118 - AUTHORIZATION FOR DOPING IN FACE OF COMPETITORS INEQUALITIES

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"...é no jogo e pelo jogo que a civilização surge e se desenvolve." (Huizinga, 2010)

INTRODUCTION

The aura of sports was born bathed in competitiveness and this is uncontroversial. Through sport, albeit in a non-formal way, victory over the opponent has always drivenus. Since the beginning the games alreadywheregoverned by the presence of an adversary, although unconsciously, was an important part of our process of inner development, overcoming limits, determination and stubbornness. "The existence of the game is not tied to any particular degree of civilization, or any conception of the universe. Every thinking person is able to understand at first glance that the game has an autonomous reality, even if your language does not have a general term able to define it. "(Huizinga, 2008).

I - DOPING

The practice of doping is as old as sports. Throughout the ages man has worried in becoming victorious forgettingabout what makes victory a true source of pride.

For a method or substance be banned by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) it is necessary that at least two of these three requirements are met: illicit improvement of athlete's performance, pose a health risk to the athlete, be contrary to sporting principles.

It is worth mentioning the fact that the methods and substances utilized constitute competition fraud and can be punished with penalties raging from a warning to the ban from the sport.

Gene doping in which abides the present article is the most recent and disturbing practice. This becausegenemodificationcan not be detected by urinalysis or blood test, which are the current methods adopted for sports testing.

The human gene therapy basically consists of changing our genetic coding, introducing modified cells that block the activity of harmful genes, activating immune defense mechanisms or producing molecules of therapeutic interest . The applicability of this technique to sport athletes could result in athletes more resilient, strong and able to pursue their goals.

The question to which we must pay attention is if gene therapy confronts "sportsmanship".

II - TALENT

Talent is not only our responsibility. Those who were honored by having the aptitudes that enjoy the recognition of the society in which they live are lucky. Talent is part of the human genetic lottery. Some are born tall enough to play basketball,others are born with the perfect body structure of a marathon runner. Being a champion depends much less on meritocratic criteria than innate abilities of the competitor (talent).

Considering that our genetics is the result of a given gift (either by God, the universe or by chance), why we idolize so much people who have innate characteristics that they have not chosen to have?

Some may justify that everyone who has a recognized talent had to discover and refine itthrough extensive training, and this is true. But, anyway, a person without the same talent would never reach the same success even through the same amount of training for the same time period of time.

This argument is enough to make us think about something that has always existed: genetic inequality among competitors. If all competitors train with the same intensity during the same duration, the one who winsis the one with the greatest aptitude for that activity, and this is not a choice.

III – DOPING AND GENETIC IMPROVEMENT

Researches demonstrate that improving genetically an individual to make him more muscular and resilient is already possible. Drugs previously tested to compensate for muscular dystrophy proved to be able in providing a competitive advantage to individuals interested in improving their sports performance.

Researchers around the world are working hard to discover drugs that are able to equal competitorsto an unbeatable athlete. This is because during the evolution of sports in our society its primary objective of providing welfare was subdued by the millionaire amounts involving competitions at present date. The pursuit for victory, marketing contracts, athletescontracts, among otherscorroborate for a doping industry increasingly eager for new procedures that achieve the desired results without jeopardizing the reputation of the athlete to the public and regulatory doping agencies.

If by one hand the market for doping is expanding, on the other sports organizers have demonstrated concerns about this, speciallybecause altered genes can not be detected in blood and urine tests used nowadays.

Anyway think about this: when everyone played soccer barefoot was the first person to use a tennis accused of cheating? And the first who drunk an isotonic to restoreones energy? He who implants knee prosthesis to continue competing isconsidered doped? And who operates myopia to see wellina shooting competitions?

What worries us more about doping is that these methods are considered illegal shortcuts to a victory that happens without the due dedication. But, if we consider natural talent the true responsible for an athletes success – and about this we haveno control – should we consider any different a victory accomplished through natural giftor genetic modification?

Another intrinsic fear from the use of artificial substances or methods lies in the fact that these may harm the user's health. This argument is questionable given that some substances are scientifically harmless to the human body. Here's the case brought by Sandel , 2013:

> "When, in 1954, Roger Bannister became the first person to break the four-minute mile, his training consisted of a run with friends during his lunch break at the hospital where he worked as a medical student. By the standards of today's training routines, Bannister might as well have been running barefoot. Hoping to improve the performance of American marathon runners, the Nike corporation now sponsors a high-tech training experiment in a hermetically sealed altitude house" in Portland, Oregon. Molecular filters remove enough oxygen from the house to simulate the thin air found at altitudes of 12,000 to 17,000 feet. Five promising runners have been recruited to live in the house for four to five, to test the "live high, train low"theory of endurance training. By sleeping at the altitude of the Himalayas, the runners boost their production of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, a key factor in endurance. By working out at sea level – they run more than 100 miles a week – they are able to push their muscles to the maximum. The house is also equipped with devices that monitor the athletes' heart rates, red blood cell counts, oxygen consumption, hormone levels, and brain waves, allowing them to set the time and intensity of their training according to physiological indicators.
>
> The International Olympic Committee is trying to decide whether to ban artificial altitude training. It already prohibits other means by which athletes boost stamina by increasing their concentration of red blood cells, including blood transfusions and injections or erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone produced by the kidneys that stimulates red blood cell production. A synthetic version of EPO, developed to help dialysis patients, has become popular (although illicit) performance enhancer for distance runners, cyclists and cross-country skiers. The IOC instituted testing for EPO use at the Sydney games in 2000, but a new form of EPO gene therapy may prove more difficult to detect than the synthetic version. Scientists working with baboons have found a way to insert a new copy of the gene that produces EPO. Before long, genetically modified runners and cyclists may be able to generate higher-than-normal levels of their own natural EPO for an entire season or longer.
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> Here is the ethical conundrum: If EPO injections and genetic modifications are objectionable, why isn't Nike's "altitude house" also objectionable? The effect on performance is the same – increasing aerobic endurance by boosting the blood's capacity to carry oxygen to the muscles."

