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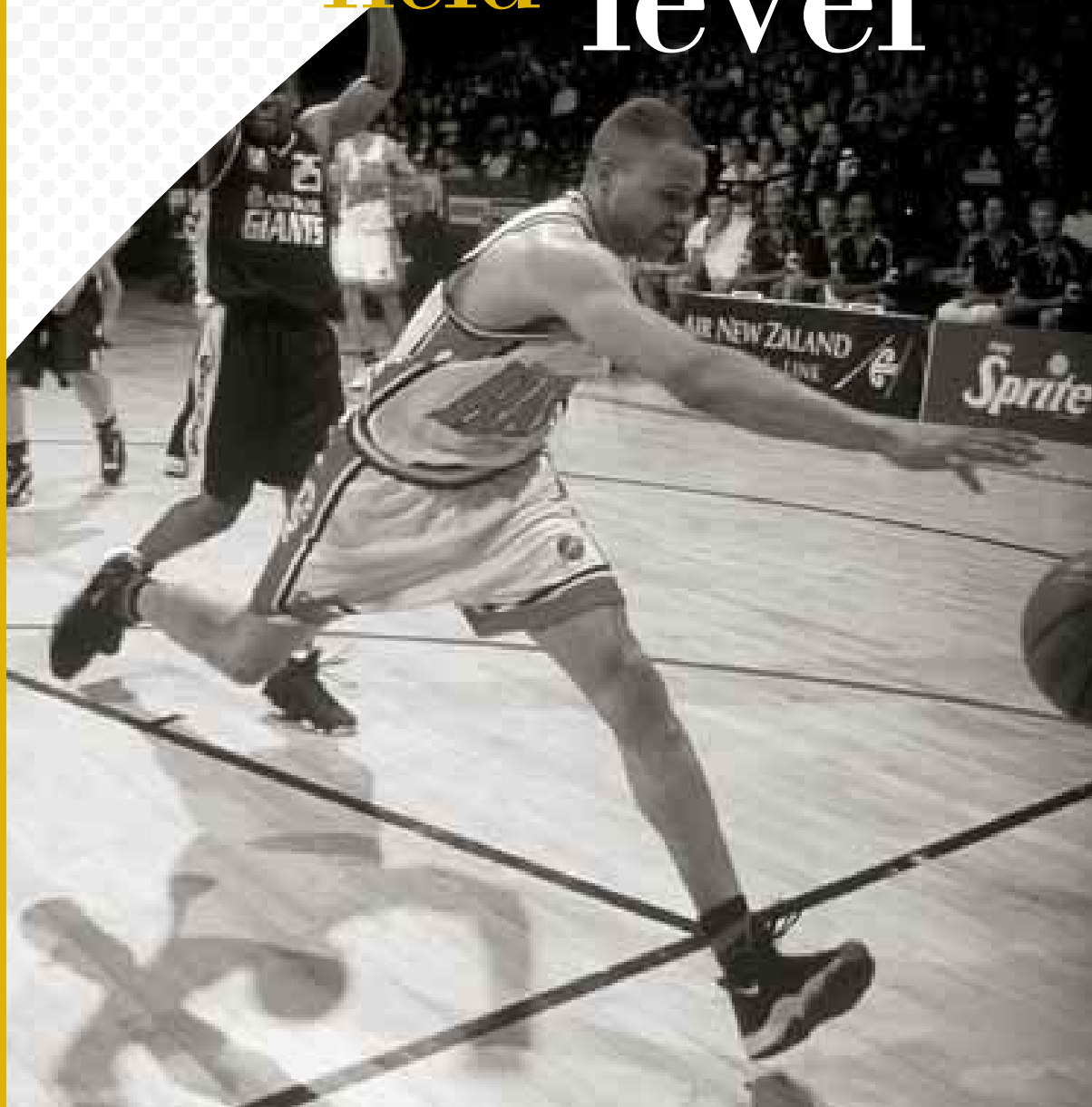
FAIR PLAY

