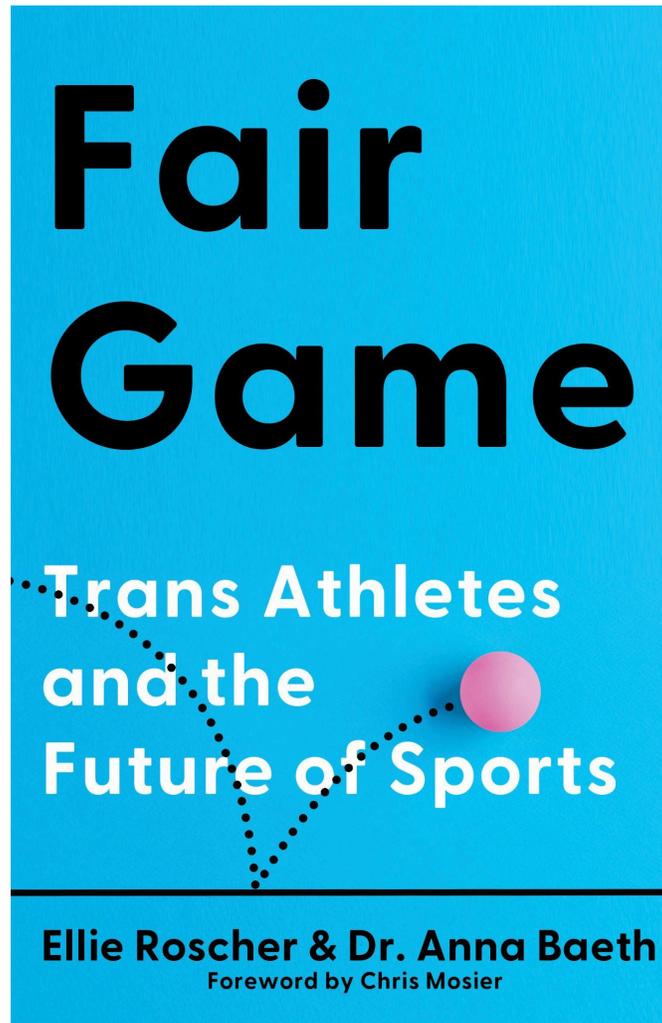


Book Club Discussion Guide



FAIR GAME: Trans Athletes and the Future of Sports

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Foreword by Chris Mosier

How to Use This Discussion Guide

This guide is designed to help readers explore the ideas, stories, and research in FAIR GAME: Trans Athletes and the Future of Sports together.

You may use this guide in:

- Book clubs
- Classrooms
- Community discussions
- Team or organizational learning groups

Each chapter section includes:

1. A short summary of the chapter
2. Discussion questions to help readers reflect and share perspectives

You do not need to answer every question. Choose the ones that spark the most meaningful conversation for your group.

Remember, this should be a conversation, not a “debate.” The goal of this discussion is not to “win” an argument but to learn, listen, and understand the experiences of transgender athletes and the systems that shape sports.

Group Agreements for Discussion

Before beginning, your group may wish to establish a few shared agreements to create a more welcoming and trusting space. Examples include:

Listen to understand. Allow people to finish their thoughts and listen with curiosity.

Speak from your own experience. Use “I” statements rather than speaking for others.

Expect to learn something new. This topic may challenge assumptions about sports, fairness, and gender.

Respect lived experiences. The book includes real stories from athletes whose experiences deserve care and respect.

Disagreement is okay. Approach differences with openness rather than debate.

Introduction

Summary

The introduction explains why conversations about transgender athletes have become highly politicized. The authors describe how public debate often relies on fear, misinformation, and exaggerated claims about trans athletes rather than evidence or lived experience.

Discussion Questions

1. Before reading the book, what messages had you heard about transgender athletes in sports?
2. The authors describe a “moral panic” around trans athletes. What does that phrase mean to you?
3. Why do you think sports have become such a central place for debates about gender?
4. What surprised you most in the introduction?
5. What questions are you hoping the book will answer?

Chapter 1: “Who Are Trans Athletes?”

Summary

This chapter introduces readers to the experiences of transgender athletes and the role sports play in identity, belonging, and self-expression.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn about the diversity of experiences among transgender athletes?
2. How did sports impact the athletes’ sense of identity or belonging?
3. Were any of the athletes’ experiences similar to your own experiences in sports or physical activity?
4. What barriers did these athletes face that cisgender athletes may not experience?
5. How might hearing personal stories change the way people understand this topic?

Chapter 2: “Is It Unfair for Trans Athletes to Compete?”

Summary

This chapter addresses one of the most common concerns raised about trans athletes: fairness. Through research and athlete stories, the authors examine how fairness is defined in sports and how gender-affirming care can affect athletes differently.

Discussion Questions

1. How do people usually define fairness in sports?
2. What examples from the chapter complicated the idea of fairness?
3. How do factors like training, resources, coaching, and genetics influence athletic performance?
4. Did anything in this chapter change the way you think about competitive advantage?
5. How should sports organizations balance fairness and inclusion?

Chapter 3: “Are Trans Athletes Dangerous?”

Summary

This chapter explores how sports systems value certain types of athletic ability over others and how those values are shaped by cultural ideas about gender and strength.

Discussion Questions

1. How do sports decide which physical skills are most valuable?
2. Can you think of examples where certain types of athleticism are favored over others?
3. How might gender stereotypes influence what we consider “real athleticism”?
4. What would a more inclusive sports system look like?
5. How might changing the structure of sports change who succeeds?

Chapter 4: “How Do We Better Support All Girls’ and Women’s Sports?”

Summary

This chapter explores ways we can truly support women and girls in sports.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the current national trends for young girls participating in sports?
2. What are some ways sport systems are shaped by gendered assumptions?
3. Which statistic or piece of research in this chapter did you find most interesting? Why?
4. What do the authors highlight as the real threats to women and girls in sports?
5. What ways do you think we can better support women and girls in sports?

Conclusion

Final Reflection Questions

After finishing the book, consider discussing:

1. What ideas from **FAIR GAME** stayed with you the most?
2. Did the book change the way you think about gender and sports? How?
3. Which athlete's story impacted you the most and why?
4. What do you think people misunderstand most about transgender athletes?
5. How might sports look different if inclusion were the starting point rather than the debate?
6. What actions, large or small, could make sports more welcoming for everyone?