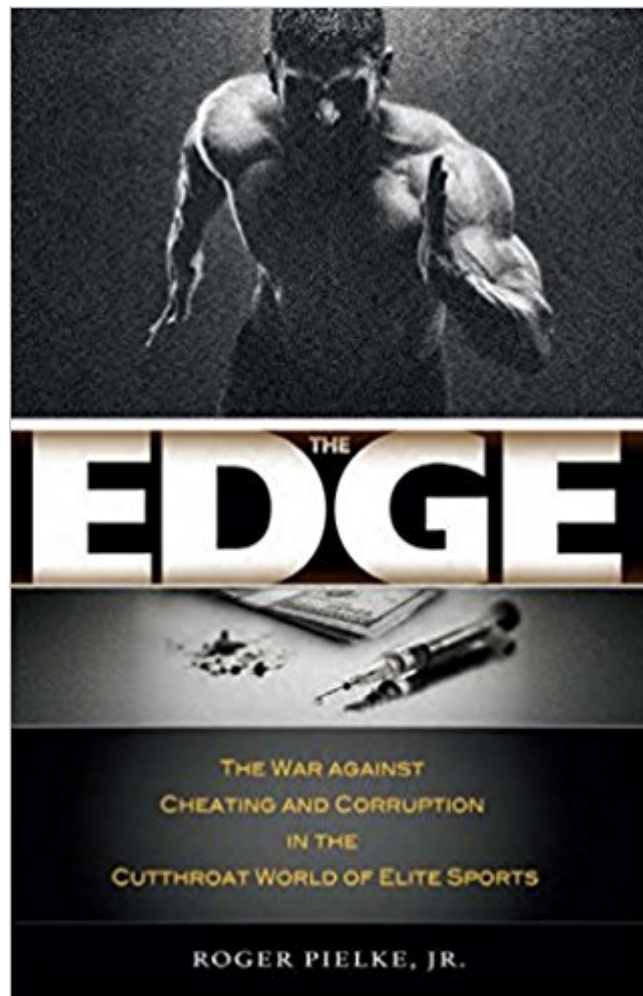




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# The Edge: The War Against Cheating And Corruption In The Cutthroat World Of Elite Sports



## Synopsis

Roger Pielke reveals how sports stars break the rules in their search for a competitive edge. Both entertaining and thought-provoking, *THE EDGE* not only visits the battlefields in the war against cheating and corruption, but also explores ways to ensure that "the spirit of sport" can survive in today's high-tech, highly professional world. Drawing on controversies straight out of the headlines, Pielke looks at doping, match fixing, fake amateurism, and other ways of breaking the rules. But are those rules--and the values they reflect--hopelessly outdated? Wonderfully readable and scrupulously researched, *THE EDGE* blends science and journalism to produce an unforgettable account of sport in crisis.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"an informative and engaging read that enhances our knowledge of major challenges to the integrity of sport" | There are diverse audiences this book can be valuable for | Yet, whoever the reader, there is little doubt that the author has succeeded in his intention that "people want to discuss [the book] at the dinner table."--London School of Economics Review of Books "Fascinating . . . highly informative, thoroughly researched . . . this title will appeal to anyone interested in the ethics of sports and the continual evolution of the elite athlete."--Booklist, starred review "A great book on cheating, corruption, and the cutthroat world of elite sports"; great stuff. "Scott Ferrall, CBS Sports "Pielke's accessible and conversational writing style will have Joe Fan eagerly

flipping pages. "Foreword magazine, five-star review" A fascinating exploration of how technology and the constant desire for competitive advantage are undermining our notions of what constitutes fair play. But this isn't just a book about sports--it's a book that challenges readers to think about the codes by which they live their own lives." Richard Bradley, *The Greatest Game: The Yankees, the Red Sox, and the Playoff of '78* "This book, with its case studies and data, should be required reading for all involved in college sports." --Jay Bilas, ESPN "This is a book that should reach informed experts on sports governance as well as ordinary curious fans. Pielke writes with an academic's erudition and a journalist's style and eye for detail. Sport is lucky to have him." --Simon Kuper, author of *SOCERNOMICS* and columnist for the *Financial Times* "Packed with fascinating detail and case studies still unfolding, there's no better primer on cheating and corruption in 21st-century sport ... It is a bold argument, and one as entertaining as compelling. And necessary," Nick Harris, editor and chief sports new correspondent, *UK Mail on Sunday* "The clear thinking and analysis ... in *THE EDGE* should be compulsory reading. ... *THE EDGE* shows us that the time is ripe for a new conversation." --Tracy Holmes, host of "THE TICKET," ABC Australia "A very readable and incisive look behind the curtain at the issue of fairness in both professional and amateur sport. "The Edge" offers dozens of real-life examples, ranging from Deflategate to ingenious cases of doping to transgender athletes in the Olympics." --Oliver Luck, National Collegiate Athletic Association "This book should be obligatory reading for everyone involved in organizing/administrating sports and anti-doping work. And of course also recommended for athletes and the general public." --Professor Jon Nissen-Meyer, University of Oslo "Pielke is what a public intellectual should be: informed, insightful, multi-disciplinary, detached, and constructive. The Edge is about the struggle for the meaning and future sport. . . . Anyone interested in sport should read it." --Paul Dimeo, author of *A History of Drug Use in Sport*

"The Edge is super interesting/challenging on myriad sport controversies" --David Epstein, author of *THE SPORTS GENE*

Athletes have been burdened by a "purity" standard that is used control access to sporting events. Recent manifestations of this are bias against athletes with prosthetics and assorted anti-doping rules that seem to encompass most drugs (even allowed levels of caffeine in the blood). Cycling is plagued by the anti-doping police which even do not allow transfusions of one's own blood. The sport is severely impacted by multiyear or even lifetime disqualifications. The regulators (IAAF)

quietly tighten their grip by rewriting rules when they loose in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). This is a balanced discussion, and the author suggests three principles for governing at the edge between performance and ethics: (1) values underlie rules and rules underlie sport; (2) athlete participation in governance is essential; (3) governance at the edge is always a work in process. This is a

With all of the news on sports corruption, doping, gender issues and so forth, this is a timely book for anyone who wants to better understand these issues. It is an informative read and is among the best sports books I have ever read.

Well written and engaging - especially good reading after this years olympic scandals.

Too many facts & figures & not enough of actual situations

This is the best book on sports that I've read. It's packed with facts, it's fascinating, and it's written by someone who knows how to make an argument. The author not only presents what's happening in big-money sports but also makes a really good case of how a lot of the bad stuff - including rampant corruption at high levels of sports governance and cheating at the athlete level - can be improved. It was hard to put down - even when he was talking about some sports I don't know much about. Highly recommended. And it would make a great gift for any sports nut you might know.

Very insightful and well researched!

Very well written and engaging.

A great read!

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