

Russia doping scandal: Tatyana Firova suggests athletes should be able to take banned substances

Anti-doping officials have started re-testing urine samples dating back to 2008

Samuel Stevens | Wednesday 8 June 2016 13:46 | |



Rugby: Sacked Wallabies star Israel Folau hits back at Rugby Australia after window to appeal passes



Israel Folau says he has no confidence in Rugby Australia to treat him 'fairly or lawfully'. Photo / Getty



Sports Journalism

‘The longest goodbye: Five players from one rugby team all found to have dementia’

Sports Journalism

The 'Toy Department' of the news media?

(David Rowe 2007)

Journalists – central intermediaries between sports and society

BUT

Traditionally not considered as one of the serious functions of the fourth estate.

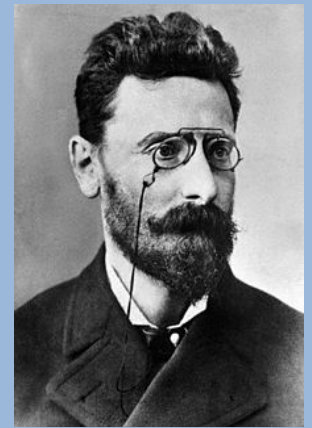
Sport damned as 'soft news' with its increasing association with popular culture and entertainment

However the professional sport/media nexus intercepts hard news stories of high level commerce, business practice, medical & social importance

Ongoing distain for tabloid and magazine sports journalism
(although has been in existence since 18th Century)



Growth of early sports journalism



- Sports content appeared in very early forms of newspapers in the 1700s (eg. *Tatler*, *Spectator* and gentlemen's magazines)
- Sport was a central focus of the aristocracy and closely associated with gambling
- Rapid increase in organised sport as a social movement in 19th century linked to urbanisation and industrialisation/increased leisure
- Impetus late 1800s, early 1900s with competition between Joseph Pulitzer (*New York World*) and William Randolph Hurst (*NY Journal*)
- 1908 Olympics – sport as an international vehicle for display of economic power and national identity

The sports press – ‘the world’s best advertising agency’

“Sports editors of daily newspapers all over the world allow the sports industry to set the agenda and the priorities for coverage of sports events...the sports page in daily newspapers are dominated by the particular types of sport, sports stars and international events which create the biggest turnovers on parameters such as advertising, sponsorship, number of television viewers and spectators in the stadium.

Conversely, the sports press has great difficulties reporting anything that takes place outside the angle of television cameras and after the stadium spotlight have been turned off.” (Schultz-Jorgensen, 2005)

‘Fourth Estate or Fan Club?’

David Rowe 2007

- To whom are journalists primarily responsible – their employers or the public
- Should journalists be representative of, or distinguishable from, their audience?
- How dependent should journalists be on their sources?
- Should journalists always be committed to critical coverage of their ‘round’ – even if it means key sources will no longer speak to them?
- Is it acceptable for some journalists in popular fields, such as the sports round, to leave ‘hard’ investigative and critical journalism to others on the more ‘serious’ journalistic rounds like politics, law and business?

Right of access struggle sport/media

Journalistic principle at stake:

Freedom of the press

ie: the right for free and unbiased reporting versus sporting bodies control over 'their' commercial product

Increasingly sports bodies, and even individual athletes are going directly to public through social media – cutting out the traditional media

Eg. ManU running ownTV & radio station, website and mobile phone service

**= ManU controlling both the medium
and the message**



Possible effect of increasing control by sports bodies over media content

- Adverse effect on the breadth and quality of news coverage of sports
- Vetting of free expression so journalists whose reporting may displease the sporting body will be excluded
- Lack of photographic coverage of sports because of rights disputes (already happening)

Additional problem:

The growth of media is making it increasingly hard to accommodate them in the press benches and to provide media with access to players for comment.

eg media have access to each member of the All Blacks for one week only when they are in camp, otherwise access is denied.

