Performance Enhancing Drugs

Name

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Course

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Fans were angry and disappointed with Lance Armstrong when he admitted to using a performance-enhancing drug. Fans had perceived Lance Armstrong as an ethical athlete and believed he had achieved his victories through hard work and talent. Armstrong admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs and falsifying documents to indicate that he had passed the tests. Armstrong attributes his behavior to a desire to win. By doing so, he failed to recognize that his actions were wrong. Initially, Armstrong had denied any involvement with doping, and it was only after the results came back positive that he admitted to using illegal performance-enhancing drugs. Fans were also angry at him for destroying the credibility of cycling (ESPN, 2020). The sport was supposed to be competitive, where winning would be determined through merit as opposed to using shortcuts. Athletes that are found culpable for engaging in illegal doping may be subjected to financial penalties, they may be barred from engaging in competitive racing for a period of time, or like in the case of Armstrong, they may be permanently banned from cycling.

Performance-enhancing drugs may be used if they are legal and permissible by sports authorities. There are a variety of performance-enhancing drugs that are legal and permissible for use by athletes (The Running Channel, 2020). Some of the performance-enhancing drugs do not provide athletes with undue advantage, hence their permissible use. Sports agencies have outlawed the use of some performance-enhancing drugs, not just because they provide athletes with unfair advantage, but also because they could be harmful to the user’s health and wellbeing. The illegal performance-enhancing drugs such as steroids may have negative implications on the user’s body such as easy bruising and susceptibility to infections (Crux, 2021). They reduce sportsmanship by providing users with short-term and unfair advantages against their opponents. They are also unethical from the point of view of sponsors and spectators as they feel cheated when the athletes’ success is attributed to the use of performance-enhancing drugs and not their athletic abilities.

References

Crux. (2021). What Are Steroids? Doctors Explain Their Function, Utility, Side Effects. *YouTube*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSODnzFkkKY>

The video explains the negative impact of steroids.

ESPN. (2020). 30 for 30: ‘LANCE’ Trailer | ESPN. *YouTube*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWE4DnnCuvM>

The video provides information about Armstrong’s use of performance-enhancing drugs and their impact on fans.

The Running Channel. (2020). Legal performance enhancers for running. *YouTube*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jiy5l8YN7m8>

The video provides information about permissible performance-enhancing drugs.