

# Topic: Sportspeople should not be seen as role models

**Introduction:** The issue of whether or not sport stars should be seen as role models in wider society is one which has been debated for some time. For many, the wealth, power and praise that sport grants its biggest stars demands a degree of responsibility from those individuals to act as role models, especially to young people. So when Wayne Rooney swears at a television camera after scoring a vital goal, or Jack Wilshere is pictured smoking after a night out with friends, they are seen as setting a bad example, most notably to children, and failing to live up to their status as role models.

For others though, this behaviour is irrelevant and, as one commentator said about Wilshere: "His job is to kick a football, not to set an example to our kids. He should be judged solely on his performances on the pitch". When viewed alongside the high profile fall from grace of Tiger Woods, the admissions of doping by cyclist Lance Armstrong, and the recent incidents involving footballers Luis Suarez, and one time England captain John Terry, the role of sports stars as role models has come under increasing scrutiny.

Is this fair? Should we expect our sporting heroes to be perfectly behaved on and off the field? Or is this too idealistic, and simply expecting too much of individuals who are just as flawed as the rest of us? Should sportspeople be seen as role models?

## Essential reading:

<http://theconversation.com/athletes-of-influence-the-role-model-refrain-in-sport-52569>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/leighsteinberg/2013/01/20/why-do-we-make-athletes-role-models/#15148d226c34>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/coaching-and-parenting-young-athletes/201504/are-athletes-good-role-models>

Agree (for)	Disagree (against)
<a href="http://www.smh.com.au/sport/athletes-are-human-theyre-not-role-models-20140704-zsuyg.html">http://www.smh.com.au/sport/athletes-are-human-theyre-not-role-models-20140704-zsuyg.html</a> <a href="https://www.todaysparent.com/blogs/athletes-never-be-role-models-for-kids/">https://www.todaysparent.com/blogs/athletes-never-be-role-models-for-kids/</a>	<a href="http://www.dailystar.co.uk/sport/football/385749/COMMENT-Disgraceful-Luis-Suarez-awaits-his-punishment">http://www.dailystar.co.uk/sport/football/385749/COMMENT-Disgraceful-Luis-Suarez-awaits-his-punishment</a> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/19915430">http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/19915430</a> <a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/7176030/John-Terry-a-scandal-to-shame-us-all.html">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/7176030/John-Terry-a-scandal-to-shame-us-all.html</a>

What are you arguing:		Facts or statistics
Point 1:		
Point 2:		
Point 3:		
Point 4:		