Sports for Justice Study
Workbook for Secondary school students
Interactive PDF
www.caritas.org.au/schools
How to use this resource

This student workbook and our other “Sports for Justice” resources help you explore this concept in light of Catholic Social Teaching, the Olympic Values and the impact of major sporting events on communities in which Caritas Australia works. We hope it can help you add an informative and social justice element to your Olympic preparations and celebrations at school.

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Other Sports for Justice resources available on the website include: Sporting Values liturgy, “All to Play for” Handball game, Ice Breakers, Event guide.

About Caritas Australia

Caritas Australia is the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Through effective relationships with the Church, local partners and communities in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and Australia, Caritas Australia helps to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Our programs, advocacy and education initiatives promote the dignity of every person, regardless of religious, political or cultural beliefs.

Caritas Australia is part of one of the largest aid and development networks in the world – Caritas Internationalis –, working in over 200 countries and territories. For more information, visit our website.
The concept of sports for justice can be relevant to investigations in Religious Education, Health and Physical Education and Civics & Citizenship. The following links are examples of where these links can be made.

**Years 7-8 | Civics & Citizenship**
- Develop a range of questions to investigate Australia’s political and legal systems (ACHCS054) (ACHCS068)
- Use democratic processes to reach consensus on a course of action relating to a civics or citizenship issue and plan for that action (ACHCS058) (ACHCS072)

**Years 7-8 | Health and Physical Education**
- Investigate the benefits to individuals and communities of valuing diversity and promoting inclusivity (ACPPS079)
- Participate in and investigate cultural and historical significance of a range of physical activities (ACPMP085)

**Years 7-8 | Civics & Citizenship**
- How and why individuals and groups, including religious groups, participate in and contribute to civic life: Y9 (ACHCK079)
- The influence of a range of media, including social media, in shaping identities and attitudes to diversity: Y9 (ACHCK080)
- Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australian, regional and global contexts: Y9 (ACHCS089) Y10 (ACHCS102)

**Years 9-10 | Civics & Citizenship**
- The Australian Government’s role and responsibilities at a global level, for example provision of foreign aid, peacekeeping, participation in international organisations and the United Nations (ACHCK091) Y10

**Years 9 - 10 | Health and Physical Education**
- Investigate how empathy and ethical decision making contribute to respectful relationships (ACPPS093)
- Critique behaviours and contextual factors that influence health and wellbeing of diverse communities (ACPPS098)
Sports for Justice

Run the good race

Olympic Values, Human Rights and Catholic Social Teaching

The Olympic and Paralympic Games are about much more than sporting excellence. Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Movement, saw in the Games an ideal opportunity to develop a set of universal principles – or values – that could be applied not only to sport, but to education and society.

The following content and activities help us consider, in light of scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and our work with poor and marginalised communities, the Olympic and Paralympic values in action.

Think about the values you associate with sport.

Did the words ‘fair play’, ‘teamwork’ and ‘respect’ come to mind? These sporting values are easily related to the Catholic Social Teaching principles of the Dignity of the Human Person, Subsidiarity and Participation.

All sporting events should uphold these principles.

Do you know what the Olympic and Paralympic values are? Let’s watch this short film to find out!

Watch this getset “Olympics Values” film clip from 2012.

Values

The Olympic values are:

- Respect – for yourself and others; taking part fairly; knowing your own limits; and taking care of your health and the environment
- Excellence – giving of your best; and striving to meet your own goals
- Friendship – sharing understanding and support with others, however different they may be

The Paralympic values, based on the history of the Paralympic Games and the tradition of fair play and honourable sports competition, are:

- Courage
- Determination
- Inspiration
- Equality

“Sport has always favoured universality characterized by fraternity and friendship among peoples, understanding and peace among nations, out of respect, tolerance, harmony of differences. Every sporting event, especially those of the Olympics, where representatives of nations with histories, cultures, traditions, faiths and different values meet, can become a channel of an ideal force capable of opening new and sometimes unexpected paths in the resolution of conflicts arising from human rights violations.”

Pope Francis in his address to the leaders and athletes of the Italian National Olympic Committee, 2014.


THINK-PUZZLE-EXPLORE

Consider what you have just read and watched.

What did you already know about this topic of Sports and Justice?

What questions or puzzles do you have?

How can you explore this topic further?
The World’s first Refugee Olympic Team

In 2016 The International Olympic Committee created the first team of Refugee Olympic Athletes. The team is composed of athletes that originate from Syria, South Sudan and Ethiopia and are hosted by Belgium, Kenya, Brazil and Germany.

“By welcoming the team of Refugee Olympic Athletes to the Olympic Games Rio 2016, we want to send a message of hope for all refugees in our world,” said IOC President Thomas Bach.