CONCLUSION

Despite our legal system rejecting the improvement of competitive capacity through use of substances and methods, the fact is that the genetic inheritance already guarantees competitors will not play on an equal ground. Because of this assumption, the use of genetic mechanisms can compensate for a natural imbalance between athletes of the same sport and guarantee high performance competitions to be carried out in the same conditions. We are not advocating the indiscriminate and irresponsible use of methods that may put the athlete's health at risk, far from this. The point being is the release of methods that can correct possible distortions without jeopardizing the sporting principles and values.

If until now the medals came from the combination of talent + training, why can't we admit that soon this equation will also cover genetics (genetic improvement + talent + training)?

We have to admit that some methods and substances are already accepted without generating punishment for the athlete (correctivesurgeries, special clothes to practice certain sports, etc.) then allowing the lessgeneticallyfortunate to also compete on equal terms would be a step forward in search of a balance of opportunity for all.

If we consider that genetic improvement of human beings is a one-way ticket in the society we live, allowing inequalities to be rebalanced is a step towards the improvement of man without conflicting with the perception of natural talent that permeate sports exhibitions, generating hope for those who different from others were not lucky enough onthe genetic lottery .

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AUTHORIZATION FOR DOPING IN FACE OF COMPETITORS GENETIC INEQUALITIES
ABSTRACT

We live a society in which overcoming our own limits is something so inherent to the human condition that frequently the line that separates the ethical and moral from the disturbing is tenuous. That said, it is no simple task to articulate the discomfort that attempts to improve the man bring us. There is a magical aura around the idea of a society free from the moral shackles that impede unlimited use of methods to "produce" the best specimens of ourselves. Whilst this paper does not intend to exhaust the matter, but perhaps open our mind to a different way of thinking, in which doping can compensate for the unequivocal genetic imbalance between competitors of the same modality.

LA LIBÉRATION DO DOPING FACE A L'ILEGALITE GENETIQUE ENTRE LES COMPETITEURS
RÉSUMÉ

Nous faisons partie d'une société dans laquelle l'ultrapassage de nos propres limites est quelque chose si inerrant a condition humaine que plusieurs fois la les traits que separent l'etique e la morale du persecuteur est deveras tenue. Affirmant cela, ce n'est pas un travail qui peut etre facilement articule, ce mal-etre qui quelques tentatives d'améliorer l'homme nous amenent. Il ya une aura magique autour de l'idée d'une société libre des contraintes morales que paralisent l'usage illimite de metodes pour "produire" de meilleurs specimenes de nous memes. Ce texte ci n'a aucune pretension d'engloutir le sujet, mais, peut etre, ouvir notre ame a une forme diferente de penser, dans laquelle le dopage puisse compenser le déséquilibre génétique sans équivoque existant entre les competiteurs d'une meme modalite

LA LIBERACIÓN DEL DOPAJE FRENTE A LA DESIGUALDAD GENÉTICA ENTRE LOS COMPETIDORES.
RESUMEN

Habitamos una sociedad en la cual la superación de nuestros propios límites es algo tan inherente a la condición humana que muchas veces la linea que separa lo ético y moral de lo perturbador es en efecto tenue. dicho esto, no es tarea simple articular ese malestar que algunos intentos de mejorar del hombre nos traen.Existe un aura magica en torno a la idea de una sociedad libre de amarras morales que frenan la utilización ilimitada de los métodos para producir mejores especimenes de nosotros mismos. El presente texto no tiene la pretensión de agotar el asunto, sino tal vez abrir nuestra mente para una forma de pensar diferente, en la cual el dopaje pueda compensar el desequilibrio genético e inequívoco existente entre los competidores de una misma modalidad.

A LIBERAÇÃO DO DOPING FRENTE A DESIGUALDADE GENÉTICA ENTRE OS COMPETIDORES
RESUMO

Habitamos uma sociedade na qual a superação de nossos próprios limites é algo tão inerente a condição humana que muitas vezes a linha que separa o ético e moral do perturbador é deveras tênue. Dito isto, não é tarefa simples articular esse mal-estar que algumas tentativas de melhorar o homem nos trazem. Existe uma aura mágica em torno da idéia de uma sociedade livre das amarras morais que freiam a utilização ilimitada de métodos para “produzir” melhores espécimes de nós mesmos. O presente texto não tem a pretensão de esgotar o assunto, mas talvez abrir nossa mente para uma forma de pensar diferente, na qual a dopagem possa compensar o desequilíbrio genético inequívoco existente entre competidores de uma mesma modalidade.