



WIPO/IP/KIN/11/16B
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
DATE: APRIL 20, 2011

SEMINAR ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND SPORT

organized by

the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

in cooperation with

the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO)

and in collaboration with

Gordon McGrath, Attorneys-at-Law

Kingston, April 19 and 20, 2011

ROLE OF SUPPORT TEAM: MENTOR

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Caribbean Sports Reach 20/04/2011



Mentorship in Sports

JIPO Seminar 20/04 /2011

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What do you Say ?

- In 1992 Derrick Redmond was one of the favourite for 400 meters
- Then Disaster



Sports mentoring

Caribbean Sports Reach commits to a **holistic approach** of serving the needs of sportspeople, parents, coaches and officials in order to transform their private lives, their area of the sport world, as well as their area of world as a result.

Caribbean Sports Reach and other similar ministries world wide calls this ministry of integrated personal and cultural transformation "sports mentoring."

We see person's as Spirit ,Soul and body .



Sports mentor

A sports mentor is an agent of transformation in the world of sport.

The mentor **serves** individual sports people, **helping them to integrate** their love of sport, God's love for them as revealed in Scripture, and their physical, mental, spiritual needs as human beings.

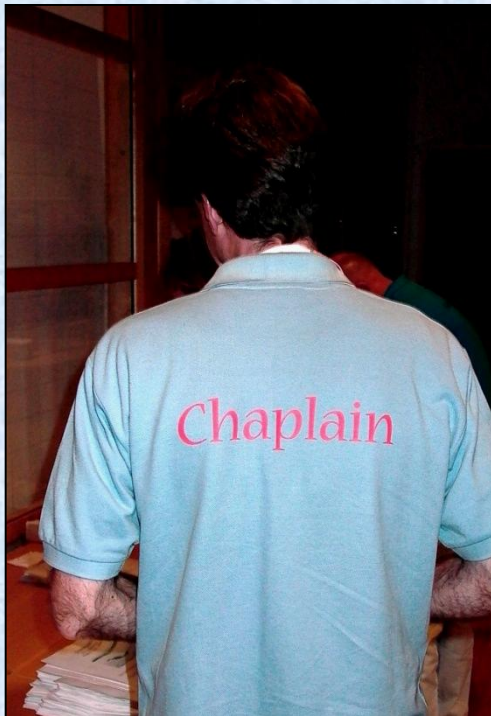


The sports mentor seeks to achieve an **integration of a biblical worldview into sport and all of life**. Sport is seen as integral to life - not as a platform for ministry.

The sports mentor seeks to provide **support** when a sportsperson is challenged in any area of life – spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social.

Some important qualities of a Sports Mentor

CSR and SPS encourages sports ministers to seek to cultivate the following important mentoring qualities, which might be seen as a benchmark:



- Value **sport** both as a valuable activity in itself and as God's vehicle to draw individuals closer to his purpose for their lives;
- Are **committed** to the full needs of the person of sport as the mentor's highest ministry priority;
- Demonstrate God's unconditional **love** to the person of sport;
- Are **people-oriented**, not merely message-oriented;
- Minister out of a **servant's heart**, seeking to give, not to get;
- **Coach** the heart of the person of sport through listening, teaching and serving as a model of transformation;



Some important qualities of a Sports Mentor

- **Faithful** to maintain contact with people of sport in season and out of season;
- Demonstrate personal **integrity** by keeping their promises;
- Can be **trusted** to maintain pastoral confidentiality;
- Embrace ministry as an opportunity to **discipline** their heart to die to self;
- **????????** Maintain **appropriate** boundaries in **the** **relationships** **with** **both** individuals and organizations of sport;
- Are students of the **Bible**, able to communicate its insights to the people of sport.



General goals of a Sports Mentor

- Raising up a body of Christ in the world of sport through evangelizing, disciplining, and releasing individuals to fulfill their call;
- Encouraging these people to invest in the activity of sport itself;
- Transforming their full life situation, including their basic economic needs, their sporting competitiveness, their relational skills with other people and their maturity in the faith.
- Helping them to be agents of transformation in the sports culture.



Needs of sportspeople

Group discussion:

What are the physical, social, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of a sportsperson in your country? (youth, adult, professional, handicapped sportsperson, etc.)



The needs of the people of sport

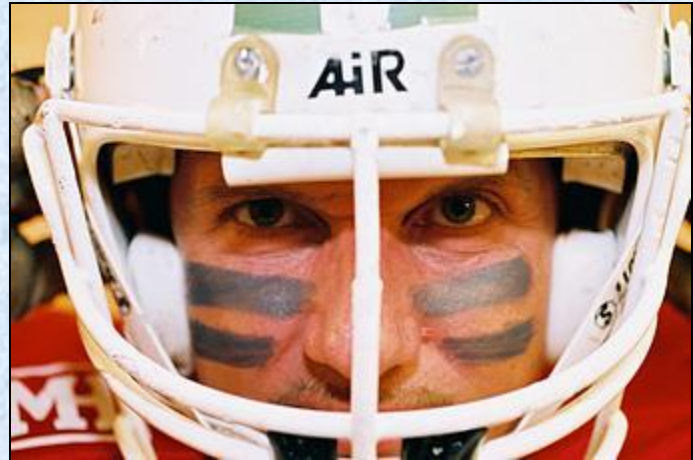
- sense of worth and identity apart from competition.
- a source of strength and resources to handle the pressure of competition.
- the skills to build long-term relationships outside the world of sport.
- unconditional, enduring friendships
- dealing with the pressures of life
- people they can trust.



