**Senior Secondary Physical Education Elective**

**Part 8 Social Aspects**

**Worksheet 10**

**Sport and Gambling**

1. Theme:
2. Why is gambling so popular in sports?
3. What are the consequences of gambling in sports?
4. In Hong Kong, what are the influences of legalising football betting on society?
5. Content:
6. Why is gambling so popular in sports?
   * 1. Sports gambling like horse racing, dog racing, etc has long been in human history.
     2. Sports gambling is attractive to spectators, it can increase spectator involvement.
     3. People usually believe that they can make money in sports gambling.
     4. According to Interpol figures, global sports betting amounts to $1 trillion each year and 70% of which is from football.
     5. Around 70% of sports betting illegally takes place in the workplace.
     6. In USA, UK, and certain parts of Asia, betting in some popular sports is legal and is regulated by the government or governing bodies, for example NBA & NCAA basketball, American football, baseball, hockey and horse racing.
     7. Although some sports gambling is legal and helps to raise money for sports facilities, buildings and sports programmes, most sports gambling is illegal.
     8. New media technology like sports websites, betting charts, live satellite broadcast, commentaries, etc further facilitates the development of the sports gambling industry
     9. Sports gambling becomes an international organised crime as it involves huge profits.
7. What are the consequences of gambling in sports?
8. Sports gambling undermines integrity in sport and the Olympic values.
9. Match-fixing becomes popular in some sports like football, basketball, cricket and sumo.
10. March-fixing will lead to loss of spectators and the decline of the relevant sports because essential elements in sport such as fairness, unpredictability and excitement are gone.
11. More and more outsiders approach athletes and referees to get insider information and to manipulate match results.

1. In Hong Kong, what are the influences of legalising football betting on society?

The Home Affairs Bureau is responsible for formulating gambling policy and monitoring its implementation.

Positive effects:

1. Football betting can help control the number of illegal bookies and raise money for Hong Kong social services
2. Provide an attractive activity for citizens and reduce organised crime
3. Open up a source of profits for the sports industry
4. Increase the TV ratings and promote the popularity of sports
5. Maximise sports excitement and provide decision making experiences

Negative effect:

1. Undermine integrity in sport on the whole
2. Increase the possibility of match-fixing
3. The control of the sports development may shift to those international enterprises which control sports gambling
4. Establish negative role models for young athletes
5. Damage sports development and Olympic values

(Further reading:

<http://www.hab.gov.hk/en/policy_responsibilities/District_Community_and_Public_Relations/gambling.htm#1>

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/database/english/data_ha/ha-soccer-betting.htm> )

1. Questions and activity
2. Do you think that the duty derived from sports betting can help the underprivileged through provision of social services? Why?
3. Do you think sports gambling is related to deviant behaviors like violence, drug abuse, alcoholic problems in children and adolescents? Why?
4. Do you agree to legalise betting in other sports like basketball in Hong Kong? Why?
5. References
   * 1. Coakley, J. (2015). *Sport in society: Issues and controversies* (11th edition). WCB McGraw – Hill.
     2. Burkhart, N., & Welsh, D. (2014). The Legalization of Sports Gambling: An Irreparable Harm or the Beginning of Unprecedented Growth? *Sports Lawyers Journal*, *21*(1), 145–168.
     3. Thompson, L. (2014). Match-fixing and corrupt betting: mapping existing legislation and criminal sanctions. *Sports Law Administration & Practice*, *21*(5), 1–8.
     4. FORREST B. (14 May 2012). All the world is staged. Retrieved 1 September 2015, from

http://espn.go.com/espn/print?id=7927946&type=story