“Having no national team to belong to, having no flag to march behind, having no national anthem to be played, these refugee athletes will be welcomed to the Olympic Games with the Olympic flag and with the Olympic Anthem. They will have a home together with all the other 11,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees in the Olympic Village.”

Consider this in light of what Pope Francis said:

The Olympic motto — “Citius, altius, fortius” — is not an incitement to the supremacy of one nation over another, of one people over another, or even of the exclusion of the weakest and least protected. But it represents the challenge to which we are all called, not only the athletes: that of taking on the toil, the sacrifice, to reach life’s important goals, accepting one’s limitations without allowing oneself to be impeded by them but striving to excel.

Pope Francis in his address to the leaders and athletes of the Italian National Olympic Committee, 2014.

Discuss:

What Catholic Social Teaching principles does this initiative demonstrate?

What connections can you make to other current global issues?
Task

Match the Olympic and Paralympic values and quotes cards (on pages 7 to 9). You have ten minutes. Write the Olympic value/s (on page 7) that you think match in the Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching boxes (on pages 8 and 9). You will need to be able to discuss and share your reasons.

Discuss your choices with a partner or small group.

• Which quotes did you match with which values?
• Why do you think there were differences between your groups?
• Are the Gospel values more or less challenging than the Olympic and Paralympic values? How?
• Why do you think the founder of the modern Olympic movement, Pierre de Coubertin, came up with the Olympic values? Do you think he might have been influenced by the mainly Christian nation (France) in which he lived?
• Would you add any other values as a guide to life, for example compassion or generosity?
• How can you live out all these values in your sports at school or home, or in your everyday life?

Further activities:

Choose one or two of the values and write about a time when you demonstrated that value. You can choose either an Olympic value or one of the Scripture/Catholic Social Teaching values.

Plan, take and then display a series of photos showing Olympic and Scripture/Catholic Social Teaching values within your community. Caption each photo and explain which value you feel it is expressing.

Please ensure you have personal and parental/guardian consent for under 18s from everyone photographed.

Discuss:

• Were any of the values easier to demonstrate than others? Which values are more difficult?
• Is it easier to demonstrate these values in sport than in life in general?
• How could you demonstrate these values in your life in the future?
Olympic values

- Respect
- Equality
- Courage
- Determination
- Inspiration
- Friendship
- Excellence
“Though all the runners in the stadium take part in the race, only one of them gets the prize. Run like that – to win. Every athlete concentrates completely on training, and this is to win a wreath that will wither, whereas ours will never wither.”
(I Corinthians 9:24-25)

“Playing sport ... can encourage young people to develop important values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, sharing and solidarity.”
(Pope John Paul II, 2000)

“It is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones... you together are Christ’s body...”
(I Corinthians 12:22, 27)

“In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special place they have in society.”
(Pope Paul VI, A Call to Action, 1971)

“I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.”
(John 10:10)

“In [the gift of sport] the human person exercises his or her body, intellect and will, recognising these abilities as gifts of the Creator.”
(Pope John Paul II, 2000)

“Be at peace among yourselves... you must all think of what is best for each other and for the community.”
(I Thessalonians 5:14-15)

“As a real instrument of reconciliation, sport brings people together... the ideals of fair play, honesty, friendship, collaboration and mutual respect are the building blocks of a new civilisation of peace.”
(Pope John Paul II, 2000)
“Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if it were for the Lord and not for men…. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving…”
(Colossians 3:23)

“Those involved in sports… are called to make sports an opportunity for meeting and dialogue, over and above every barrier of language, race or culture.”
(Pope John Paul II, 2000)

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”
(John 13:34)

“The use of sport as a vehicle for positive messages contributes to building a more fraternal world with greater solidarity.”
(Pope Benedict XVI, 2009)

“Take an athlete – he cannot win any crown unless he has kept all the rules of the contest.”
(2 Timothy 2:5)

“The Olympic motto — “Citius, altius, fortius” — is not an incitement to the supremacy of one nation over another, of one people over another, or even of the exclusion of the weakest and least protected. But it represents the challenge to which we are all called, not only the athletes: that of taking on the toil, the sacrifice, to reach life’s important goals, accepting one’s limitations without allowing oneself to be impeded by them but striving to excel.”
(Pope Francis XVI, 2014)
What do you already know about Brazil?

Brazil is the fifth most populous country in the world.

Over the past decade, the country has undergone strong economic growth. With an abundance of natural resources, much of its economic growth has been through agricultural, mining and manufacturing industries.

Yet not all people have benefited from Brazil’s economic growth. Substantial income inequalities existing in the country.

From the 1950s, Brazil experienced one of the largest population movements in history when an estimated 20 million people, looking for a safe and secure future, moved from rural areas to the big cities. Many, found themselves living in favelas.

Favelas are often built on land that no one wants to live on due to the threat of floods and landslides, or because they are close to roads and train lines.