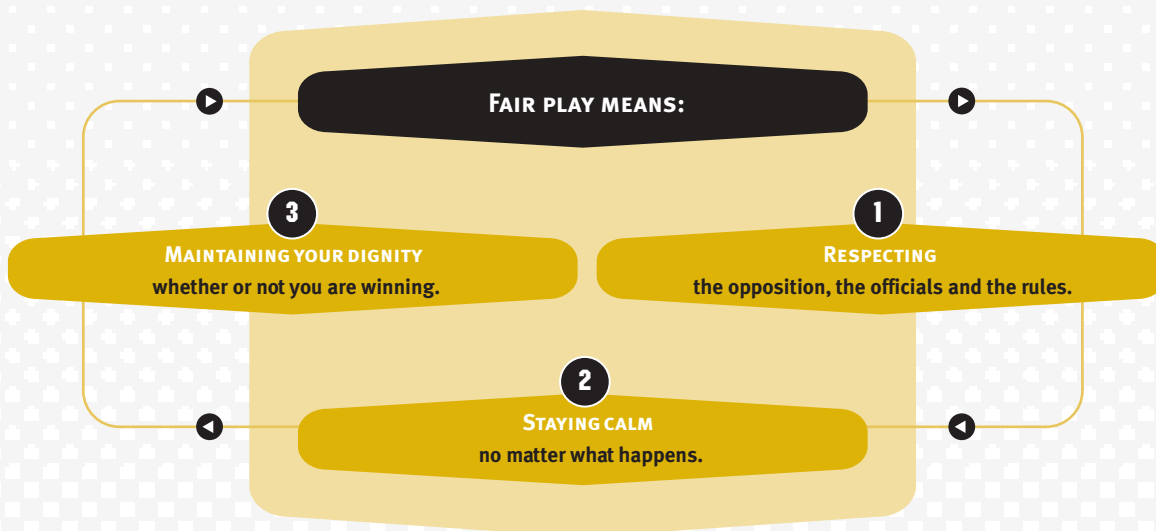
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FAIR PLAY

People play to participate and enjoy the game – two considerations that are often more important than winning. Bending the rules and foul play are unsporting and ruin the enjoyment for all involved. Coaches, players, referees and supporters all have a role in upholding the principles of fair play.

Keep the playing field level





Fair play, a healthy competitive spirit and an injury-free environment are key to participation and enjoyment – and that’s why sporting rules and codes have been designed. Before you start playing, make sure you know the rules of the game and are willing to abide by them.

Rules

Some rules are designed and enforced just to reduce or remove the risk of injury. For example:

Hockey players aren’t allowed to raise their sticks above shoulder level, spear tackling in rugby is disallowed, and physical contact in non-contact sports is penalised.

Drugs in sport

The misuse of drugs to enhance sports performance is wrong for three important reasons:

1. It contravenes the code of fair play.
2. It is breaking the laws of sport and society.
3. It carries the risk of serious health problems and the risk of injury.

Coaches and players have joint responsibility to keep sport free from drugs.

Everyone has a role

If the game gets out of control, play can become reckless and dangerous – and increase the potential for injury. Play your part – play fair. Remember many referees are volunteers and need your support by respecting their decisions. Bending the rules is cheating.

REFEREES SHOULD:

- Be trained in the game’s rules and apply them fairly and consistently
- Encourage fair play
- Always be firm but friendly
- Help players to understand the rules
- Enforce disciplinary action appropriate to the level of misconduct.

PLAYERS SHOULD:

- Understand the rules before starting the game
- Play fair and within the game’s rules
- Respect the referee’s call by not challenging their decision
- Respect their opponents.

COACHES SHOULD:

- Emphasise the guidelines of fair play to all players
- Make sure all players know the rules
- Accept all calls by the referee and not try to influence them
- Speak out against violence, poor behaviour and cheating
- Respect the officials and their decisions.

PARENTS/SUPPORTERS SHOULD:

- Respect the referees and their decisions
- Encourage the players to play fair
- Support their team positively.

Good sport is about positive attitude

For more information on fair play, contact:

SPARC (Sport and Recreation New Zealand): www.sparc.org.nz

For confidential information on drug use in sport contact:

the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency: www.nzstda.co.nz

THE 10-POINT ACTION PLAN FOR SPORTS INJURY PREVENTION

