

## Reference Work Entry

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# Doping

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## Abstract

There are many definitions of doping, but all of them suggest that doping is the illicit use of drugs with the aim to enhance sports performance and improve an athlete's ability to win. Doping is fundamentally against the health of the athlete and the spirit of sports. While the harm to health argument appears straightforward, the ethical dimensions are both more ambiguous and more contested. In this entry, key issues are discussed concerning the Prohibited List, Sports Entourage (Athlete Support Personnel), and Equality among athletes, as arguments to demonstrate the importance of the ethics aspects of anti-doping. First published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1967, the Prohibited List has been a continual source of controversy. Moreover, the responsibility of Sports Entourage for doping and anti-doping is unclear. Even with the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code, it is still not clear why athletes should be responsible for doctors' or coaches' mistakes. Finally, although doping rules and regulations are not perfect, they seem to better reach equality among athletes than do other rules. In conclusion, the ethics of doping, though not exhaustive of "the spirit of sports," is an important pillar of anti-doping policy.

## Keywords

Support  
cs of doping Prohibited list Spirit of sports Sports entourage Equality among  
tes World Anti-Doping Code

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