Dilemma of sports journalism

- Authority created by the pulling power of its own popularity – little impetus to change its practices
- Insularity from relying on a closed circle of sources
- Frequently replicates 'what works' and ignores the problems, issues and topics which are closely associated with the world in which it operates.
- Increasingly moving closer to entertainment and celebrity journalism which sustains and promotes the sports star system and corporate interests.
- Saturation coverage of a small number of sports and marginalise others irrespective of their player base and community interest.
- Need to write for the audience who either demands or criticise partisan or objective reporting – getting the balance difficult.
- Gender and race imbalance still a strong characteristic of sport and sports journalism
- Often worthy of contempt when continues to operate within self imposed limitations
- At its best when capable of seeing beneath the surface of events to reveal insights within the media/sport/society nexus

Sports Journalists:

From vital link between sport and fans to optional 'middle-man'

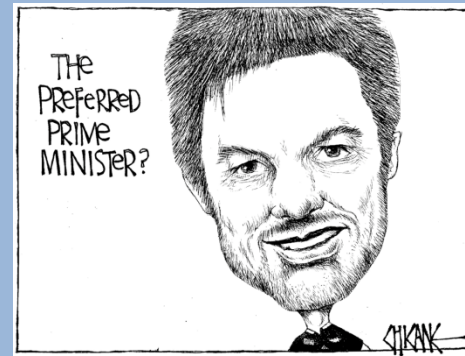
- Sports journalists “central cog in the machine of the sports nexus”
(Nicholson et al, 2015)
- Growth of social media and alternative contents distribution platforms, alters or removes need for sports organisations to engage with fans through sports journalists.
- Sports organisations use communication strategies to restrict access to the sport and its athletes.
- Sports journalists like others are increasingly being asked to produce more content with less resources.
- Sport management professionals job is to decide if a potential news story is useful or harmful publicity and will act accordingly to allow or block access to the source of the story.

Role of social media

Sports Journalism- a rapidly “leaking craft” – David Rowe 2007

- Relationship between sport journalists and audience rapidly changing
- Impacts on how sports information is circulated
- Social media material increasingly sourced to create stories
- Number of followers can determine commercial worth for sponsorships.
- Sports journalist no longer the sole ‘gatekeeper’ for sports news and distribution
- Athletes producing and distributing own sports news
- Members of public creators of sport content
- **Therefore what is now the function of a sports journalist?**
- **If someone writes about sport are they a journalist?**
- **Is there still a major role for mainstream media institutions delivering sport content?**

What does sport tell us?



- Revealing about aspects of our society
- Insight into character & human nature (good and bad)
- Human creativity, aspiration, endurance, frailty
- Vehicle for feelings and emotions to be channelled
- Offers individual and/or collective identity
- Constructs notions of national identity
- Now central to multinational commerce

BUT all through a very 'uncertain form'

(which paradoxically is a major part of its appeal)



Fu Yuanhui

Bronze medal Rio Olympics 2016



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jn0nPGfH1HI>



Sports Media Journalism

Sports Narratives

Frequently often used & well known to audiences

Eg. Rivalry regular characteristic of sports narratives -
local/national, global, regional, between individuals,
countries

Emphasis on people rather than institutions

Made meaningful by actions of people

Sport ideal vehicle for personification, because
athletes and players are generally well known to
audience.

Sports Media Journalism

Sports Narratives — Rowe (1992)

1) Hard news

2) Soft news

3) Orthodox rhetoric
(editorial/celebrity
journalism)

4) Reflexive analysis
(feature articles)

The Silver Ferns' demise: From heavyweights to Commonwealth Games pushovers

DANA JOHANNSEN

Last updated 20:35, April 15 2018



Politicians divided about taxpayer funds going to Team NZ

18 Jun, 2017 5:00am

4 minutes to read

IPL television and broadcast rights sold for massive £1.97bn to Star India

Israel Dagg announces 'best day of our lives' as baby boy Arlo arrives

Last updated 18:48, April 9 2017



Hillsborough disaster: deadly mistakes and lies that lasted decades

As the longest inquest in British legal history unfolded, a picture emerged of a callously negligent police force led by an inexperienced commander whose actions directly led to the deaths of 96 people

by David Conn



Some key learnings from the Aaron Smith sex toilet scandal



OPINION PIECE



CHARACTERISTICS OF OPINION PIECE

- Written by named author/journalist
- Usually senior journalist or former high profile player
- Offers strong polemic or controversial point of view
- Aimed to provoke discussion/reaction
- Seeks increase of circulation/readership/active response
- often provocatively reflective, written after completion of event or well publicised sporting incident

Eg: Israel Folau ongoing situation played out in mediated space.

