensuring data confidentiality, and establishing appropriate measures to support participants when needed. Furthermore, this paper highlighted the significance of offering participants unambiguous and open information regarding the dangers and possible adverse effects of research employing substances or equipment that could threaten their well-being.</p>
<p>(Škerbić, 2021)</p> <p>This essay sought to examine the impact of William J. Morgan in influencing contemporary sports ethics. The study examined Morgan's work and perspectives to discover the ethical ideals he advocated and their influence on current sporting practices. The study evaluated the application of Morgan's concepts of justice, integrity, and sportsmanship within professional and amateur sports.</p>	<p>Research indicated that William J. Morgan plays a pivotal role in developing a sports ethical framework that prioritizes principles of fairness and honesty. Morgan has vehemently condemned actions that compromise the integrity of sports, such as the utilization of performance-enhancing drugs and the manipulation of game outcomes. Furthermore, he advocated for the implementation of stringent ethical standards across all tiers of athletic competition. These data demonstrated that Morgan's theories have served as the foundation for numerous ethical policies in contemporary sports, highlighting the significance of these concepts in upholding integrity and fairness in athletic events.</p>
<p>(Arora et al., 2023)</p> <p>The study thoroughly examined the clinical and ethical difficulties encountered in sports and exercise research. Additionally, its objective was to delineate strategies for enhancing the design of methodologies in clinical trials and provide a checklist to mitigate the likelihood of scientific inaccuracies. This article began by providing an overview of the significant events in the history of sports science literature. It then moved on to outline the current regulations that are in place to minimize the occurrence of violations of ethical scientific conduct. This essay examined the fundamental distinctions between sports research and drug-based trials while emphasizing the significance of well-planned investigations in enhancing the comprehensibility of outcomes and the applicability of discoveries.</p>	<p>The study revealed the persistence of unethical research practices in sports and exercise science. These activities included the replication of single experimental data in many publications, the submission of identical findings to multiple journals, and instances of plagiarism. These practices adversely affected the robustness, reliability, understanding, and utilization of evidence for future research in this sector. This article advises against misbehavior and emphasizes the importance of adhering to ethical standards in order to effectively weigh the risks and advantages. It also highlights the need to prevent data manipulation and inaccurate positive outcomes.</p>

Discussion

As emphasized by earlier scholars, the inconsistency in the adoption and enforcement of ethical regulations in sports is a significant problem that stems from a lack of clear guidelines and coordination across government bodies (Vasilyev, 2023; Waegeneer et al., 2017). For instance, Vasilyev emphasized the need for better training for individuals involved in sports and the implementation of clear criteria to improve ethical conduct in the field. Transparency and accountability are crucial components for maintaining the integrity of sports, particularly in disciplinary proceedings. Research (Prakash, 2023; Waegeneer et al., 2017) examines the influence of ethical codes on behavior in sports organizations, aligning with Vasilyev's focus on the importance of improved training and clear standards. Prakash (2023) also highlights the need for regulations and ethical guidelines to protect athletes, particularly high-level competitors who face intense pressure to succeed. This is in accordance with Vasilyev's call for transparency and accountability in the disciplinary procedure. Therefore, to address discrepancies in the application and enforcement of ethical regulations in sports, it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive strategy that includes better education, clear criteria, openness, and accountability in disciplinary procedures. Improving ethical conduct through more effective regulation and implementation can help preserve the integrity of sport.

Following the need for enhanced ethical conduct in sports, Robertson et al. (2023) and DC (2022) present a

systematic methodology for assessing sports technology, incorporating ethical issues to uphold justice in sports. This framework encompasses quantifiable characteristics that are categorized into essential quality pillars, establishing a shared vocabulary to enhance the effectiveness of decision-making pertaining to sports technology. It is crucial to incorporate these ethical considerations to maintain justice and integrity in sports, especially in the face of increasing technological advancements (DC, 2022). A study by Assasi et al. (2016) emphasized the significance of implementing an ethical assessment framework in health technology assessment (HTA) that can be utilized for evaluating sports technology. Similarly, Char et al. (2020) underline the importance of incorporating a framework for ethical assessment in sports technology to cater to diverse individuals and groups involved. In addition to technological advancements in sports, ongoing ethical evaluations are crucial to maintaining the integrity and fairness of competitions, as emphasized by (Malik, 2024). Therefore, a comprehensive approach is necessary to address ethical considerations while evaluating sports technology in order to uphold the integrity and fairness of sports.