Unequal wealth distribution and substantial urban migration has led to a growth in favelas (shanty towns) in the larger cities of Brazil. Drug trafficking and gang-related violence are major problem in these poorer areas. Favela residents – particularly young people – are often marginalised and experience discrimination from the wider community.

With dense populations, limited space, a lack of available jobs, constant threat of eviction and widespread poverty, favela life is difficult. Many locals face daily discrimination from the wider population.

Global sporting events represent an exciting opportunity for participants, spectators and the host country. To choose a host, there is a bidding process that has to be completed by any potential host city or nation in order for them to be considered for the event.

But often, the most poor and marginalised are forgotten in the preparations, yet we believe it is these communities who should be central to the decision making. This is the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Subsidiarity and Participation.

Over the past two decades, more than two million people have been displaced in host countries. In Brazil, over 200,000 people have been forced from their homes due to the upcoming World Cup and Olympic Games, to make way for the construction of new stadiums, hotels, and the like.
Caritas Australia's work in Brazil

The world’s eyes were on Brazil with the Soccer World Cup in 2014 and again for the Olympics in July 2016.

Week 1 of Project Compassion 2014 told the story of Maristely, a passionate young leader, and her community, who live in a favela (slum) in São Paulo, Brazil. Caritas Australia’s partner, the Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents (MDF) has been working with thousands of families like Maristely’s, to promote the dignity of each person and change the culture of violence in the favelas. We focus on skills training for people living in the favelas so that they can advocate for improvements in their situation. Through this work, families like Maristely’s now have access to clean water, electricity and connected sewerage, leading to a reduction in respiratory and skin diseases, and better overall health. Her family also has a certificate of home ownership which provides greater security for the household. Thanks to this legal protection, they can no longer be evicted.

We think Maristely’s question about the World Cup ‘The Cup for who?’ is a good one....we invite you to consider who these events are for, and how they can be more inclusive.

Consider this in light of the Olympic values.

How can major organisations like the International Olympic Commitee (IOC) and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) be held accountable for the impact these events have on marginalised communities?

But not everyone in the favela has such security. Caritas Australia’s partner MDF, together with other favela residents and the wider community, has been asking who these events are really for, since approximately 200,000 residents have already been evicted in preparation for these events.

Watch what Maristely told us about the impact of the World Cup in 2014.

Watch Maristely’s story here.

Evicting people from their houses is a very complicated issue today.

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Young people playing soccer in Vila Prudente. An estimated 50,000 favela residents, who already face daily challenges regarding access to basic services, risked eviction.
An update from Maristely in 2016

In 2016 we caught up with Maristely. She continues to be a committed advocate for human rights. Maristely is in the final year of her Cultural Events course at university. She continues to participate in MDF more specifically at the monthly meetings and in the training for new leaders for favela residents. She is a member of her local parish Council.

Reflecting on the World Cup

We asked Maristely to reflect on the impact of the World Cup on her community. Read the interview below.

Caritas Australia (CA): What were some of the main issues for people living in the favelas during the World Cup?

Maristely: The main issues for the slums during the World Cup were related to public safety. Many areas were occupied by the police citing security reasons, but the right to come and go of people was compromised. An intensive occupation of the slum areas had taken place by the police.

CA: Are stadiums and other infrastructure being used regularly, or lying empty?

Maristely: The new soccer stadiums that were built for the World Cup stadiums are being underutilized.

CA: Are local residents able to use any of the facilities built for the World Cup?

Maristely: No, they are private or public spaces run by football clubs. You must pay to enter. Also, as a result of the reforms that took place, football, which is the most popular sport in Brazil, is getting more expensive for people to watch and is becoming an elite sport.

CA: Were there any positive outcomes of the World Cup for residents of the favelas? What did you learn from the experience of living in a host country for the World Cup?

Maristely: There were no positive results for the favelas (slums and shanty towns). In some areas even removal of families near the stadiums and on access routes took place. The World Cup in Brazil was instrumental in increasing property (price) speculation, embezzlement of funds and a series of corruption scandals that even today has its negative effects.

Many works of mobility and infrastructure that were announced as the great legacy of the World Cup 2016 have not been completed and are not functioning as promised.

But we made a great process in the organization of social movements and debating the role of sport, especially in Brazil, where sport mobilizes many people and a lot of money.

Young people at the MDF Cultural Centre make paper mache soccer balls.
What about the 2016 Olympics?

We also asked Maristely to share her thoughts about the upcoming Olympics. Read her reflections and answer the questions that follow.

Maristely: On the sporting front there is anxiety in making sure the Olympic games take place. But the way these games will happen is depressing.

Since the World Cup and the Olympic Games were first announced in Brazil these kind of mega sporting events were seen as opportunities for improvements in basic infrastructure of the country, but in the preparation process the spaces for the participation by civil society and technical academics who know about urban development were not involved in the discussions.

