

Chapter 3

Rules of the Game

It was time for PE, and the boys were having their own game of football. They ran out of the classroom trying to see who could get to the games field first. Mr Sullivan divided them into two teams and blew the whistle for kick-off.

The game was pretty even. John, who was the goalie, sweated nervously as the ball kept coming towards him. The goal, marked by two bricks, seemed very wide. When he thought nobody was watching, he pushed the bricks a little closer together with his foot to make the goal smaller.

After a few minutes Mr Sullivan called Joe over to have a word with him. Joe returned quietly to his place but, when the ball came his way, he grabbed it with his hands, took three steps, and scored a goal.

The members of the other team protested. "This is football—you can't use your hands!"



"Why not? Hands are used in rugby, and nobody objects," replied the teacher.

"But it's not allowed in football," Jamie protested.

"What Jamie is saying is that football has certain rules," said Mr Sullivan, asking them to sit for a moment.

"Why are rules necessary, do you think?"

"So the game is fair for everybody?" Jamie suggested.

"That's right," said Mr Sullivan. "I asked Joe to grab the ball with his hands to show that cheating ruins the game."

John felt all eyes on him; he felt that everyone must know that he had broken the rules on purpose.

"You need to follow the rules," continued Mr Sullivan.

"If you change them, then you're changing the game. Rules are there to make the game run smoothly and be fair. They mean the game is played the same by everybody everywhere. Each sport is different and has its own rules. If rules are not respected, everyone plays a different game and it becomes a mess. For instance, in rugby, netball, and cricket the ball is passed with the hands, but not in football and hockey."

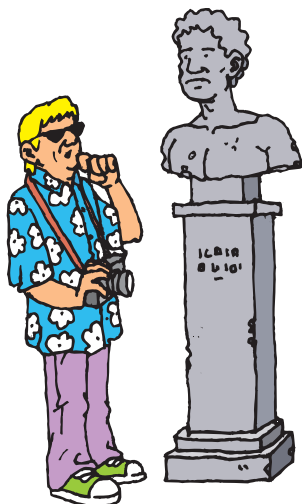
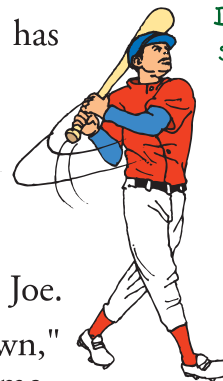
"Is cheating just changing the game, then?" asked Joe.

"No, it's worse than that. Cheating lets others down," answered Mr Sullivan. "Cheats don't share the game. To cheat is selfish, and is a sign of weakness: you could even say it is cowardly."



The rules of cricket were adapted in America to become baseball.

Baseball is a game which is fun both to play and to watch. It demands many skills and great speed.



In the Olympic Games of ancient Greece, those who cheated had to put up a statue of themselves inscribed with their name and how they had cheated. These statues were known as Zanes. In 1,000 years only 13 Zanes had to be built.

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John looked miserable but he plucked up his courage and muttered an apology. "Can we start again?" he asked. "This time I promise not to move the goal posts.

"Well done, John!" said Mr Sullivan. "I'm sure we can rely on you to respect the rules in future. But do you all think that rules only apply in sport?"

"No," said Charlie tentatively. "The other day my father complained that Paul, one of our neighbours, doesn't respect the rules. He's always parking his car in the turning space and annoying everyone."

"That's a very good example, Charlie," replied Mr Sullivan. "If a car blocks the turning space, other people are inconvenienced. You will find that there are actually many rules which we obey every day and that are really necessary if we are to live with each other in harmony."





Rugby is a game of physical contact that requires strength and speed. Rules define the game and make sure that players respect each other. Self-control is the most important rule that each player must

practise. Discipline and co-ordination are essential for scoring points. Because the game is so physical, you have to learn to be humble: you will fall, but, more importantly, you will learn to get up again and to help your team-mates.

In rugby rivals are often friends. After the match there is always a "third half", a celebration for the players in both teams. Rugby started at a famous school called Rugby in Warwickshire and it attracts people willing to learn self-control while fearlessly giving their best. It needs a lot of training and team tactics, and is known to be a sport that forms leaders.



In the Football World Cup there is a special prize for the team that commits the fewest fouls. It is called the 'Fair Play' prize.

Activities

1. Answer:

a. Has anyone ever cheated against you?

b. How did you feel?

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.....

c. Have you ever cheated? Why?

.....

d. How did you feel when you cheated?

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2. Fill in the blanks:

My favourite game is

Actions allowed in this game:

1.
2.
3.

Actions not allowed in this game:

1.
2.
3.



3. Answer:

How would you feel if somebody who has cheated wins?

What would you tell that person?

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.....
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4. What do we mean when we talk about 'the rules of a game'?

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- Tell your parents or an adult at home what you learnt about rules today.
- Ask them why they think rules are important. Do you think that cheating and being cheated is the same thing? Why?

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-  We did it well
-  It was a little difficult
-  We need to do it again

.....
Signature of a parent or responsible adult.