Continuing the focus on ethical standards and fairness in sports technology, the Fair Equality of Opportunity (FEOP) principle in the Paralympic sport classification, as examined by McNamee et al. (2021) and Tweedy et al. (2014), highlights the significance of a fair classification system to uphold the integrity of Paralympic sports. This approach aligns with the goals of the Paralympic Classification System, which aims to encourage the involvement of individuals with disabilities while maintaining equitable competition. Research

by Hogarth et al. (2018) introduces new techniques to enhance objectivity and openness in decision-making within the para-sports classification, thereby promoting fairness and integrity in the classification process. In addition, Marmeleira (2022) examines the patterns of improved athletic performance among visually impaired competitors in the athletic division of the Paralympic Games, demonstrating the commitment and progression of skills among Paralympic competitors. Baumgart et al. (2022) provide a comprehensive understanding of the historical development of medals, sporting events, and categories in the Paralympic Games, showcasing ongoing efforts to enhance the competitive environment while promoting fairness and inclusivity. Additionally, the study by Krieger and Pieper (2023) reveals the athlete's perspective on governance matters, encompassing sexual harassment within athletics. Addressing these governance challenges is essential to uphold ethical standards and create a safe environment for all athletes. By taking into account these research and frameworks, policymakers and stakeholders can work together to enhance the Paralympic sport classification system, fostering fairness, transparency, and inclusivity. This, in turn, will strengthen the integrity and success of Paralympic sports.

Shifting to the principle of Sporting equality, this concept ensures that all individuals, regardless of their gender, color, social status, or other personal characteristics, have an equal opportunity to participate, compete, and excel in sports. According to Zulhidayat (2018) the principle of equality encompasses various facets: (1) Equal access and opportunities, meaning that everyone should have the same access to sports facilities, programs, and training, including the fair distribution of sports infrastructure across various regions and social groups. (2) Fair treatment involves recognizing and appreciating individuals' achievements and talents in sports without considering non-performance factors such as gender or background. (3) Eliminating stereotypes, such as addressing gender-based assumptions and societal expectations that may limit involvement or acceptance in sports. (4) Fostering talent development by offering assistance to grow sports skills among diverse groups and communities through inclusive development and training initiatives. (5) Promoting leadership and participation by encouraging active involvement and leadership roles of women and minority groups in sports, whether as athletes, coaches, or administrators. The significance of equality in sports lies in its ability to foster a fair and inclusive atmosphere while promoting enhanced performance and creativity. It ensures that every person has equal access to pursue their full potential in athletics, free from any form of bias or unfair barriers.

Introducing the principle of excellence, Devine (2022) outlines four essential components of sports performance and offers a standard framework for assessing norms, rules, and practices in sports. This study shows that gaining success in sports depends not just on physical qualities but also on mental acuity and unwavering resolve, confirming the significance of these qualities in achieving optimal athletic

performance. Supporting this, research by Ardiansyah and Dimiyati (2021) explores the different factors that influence ideal sports performance, including an athlete's psyche, abilities, skills, and physical capabilities. Furthermore, Piepiora and Piepiora (2021) examine the correlation between specific personality traits and success in men's sports, highlighting the significance of individual character in attaining optimal athletic performance. Therefore, success in athletics relies not only on physical traits but also on the impact of individual mental variables and character traits. Various factors, including cognitive ability, perseverance, sports psychology, expertise, and physical capabilities, significantly contribute to achieving peak performance in sports.

Examining the current state and consequences of eSports compared to traditional sports, Perez and Rubio (2023) initiated a philosophical discussion about the legitimacy of eSports as a sport, noting that it lacks certain aspects seen in traditional sports. However, this study recognizes that eSports encounter the same ethical concerns as traditional sports, such as doping, necessitating comparable ethical and regulatory oversight. Donder et al. (2023) emphasize the growing significance of eSports as both a professional and recreational activity. Furthermore, Palanichamy et al. (2020) highlight the organizational similarities between eSports and traditional sports, including the presence of governing bodies, leagues, tournaments, and teams. These similarities contribute to an evolving landscape that increasingly mirrors the structure of traditional sports despite the virtual nature of eSports. Common characteristics of eSports include players, teams, managers, leagues, competitions, and sponsorship agreements. However, eSports also encounter challenges such as match-fixing, doping, and gender-related disputes, which mirror the ethical issues present in traditional sports. In addition, the principle of excellence proposed by Devine (2022) and discussed by Perez and Rubio (2023) emphasizes the significance of cognitive acuity and perseverance in attaining athletic goals beyond just physical abilities. This aligns with the significance of mental endurance and strategic thinking in competitive sports. Siuda et al. (2024) delve deeper into the diverse challenges encountered while assessing the legitimacy of eSports through conventional sports standards, emphasizing the distinct characteristics of eSport competitions and the importance of comprehending them within their own framework. While eSports are acknowledged as a legitimate sport, even without traditional athletic components, they encounter ethical dilemmas such as doping and competition regulations. This framework of esports closely resembles that of traditional sports, and the significance of mental acuity and strategic thinking in eSports must be assessed in accordance with the virtual aspect of the game.

