

When it comes to sports, can inclusion trump fairness?

Éléments de réflexion pour l'essay:

1) What do we mean by inclusion?

- At the centre of the conversation about social inclusion is the concept of disadvantage. Inclusion happens when the barriers and challenges that lead to disadvantage are removed.
- Sport as a means of social insertion and integration?
- Do we talk about social inclusion meaning the disadvantaged person faces barriers presented by the world around them (physical, social, cultural etc.) or about intrinsic characteristics? (impairment, age, gender, culture...)

2) What categories are we dealing with?

Gender diversity? / Disabled people? / the transgender community? (ex: Accepted science regarding male and female physiology suggests that transwomen have an advantage over their cisgendered counterparts, what should we do? Is it fairer (for whom, them or the other athletes) to include them in the competition but with separate categories or in their original categories or in their targeted ones? Where does the fairness reside? It may be a question of where the advantage lies) / Destitute people? / Minorities?

3) What do we talk about when we talk about fairness?

- Equality in terms of capacities?
- Human rights?
- Does equality mean sameness? > Equality vs Equity
- What is a fair opportunity?

4) What level are we talking about? Amateur or professional? Are the stakes the same? Are all sports sex-affected? (if we talk about gender or transgender issues for example)

5) What means should be used to favor one or the other?

- Props and aids
- Special categories
- At what stage of the sports process must the equal opportunity come?
- During the competition? The preparation? The access?...

- Does it mean that everyone should get the same resources? Support? Information? Equipment? Choices? Coaching? Rules? Facilities? Pathways? > Where do we draw the line?
- Ex: The gender binary in elite sport should be replaced with a nuanced algorithm that accounts for both physiological and social parameters. As the algorithm would be applied to all athletes, it would be both inclusive and fair.
- Should there be the same rule for every sport?