



Athlete Bill of Rights

Eleanor Roosevelt once said "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world." Human rights have its foundation in those activities that surround everyday life. It has its roots in sports, play and activity, essentially in how one child treats another during a game. The Athlete Bill of Rights is a basic building block for any sporting organization to use in regards to any level athlete. But it is also for the athletes themselves, this Bill of Rights is a means for individuals to foster education and cultivate empowerment and activism. While sports can be used as a powerful tool to progress human rights, the rights of those playing should not be neglected. By adopting these eight rights, organizations are actively and demonstrably showing their support for the worldwide struggle for human rights and for the local struggle of the rights of their athletes. By promoting these rights, athletes are taking one more step forward for their own betterment and the betterment of their peers. As Mrs. Roosevelt pointed out, human rights begin close to home, in fact in each organization's own backyard for all athletes.

ATHLETE BILL OF RIGHTS

- I. Every athlete has the right to play whatever and whichever sport he/she chooses regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation or religion
- II. Every athlete has the right to play in a safe environment free of structural defaults, defects, and environmental hazards including safe air quality and clean playing surface
- III. Every athlete has the right to play free from any physical, emotional, or verbal abuse or violence from the opposition, teammates, coaching staff, spectators, grounds staff, or officials
- IV. Every athlete has the right to create a contract and a working relationship with whomever they chose
- V. Every athlete is afforded the right to appeal any complaints made against him/her through an independent hearing as well as be provided with an effective procedure for complaints
- VI. Every athlete has the right to view the terms of his/her contract at any time and to have it examined by a lawyer
- VII. Every athlete has an equal right to any financial resources available and equal access to training grounds and equipment available
- VIII. Every athlete is entitled to a healthy lifestyle that includes proper nutrition, injury prevention and care, and education about the harmful effects of drugs