Similarly to eSports, ensuring fair competition in Paralympic sports requires a robust and precise classification system required by the International Paralympic Committee (Chun et al., 2021). The athletes' experiences have made significantly contributed to the literature on sports classification (Powis & Macbeth, 2020). Paralympic athletes

are categorized into six distinct groups: amputees, individuals with cerebral palsy, those with intellectual disabilities, individuals classed as "Les Autres," visually impaired individuals, and wheelchair users (Öner, 2023). This categorization system aims to classify athletes based on the extent to which their disability affects their sports performance (Douer et al., 2021) by assessing the existence, complexity, and suitability of the competition for a particular class (Tweedy et al., 2014). The Athlete Categorization Guidelines of the International Paralympic Committee prioritize a sport-specific categorization system (Allen et al., 2020) that promotes fair competition and enhances participation (Villiere et al., 2021). Athletes are categorized to ensure that the most exceptional athlete emerges as the winner rather than those with fewer constraints (Ravensbergen et al., 2016). Age, gender, and body weight are common units of classification (Šašek et al., 2022), but the evaluation must encompass visual capabilities relevant to athletic performance (Roberts et al., 2020). Essentially, a modified classification system is necessary to ensure fair competition in Paralympic sports, emphasizing the ongoing need for adjustments to accommodate individual athlete impairments.

Building on the importance of maintaining fairness in sports, this source offers valuable insights into ethical standards in sports science research, highlighting the significance of upholding ethical norms and addressing challenges related to research integrity in sports science (Harriss et al., 2022). This recognition confirms a changing environment of moral considerations in the discipline, emphasizing the necessity for ongoing revision and adjustment of ethical norms in order to tackle various emerging concerns (Guelmami et al., 2024; Harriss et al., 2022). Guelmami et al. (2024) propose a set of comprehensive ethical principles specifically tailored for researchers in sports medicine and sports science, with the objective of preserving the integrity of research and upholding high ethical standards. Furthermore, Mcnamee et al. explore the ethical implications of stroke research in sports, highlighting the cultural, ethical, scientific, and policy factors that must be taken into account in this field. These studies emphasize the crucial significance of ethical norms in maintaining the honesty and reliability of research techniques in the field of sport. They also show the shared dedication of researchers to improving the discipline ethically and responsibly. The existing literature highlights the necessity for ongoing attention and improvement of ethical principles to address diverse new issues and maintain credibility in sports science research.

In light of the ongoing discussion on ethical standards, Škerbić (2021) examines the impact of William J. Morgan, an esteemed authority in the field, on contemporary sports ethics, focusing on how his ideas shape current ethical standards. The references provided contain excellent information on several elements of sport and ethics. However, the most pertinent source for examining the impact of William J. Morgan's ideas on contemporary sports ethics is his book "Modern Sport Ethics" by Lumpkin (2016). This

work explores a range of ethical concerns and dilemmas in modern sports, such as the moral challenges in amateur and youth sports, as well as the scandals related to the use of performance-enhancing substances by professional athletes. Lumpkin's book delves into the ethical perspective of contemporary sports and their connection to William J. Morgan's theories on sports ethics. Morgan's work is crucial in shaping the conversation on ethical standards in sport, particularly in addressing the complex issues arising from contemporary advancements in the discipline.

Following the examination of ethical standards and research frameworks, Arora et al. (2023) address the clinical and ethical challenges that arise in sports and sports research. This study aims to identify these obstacles and suggest practical solutions and best practices to effectively deal with them. This research is particularly relevant to the context of a COVID-19 pandemic since it requires the use of remote data-gathering techniques, which further complicates the ethical framework of sports science research. At the same time, Guelmami et al. (2024) make significant contributions by developing precise ethical norms for research procedures in sports medicine and sports science. The Guelmami study enhances the discussion on improving research integrity and addressing ethical issues by incorporating many perspectives. Together, these studies tackle clinical and ethical challenges and offer practical solutions to guarantee the integrity and reliability of research methods in sports and sports science. Through collaborative efforts, these works make a substantial contribution to the advancement of ethical research practices in the area, ensuring that sports science continues to develop in a responsible and trustworthy way.

Conclusion

This research aims to analyze sports ethics within the legal framework to ensure impartiality and transparency. This study highlights that the lack of clear definitions and coordination between governmental agencies is a significant problem that affects the implementation and enforcement of ethical standards in sports. To promote fairness and inclusivity, governments must actively support and engage in establishing and maintaining these ethical standards. Enhancing ethical practices requires better training, clear standards, transparency, and accountability. Moreover, it is crucial to develop a framework for evaluating sports technology that incorporates ethical considerations in order to maintain fairness and integrity amid technological advancement. The principle of equity, which advocates for equal and unbiased opportunities in the classification of paralympic or paralympic sports, emphasizes the importance of a fair classification system to maintain the integrity of competition. Similarly, the ethical dilemmas in eSports reflect those found in traditional sports, emphasizing the need for ethical guidelines. The focus on ethical principles in sports research, which includes clear rules for research methods and addressing clinical issues that arise in

special situations like pandemics, strengthens the importance of maintaining integrity and credibility in sports science. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy is necessary to tackle many ethical concerns in sports and sports research with a continuous commitment to revise and adjust to ethical norms.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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