

# VIOLENCE IN SPORT

## Discussion

- How many of you participate in a team sport?
- Which sport is it?
- What are the rules regarding physical contact or violence in your sport?
- How do you feel if someone trips or slashes you during a game?
- What happens if a player breaks one of these rules?
- How often does this happen in your sport?

How would you define a "Good Sport"? Do you consider yourself a good sport when you play your favorite game?

Now that we've thought about the sports that you play, let's take a look at the sports that we see on TV.

- What sports do you watch on TV?
- Compare the sports that you watch to the sports that you play. Which sports seem more violent?
- What kind of violence do you see in sports on TV? In hockey, for instance, could the referees stop the fights sooner? Why are the fights allowed to go on and on?
- The hockey players who often fight are usually grown men 20 or 25 years of age or older. Some are fathers. If they handled themselves like that off the ice, for example, because a clerk at Canadian Tire wouldn't take back their kid's flawed skates, what would happen?
- How do you feel when you see a fight during a professional hockey game, or a baseball player yelling at an Umpire?
- What message does sports violence give to kids?
- Can you think of any sports on TV where there is no violence? Do you find these sports exciting to watch? What is it that makes them exciting?
- Why do you think TV emphasizes the violence in these sports and not positive behavior?
- Think back to our definition of a good sport. Can you think of any professional athletes who you would classify as good sports? Who would you classify as poor sports?

## Activity

Complete a project on your favorite athlete. Your projects are to include:

- Biographical information regarding the athlete, including, if possible, what drew the athlete to his or her particular sport
- Statistics relating to the athlete's performance
- Reasons why you feel that this athlete is a good sport, including examples of sportsmanship on the field, rink or court, community involvement, etc.

## Vocabulary

Below are things the referee does. Match the verbs with the phrases on the right:

- |                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. give/ award | a) a player for a bad foul  |
| 2. disallow    | b) his whistle to stop play |
| 3. book        | c) a free kick/ a penalty   |
| 4. send        | d) a goal for offside       |
| 5. blow        | e) a player off             |

## Soccer – a sport to die for

Complete the gaps with suitable words:

**Belgium, 1985.** Thirty-eight \_\_\_\_\_ were crushed to death and over 450 injured at the 1985 European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus, in Brussels.

**Colombia, 1994.** Andres Escobar, a member of the Colombian team, returned from the World Cup in the USA and was shot dead in the parking lot. Escobar had \_\_\_\_\_ an own goal in the game against the USA.

**Italy, 1995.** Three Genoa fans died of heart attacks when their team was \_\_\_\_\_ by Padova. Two fans died at the game, one watching on television.

**Turkey, 1996.** Two fans of Trabzonspor killed themselves after their team had \_\_\_\_\_ a crucial game 2-1 against Fenerbahce. In a separate accident, a Fenebahce fan died when adjusting his television antenna to improve the reception of his team's \_\_\_\_\_ against Manchester United.