

The culture, or ethos, of the sport which defines acceptable and appropriate behaviour may also have a significant impact on the emotions experienced by athletes and the way in which they cope. It may be interesting to investigate whether venting, to which some sports are more open than others, impacts the emotions experienced and/or the coping strategies employed by athletes. For example, researchers may wish to contrast sports such as soccer, where displays of verbal dissent to referees and opponents are commonplace, with sports such as rugby in which overt displays of verbal dissent to officials and opponents are less common. Similarly, examining differences in coping and emotion between contact sports such as rugby, which provide players with an opportunity to exorcise their emotions in a physical manner, with non-contact sports such as cricket or baseball, which do not, may be illuminating. The differing cultures and ethoi of sports may contribute to sport-specific antecedents of emotions. An example of this may be sport-specific self-presentation issues. Sports such as ice hockey, rugby union, rugby league, American football and Australian rules football are contact (in some cases collision) sports in which demonstrating physical dominance over an opponent is often considered to be an integral part of the game. Being seen to be dominated physically by an opponent may give rise to self-presentation concerns resulting in negative emotions (such as embarrassment and shame). Further, different self-presentation aspects of different sports may give rise to different emotions. For instance, anxiety may stem more from different self-presentation concerns in subjectively scored sports such as ice-skating than in objectively scored sports such as field athletics.

## To conclude

The chapters in this book illustrate that coping and emotion in sport is a vibrant area of study, and this is reflected in the diversity of topics covered, theoretical approaches employed, and the geographical spread of the authors. While there are many exciting avenues for potential exploration and future research, this should not distract us from progress made and the knowledge accrued to date. We feel that, collectively, the chapters in this book provide a full description of 'what we know', and that this can both inform practice and guide future study in coping and emotion in sport.

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