

Real Athletes Play Fair

A Program of the USOC

To the athlete:

Thank you for participating in the USOC's educational program—Real Athletes Play Fair. With your outstanding background and stellar accomplishments, we know that your presentation will motivate and encourage attendees to consider their behavior both on and off the field of play, and we are confident that you will find your experience worthwhile. Please consider the age and makeup of your audience and take a few moments to review the following materials as you prepare:

To the Host & Organization:

Thank you for participating in the USOC's educational program—Real Athletes Play Fair. We are confident the Olympian, Paralympian or elite athlete who will present at your event will motivate and encourage your participants to consider their behavior both on and off the field of play, and we are confident that you find this experience worthwhile. Please take a few moments to review the materials, and support the athlete's presentation as needed.

To the athlete and host:

Olympians, Paralympians and hopefuls have varied degrees of public speaking proficiencies, and some athletes would prefer to have a discussion with a moderator and the audience rather than deliver a solo presentation. To assist those athletes preferring the discussion approach and to still provide a memorable appearance, the USOC created some standard questions the host can ask the athlete in a question and answer interview situation, still covering the topic of Fair Play and/or other topics of interest for the host organization and its constituents. For these questions, please go to page three.

If you have any questions about the program or presentation, please contact Adam Andrasko at 719-866-2270 or Adam.Andrasko@usoc.org.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE (30 - 40 minutes)

The event host and athlete/presenter should work together to set a mutually agreeable agenda for the event with appropriate time frames. The following is given as an example of a 30-40 minute presentation.

Athlete arrives at event 20 minutes early and meets event host. Check to be sure audio/visual equipment is set up and working properly by testing video.

- I. Introduction (5 minutes)
 - a. Event host offers introduction.
 - b. Introduce yourself, even if event host initially introduces you.
 - c. Thank everyone for having you and give brief overview of why you are there, referencing the celebration of Olympic Day and to discuss Fair Play.
- II. Your Personal Experience (10 minutes)
 - a. Discuss how you became involved with your sport and how you ascended to the elite level. If necessary, give some background on your sport and the Olympic/Paralympic Movement.
 - b. Provide the audience with some of your highlighted accomplishments and discuss the honor that comes with representing the United States on the world's sport stages (Olympic/Paralympic Games, World Championships, etc.).
 - c. Express gratitude for the support of fellow Americans like those here today.
 - d. Encourage people to pursue their passion, dreams and goals in whatever they do, and state how you're an example of how those dreams can come true. *(transition to Fair Play topic)*
- III. Highlights on Fair Play (5 minutes)
 - a. Explain that winning isn't everything, but pride in your accomplishments and your actions is worth everything. Mention some individuals throughout your career who mentored you and helped you achieve your goals and dreams, especially as it pertains to the topic of Fair Play. Other role models, athletes or otherwise, would also be good to mention.
 - b. Give your personal experience as it relates to competing with the world's best, and what it means to you to play fair.
 - c. Discuss how Fair Play is not only the right thing to do in sport, but also in life and provide examples of how competing fairly can benefit everyone.
 - d. If desired and if time permits, present some examples of athletes and coaches who competed fairly (see page 4).
 1. Erin Mirabella returning the bronze medal to her competitor
 2. Cleveland Stroud, coach who sacrificed state championship
 3. Story of Joey Cheek donating his medal winnings in 2006
- IV. Questions and Answers (10 minutes)
 - a. Repeat all questions so that everyone can hear.
 - b. Ask the event contact to help you watch the time.
- V. Conclusion (5 minutes)
 - a. Offer concluding remarks. Reiterate: 1) winning isn't everything; 2) fair play and spirit of Olympism exist not only in sport; but in life, 3) living a drug-free lifestyle is the right way to live; and 4) cheaters never win, and winners never cheat.
 - b. Event host offers concluding remarks.
- VI. Flag Presentation and Conclusion (5 minutes)
 - a. Thank host and audience and present flag to host organization on behalf of the United States Olympic Committee and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams. Thank the host and audience and present flag to host organization on behalf of the United States Olympic Committee and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams.

QUESTION & ANSWER INTERVIEW FORMAT BETWEEN EVENT HOST & ATHLETE

The following questions may be asked of the athlete by the event host:

1. Please tell us a little about yourself, your sport and your sport accomplishments?
2. How did you get into your sport and what did it take to make you an elite athlete?
3. Why is the celebration of Olympic Day and the Olympic Movement important?
4. What does it feel like to represent the United States on the world's athletic stages? How does it feel to wear the USA on your uniform?
5. Why is the concept of Fair Play such an important issue in sports today?
6. Have you ever experienced a situation where a teammate or competitor did not compete fairly? What happened and how did that make you feel?
7. What are some of the best examples of Fair Play that you have seen or know of? (Athlete can use some of the stories listed on page 4)
8. How has being an athlete and competing fairly helped you in life?
9. We always hear about athletes being caught doping, or using illegal substances to better their performances. Why do you think it's important to compete clean, and why it is such an important topic within the Olympic Movement?
10. What recommendations would you have for those in the audience today when it comes to competing fairly, whether in sport, life, or whatever action they engage in?
11. If someone wants to become an Olympian or Paralympian, what do they need to do? What advice do you have for them?
12. Who was a mentor/role model for you and why?
13. When are the next Olympic and Paralympic Games – Summer and Winter?
Answer: 2016 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2018 – PyeongChang, South Korea
14. How can we as Americans continue to support Team USA and the Olympic Movement?
Answer: There are a variety of things that you can find on www.teamusa.org
15. What's next for you?

The event host can add their own questions and/or not ask all of the above questions. Following this interview between the host and athlete, please allow the audience to ask questions.

ATHLETE & COACH EXAMPLES OF FAIR PLAY/SPORTSMANSHIP

Joey Cheek

Joey Cheek is an Olympian in the sport of speedskating who competed at the 2002 and 2006 Olympic Winter Games, in Salt Lake City, UT, and Torino, Italy, respectively.

Joey won gold and silver medals for his efforts in Torino, but after the Olympic Games, he donated his entire \$40,000 winnings from the U.S. Olympic Committee to support athletic programs for underprivileged youth. His act of sportsmanship was inspiring.

Erin Mirabella

Erin Mirabella, a U.S. Olympian in the sport of cycling competed in the Sydney, Australia, Games in 2000 and the Athens, Greece, Games in 2004.

In one race in Athens, Erin finished fourth, but she was awarded a bronze medal when officials thought the third-place finisher tested positive for banned substances. This turned out to be wrong. Later, the International Olympic Committee asked Erin to return her medal so it could be awarded to the original third-place finisher.

Erin did so with grace. She didn't whine or make a big stink, but said, "I want to do what is right and... fair." Erin thought it was important to honor her competitor, who had rightfully won the medal. And, Erin was proud of her finish—no matter what place it was—and was proud of upholding the Olympic ideal of sportsmanship. To her, that was worth more than a medal. Erin won the USOC's Jack Kelly Fair Play Award in 2005, receiving the highest honor awarded by the USOC for fair play.

Coach Cleveland Stroud

Coach Stroud was a high school basketball coach in 1987. His team had just won its first Georgia state basketball championship.

Everyone was so happy they could hardly stand it. But then Coach Stroud discovered a terrible thing—he'd unknowingly used an ineligible player during the game. The player was only in for a minute and didn't score. Nobody else knew. No big deal, right?

Not to Coach Stroud. It must have been really hard to do, but he notified the referees and forfeited the only state championship the school has ever earned. It may be surprising to some, but Coach Stroud said, "You've got to do what's right. People forget the scores; they don't ever forget what you're made of."