FEATURE WRITING

TYPES OF FEATURES

- Background or situational
- Investigative features
- Follow-up Features
- Colour Pieces
- Interviews or profiles
- Trends or lifestyle features
- Seasonal features
- Others

Netballer Sulu Fitzpatrick's second sporting life

Dana Johannsen · 00:01, Aug 12 2018



Netballer Sulu Fitzpatrick is poised for a Silver Ferns recall seven years after her debut as a talented 19-year-old.

Hillsborough disaster: deadly mistakes and lies that lasted decades

As the longest inquest in British legal history unfolded, a picture emerged of a callously negligent police force led by an inexperienced commander whose actions directly led to the deaths of 96 people

by [David Conn](#)

AUGUST 26, 2018



DAVID ROOPOCK CHECKS ON RYAN CROFTY AFTER ANOTHER CONCUSSION (PHOTO BY MARK KILB/GETTY IMAGES)

Rugby and concussions are a tragedy in the making

Genres or Recurring Story Types

Judicial/legal/contractual matters
(hard news)

- Player suspensions (on field infringement)
- Sporting body judiciary hearing
- Court hearings
- Rule changes
- Player contracts
- Breaches of behaviour code
- Apologies



Press conference for all media frequently the main vehicle for conveying this information.

INJURY/FITNESS

Core concern for the 'business' of sport and for the individual athlete

SPORT

All Blacks' loosie woes - Kieran Read's injury offsets promising Sam Cane return

19 May, 2019 9:50am

⌚ 2 minutes to read



Man down - World Cup captain Kieran Read suffered bad knock in training last week. Photo / Photosport

NZ Herald

Black Ferns star Portia Woodman suffers serious Achilles injury

14:17, Nov 16 2018



Netball: Silver Ferns defender Temalisi Fakahokotau ruptures ACL

12 Sep, 2018 5:43pm

⌚ 3 minutes to read

Athletics: Another injury setback for Eliza McCartney

8 May, 2019 5:24am

⌚ 2 minutes to read

Grassroots rugby league has a serious problem with concussion

Carmen Parahi · 05:00, Feb 25 2019



SPORT/MEDIA BUSINESS NEWS

- Broadcasting rights/fees
- Deals between international sporting bodies and broadcasters – access/contracts
- Anti-siphoning
- Deregulation/regulation
- IT convergence
- Telco mergers, takeovers, disputes
- Broadcasting/New technology partnerships

Sky TV shares sink on Rugby World Cup loss

TOM PULLAR-STRECKER

Last updated 10:38, March 28 2018



Spark reveals Rugby World Cup could cost viewers up to \$90

16 Apr, 2019 6:30am

© 7 minute

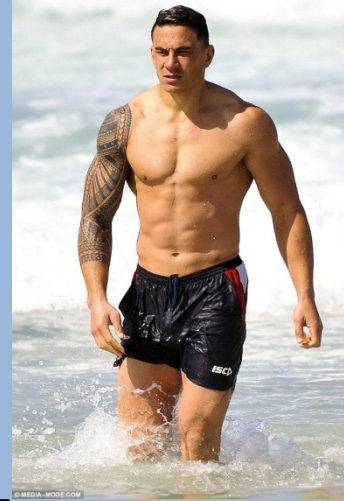
Human Interest & sports 'celebrities'



