

Korfball Gender Awareness Challenge

based on the approach of Lisa Smith, P.E.teacher, Hillmorton High School, New Zealand and Roy Kirkby, Adelaide Australia

It is often difficult introducing korfball, especially to teenagers brought up in single gender sports, to get them to think and act differently from their traditional gender stereotype ways. This approach is designed for use prior to taking up korfball or in the early stages. The challenge is questions you might ask students. The responses and considerations should come from the students.

| Challenge | Some likely responses | What females need to consider | What males need to consider |
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| Where do we get ideas about what we should expect from each gender? (male or female stereotypes/behaviour) | From parents, friends, media, schools | Are these relevant for me? Are there some I reject or feel passionate about? | Are these relevant for me? Are there some I reject or feel passionate about? |
| Where do we get ideas about gender stereotypes in sport? (e.g. how females or males are expected to behave) | From parents, friends, sports, sports media, teachers | Are these what we want? Why? Why not? | Are these what we want? Why? Why not? |
| Is there discrimination in sport based on gender? | Note differences in resources (e.g. centres, stadiums, pay, values (prizes); commercial/ business/ preferences, advertising, attitudes | Is it fair? Is it what I want? What should we do about it? | Is it fair? Is it what I want? What should we do about it? |
| In what ways are discriminative practices helpful or unhelpful for success in sports? | Democracy, equality; limit involvement of both genders; greater diversity wanted. Allow those who want to practice one way to continue to do so. | Say how it is unfair? Say what will be better if there is greater equity (equality and fairness). | What is OK? What is not? How will it be better if we have greater equity? |
| Are men more likely to be successful in sport/korfball because they are faster and stronger? | May fit some sports but not all. What else do you need besides speed and strength in a variety of sports? Other features/attributes like, guile, attention, analytical skills, agility | What are my sports attributes beside speed and strength? What does my gender have that is equal to the other gender? | What are my sports attributes beside speed and strength? What does my gender have that is equal to the other gender? |
| Why does korfball have the rule about only hindering the same gender? | To focus on strengths that both genders possess – speed, agility, mental aptitudes and still allow single gender strengths to be used (competing against the same gender) | How does this rule make korfball more interesting? | How does this rule make korfball more interesting? |
| Why does korfball have the defended shooting rule? | Besides limiting dependence on tall players, ensuring a more open game demanding more cooperation to get someone free to shoot, it encourages more interdependent play between the genders and adds a same gender cooperation aspect to the game | We have to consider our own gender cooperation and as a team group both genders cooperation. | We have to consider our own gender cooperation and as a team group both genders cooperation |
| Should males take the attacking roles and females take the supportive roles? | Problems limits your attacking options and limits the composite range of skills development of the whole division group – all need to be all-round players. | Make sure you develop your attacking skills to be an all-round competitor and supporter | Make sure you develop your supportive skills to be an all-round competitor and supporter |
| If males and females both have the same right to play should they have the same entitlements mental and physical? | Entitled to play in a safe physical environment, free from negative mental and physical threats | Do not put up with negative behaviour. Articulate positive alternatives | Respect the entitlements of the other gender. Rise to the height of not needing to be negative in play. |
| What might we learn/experience from playing korfball that we would not learn/appreciate in a single gender game? | Other gender and our own gender strengths and weaknesses. Learn to communicate and support each other. May be an interesting alternative and/or addition to single gender sport experience. | Think gender neutral and support equal outcomes | Think gender neutral and support equal outcomes |