As the deadline approaches there is a need for an accelerated release of funds to ensure that the games take place and that the infrastructure is ready. This leads to works that are not ready in time and rushed through quickly resulting in the removal of poor urban inhabitants from good locations.

In this way the games became a way to make room for the real estate market and large contracts with contractors without consulting civil society.

The information reaching us is basically like what happened in the World Cup, communities are being occupied by the police- Pacifying Police Units (UPP’s), but other basic infrastructure and services of social care are not happening as promised.

We read that each of the 3.8 million tickets on sale locally will cost R570 reals (US $30) or less to ensure that the games are accessible to everyone and the stadiums are full. But for the poor people of the city of Rio in a time of recession (and the high cost of living) this price is still far too expensive.

Consider the following questions based on the 2014 film clip and the 2016 interviews:

• Did the concerns Maristely had before the World Cup eventuate?

• Whose needs do you think are being prioritised in the planning of these events? Who benefits most?

• Who was and continues to be excluded?

• Give two reasons why you think the organisers (host country) see a benefit in hosting these mega sporting events.

• Which Catholic Social Teaching principle do you think the planners could have implemented to ensure hosting these events does not negatively impact the most marginalised?

• Do you agree with what Maristely says about who the World Cup should be for? Explain.

• List at least three things that Maristely and other favela residents do at the community meetings related to the mega sporting events.

• What Human Rights are relevant in this situation?

• What is the impact on sport as a community activity if some people are excluded?
Sports for Justice

Spotlight on Brazil
Film Study Guide

Answer the following three questions:
List at least five important sporting values. Explain why you think they are important.

What justice issues do you think might be related to hosting global sporting events such as the World Cup and Olympics?

What challenges do you think favela residents might be facing as a result of Brazil being the host country for these events?

Now watch the 30-minute Foreign Correspondent documentary on Brazil and the impact of being a host country for the World Cup and Olympics.

Once you have watched the clip, answer the previous three questions again. Reflect on your first answers and see whether there is anything else you would now add.

Answer the following questions:

Background

1. Brazil is in the top ten of the world's economies. Where does it sit for healthcare? [Extension activity: compare and contrast other social indicators, such as Brazil's achievement levels in education, maternal health, child mortality. Explore the UN DATA SITE.]

2. Name the two global sporting event organising bodies mentioned in the documentary.

3. How much money is being spent on stadiums in comparison to what was spent in South Africa? [Extension activity: Research the reasons why it is costing so much more]

4. How much has been spent:
- On the Macarena stadium?
- On the event as a whole?

5. What is being demolished to make way for stadiums?

6. List three reasons why life has become harder for Brazilians due to the public spending cuts.

7. By how much have the bus fares increased? Explain why this increase “sparked a fire”.

8. Who attended the protests against the increased fares and spending cuts?

9. List the three public services mentioned that have been neglected?

10. Why does Janine have to pay more for her apartment? The increased cost of living is another social impact.

11. By how much has the cost of food increased?

12. How much of the family's income is spent on rent?
13. How much money is left for everything else - food, water, schooling, etc.?

14. What adjectives are used to describe the favelas? [Extension question: what impact does the use of these adjectives have on the viewer? Hint: are you more or less inclined to think it is unfair that favela residents will be negatively impacted by the sporting events?]

15. Some of the favelas have been “cleaned up”. What does this mean?

Caritas Australia’s guiding principles are the Catholic Social Teaching principles, such as the Dignity of the Human Person.

1. Do you think the language used when talking about favela residents and the strategies used - e.g. the “cleaning up” - respect their dignity? Why?

2. What does Eduardo da Souza, an ex-soccer player who has played in the World Cup, say about the situation? Do you agree with what he says?

3. The organisers of the sporting events are hoping that the supporters’ passion will “drown out” the protesters’ anger and frustration. How do you feel about this?

There are indeed several words in the vernacular of sport which refer to spiritual life. This was even understood by the Saints who knew how to explain passion, enthusiasm, perseverance, determination, challenge and limitation with the gaze projected toward the other, beyond oneself toward the horizon of God. St Paul invites us to train “in godliness;... for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come” (1 Tim 4:8).

Pope Francis in his address to the leaders and athletes of the Italian National Olympic Committee, 2014.

What other parallels can you draw between working for justice and change, and training for sport events like the Olympics?

CONNECT, EXTEND, CHALLENGE

CONNECT: How are the ideas and information in this workbook CONNECTED to what you already knew?

What new ideas or information did you get that EXTENDED or pushed your thinking in new directions?

What is still CHALLENGING or confusing for you to get your mind around? What questions, wonderings or puzzles do you now have?

We invite you to think about how you can work for justice in your school, country and around the world.