- Star players: Roger Federer, Lydia Ko, Beauden Barrett, Ronaldo, Messi,
- Fallen Role Models: Tiger Woods, Maria Sharapova, Lance Armstrong
- Controversial Athletes: Mike Tyson, Quade Cooper, Conor McGregor
- Global sports celebrities: David Beckham, LeBron James, Ronaldo,
- Young/emerging talent: Eliza McCartney, Grace Nweke
- Non-talent tryhards — Eric the Eel, Eddie the Eagle
- Personal stories/private lives: John Kirwan — (Depression)



Function of Sportsmen/women for sports journalism



- 1) Performers who provide entertainment
- 2) Personalities who attract and keep audiences
- 3) Bearers of sporting narratives

(Whannel, 2002)



Media Sports narratives which construct or tarnish the image of a star

- Emergence of a striking talent
- Extraordinary athletic skills
- Public recognition/celebration
- Displays of arrogance
- Public doubts
- Erratic behaviour
- Personal scandal
- Waning power
- Failure
- Hero redeemed by extraordinary performance
- Forgiveness



“Zidane is one of us all
His stupidity is ours and his
talent belongs to the
world.”



Sports Crises & Scandals



- Moral transgression magnified in sport – tension between romantic ideals and commercialised, corruptible reality
- Sport stars have high public profile & intense media interest
- Sport star scandals are presented to public in story form, which are often running stories and gather interest as they go on
- Sport scandal is a complementary product to sports news
- Sports scandals have the capacity to break through the protection of professionalised sports organisations and become the property of the print, television and tabloid press
- Drug scandals are the most frequent in certain sports eg cycling, weightlifting, endurance events



Impact of mediated scandal

- Amateur or professional sport governed by regulations
- Professional sport, large and complex, so potential threat to this complex organisation increases exponentially.
- The larger the organisation the more potential for things to go wrong
- The potential for moral lapses by an individual increases as the organisation develops and employees have greater commercial and cultural influence
- Therefore the potential impact increases

Federal Court in Australia upholds Jack de Belin's NRL ban

Andrew Webster · 20:28, May 17 2019



GETTY IMAGES

Jack De Belin has pleaded not guilty after being charged with aggravated sexual assault.

- de Belin facing charges of aggravated sexual assault against a 19 year old woman, December 2018
- NRL's new 'no fault, stand down' policy means they can stand down players who are facing a serious charge in the criminal court. They cannot play until they are cleared of the charge in a court of law.
- The NRL see this policy as necessary to protect the brand and the reputation of the game and their business relationships with sponsors.
- It could be 18 mths- 2 yrs before he has a verdict.
- de Belin took his employer, the NRL, to the Federal Court claiming unfair restraint of trade as a professional athlete as he is prevented from working (unlike others who face criminal charges and waiting their day in court).
- **The Federal court ruled upheld the NRL ruling that they have the right to protect their game.**

Australian Federal Court ruling de Belin v NRL

- “The court found the respondents had established a clear and present danger to their legitimate interests given, among other things, the seriousness of the charge against Mr de Belin and the unprecedented extent of negative headlines which it attracted,” ruled Justice Melissa Perry.
- “The reputation of the NRL competition was tarnished by the allegations and tarnished against Mr de Belin and other players during the off-season described in media reports as the ‘summer from hell’.
- “The Court accepted that nothing short of a rule precluding Mr de Belin and others charged in the future with serious offences of a similar nature from taking the field was likely to address the clear and present danger established by the evidence.”

Matt Cleary, ‘The Guardian’, 17 May 2019

NRL denies culture of violence despite horror off-season with five sexual assault charges

By Chloe Hart

Updated 20 Dec 2018, 12:21pm

Cam Smith denies scandal-hit NRL has 'grubby culture', despite horror off-season



Israel Folau

Instagram & Twitter posts

2 April 2018



Rugby Australia 'Inclusion Policy'

A section of the RA Inclusion Policy seeks to protect gay and lesbian people who choose to play rugby.