Sportspeople need a sense of worth apart from competition

Issue: **a performance based identity.**

- loved for who they are, not just because of what they do;
- important to others, regardless of how they perform;
- for the Christian, there is a tension between the values of sport (performance based) and values of unconditional grace in Jesus Christ;
- mistake of thinking that becoming a champion will satisfy their need for approval;
- they experience a let-down after they win by thinking it will be life-transforming.



Outcome: **If they learn to deal with the above issues, they enjoy winning because they don't expect from victory more than it is able to give.**

Sportspeople need a source of strength to handle the pressure of competition

Issue: **being a sportsperson can be a lonely existence**

- not alone as they pursue their sporting dream.
- God is always present
- in God's presence they find inner peace in the midst of pressures



Outcome:

The sportsperson is

- **freed up** from distractions and doubts;
- able to **focus** their minds and bodies on the task which they believe God has given them;
- able to achieve their **maximum sporting potential**.

Sportspeople need the skills to build long-term relationships outside the world of sport.

Issue: **Sport promotes selfishness**

The demands to make training a top priority become an excuse for selfish behaviour.

- selfishness frustrates team unity;
- selfishness prevents sportspeople from developing healthy private relationships.
- sportspeople who think only of themselves all the time end up isolated and lonely.



Outcome: **Faith helps sportspeople keep a balanced perspective**

- learning how to think of the needs of others is necessary for building good relationships
- having strong relationships is necessary for personal wholeness
- understanding the importance of thinking of others
- see the importance of a giving attitude in their training
- sportspeople only perform at their best with the help of others.
- for maximum sporting performance, sportspeople need to know how to get along with their coaches, teammates and the support staff.

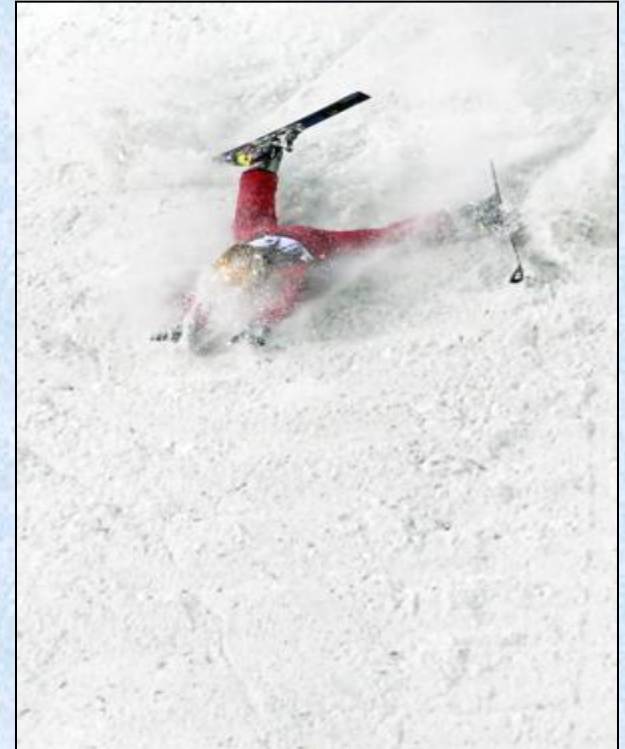
Practical advice for dealing with players

- Be patient with the players' schedule and do things to let them know you really care. They receive enough pressure from everyone else.
- Write to and visit injured players.
- Send congratulatory notes and calls for awards and honours.
- Pray for them daily.
- Read the newspaper to keep up with the players' performances.
- Attend practices and games. It shows you care
- Expose players to other ministers who have gifts that you don't possess.
- Realize that with Christ you have greater self-worth than the most famous sportsperson without Christ, therefore don't be intimidated.



Things to avoid

- Don't ask for tickets.
- Don't take pictures and ask for autographs.
- Don't ask new Christians to speak publicly about their faith until they are established in it and have a positive lifestyle.
- Don't use them to build an image for yourself.



Chaplaincy

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**CARIBBEAN
SPORT**
REACH

"Islands Playing in Praise"

Sources

- Material adapted from SPS Council of the International Sports Coalition
- Experiences from 1996 serving at 2000 Olympics, Carifta Games ,Boys and Girls Championships and IAAF Junior and Senior Athletics Championships in 2002 and 2009
- Administration in Jamaican basketball