Bullet point 1.4:

- “Rugby AU recognises that both intentional and unintentional homophobic behaviour exist within society in Australia, and that this can have adverse and potentially significant consequences for some individuals and our game.”
- ..“rugby has and must continue to be a sport where players, officials, volunteers, supporters and administrators have the right and freedom to participate regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or religion and without fear of exclusion. There is no place for homophobia or any form of discrimination in our game and our actions and words both on and off the field must reflect this”.

Comments

View replies (1)



mike_sephton @izzyfolau what was gods plan for gay people??

1d 2 likes Reply

Hide replies



izzyfolau @mike_sephton HELL.. Unless they repent of their sins and turn to God.

18h 5 likes Reply



will.vanhinsbergh @izzyfolau hell? just because someone's gay?

18h 2 likes Reply

Switching codes again? Israel Folau was the pinup player for an anti-homophobia rugby tournament - but now he's voting 'no' for gay marriage

- Rugby union superstar Israel Folau appeared on the cover of gay magazine
- He expressed his view that same-sex marriage should not be legalised
- The Wallabies player copped backlash for his comments on social media
- Folau also said rugby was a game of inclusion after homophobic slurs were used

By BEN HILL FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED: 15:52 AEST, 14 September 2017 | UPDATED: 17:35 AEST, 14 September 2017



Brad Weber @brad_weber9

17 Apr

Kinda sick of us players staying quiet on some of this stuff. I can't stand that I have to play this game that I love with people, like Folau, who say what he's saying



Brad Weber @brad_weber9

My cousin and her partner, and my Aunty and her partner are some of the most kind, caring & loving people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. To think that I play against someone that says they'll go to Hell for being gay disgusts me. 🏳️‍🌈🏳️‍🌈🏳️‍🌈

9:43 PM - Apr 17, 2018

4,344 931 people are talking about this



INSTAGRAM MARIATUTAIA



Stand with God no matter what.. 🙏

DON'T BE AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH, EVEN IF THAT MEANS YOU WILL BE **STANDING ALONE**



Tj Perenara ✓
@TJ_Perenara

I'd like to add my voice to the conversation currently taking place. As professional rugby players, whether we like it or not, we are role models for a lot of young people. Notably, young Māori and Pasifika people.

8:32 PM - Apr 18, 2018

♡ 2,328 💬 363 people are talking about this



Tj Perenara ✓
@TJ_Perenara

You don't need to look far to know that young Māori/PI are overrepresented in youth suicide statistics and, as I understand it, even more so when you look to those who are part of the Rainbow community. Comments that cause further harm cannot be tolerated.

8:33 PM - Apr 18, 2018

♡ 2,094 💬 390 people are talking about this



Tj Perenara ✓
@TJ_Perenara

Let it go on record that I am 100% against the comments that were made by Israel. It was not ok to say that. It's not an attitude I want to see in the game I love. There is no justification for such harmful comments.

8:33 PM - Apr 18, 2018

♡ 4,174 💬 827 people are talking about this



Tj Perenara ✓
@TJ_Perenara

To anyone, young Māori/Pasifika people especially, who may be struggling with their identity - please know that it is ok to be you. You are perfect as you are. Do not let these comments keep you from being yourself. Polynesia has been sexually diverse since forever.

8:34 PM - Apr 18, 2018

♡ 7,264 💬 1,842 people are talking about this

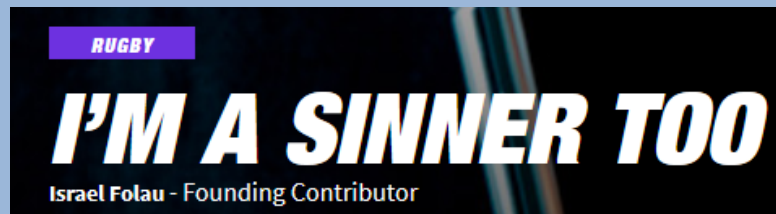
Nigel Owens (quoted in *Stuff* 9.4.2018)
“Comments like Israel Folau's about gay people, and all other types of bullying by all kinds of people, is what can put people like that young boy in that moment where it's enough to tip them over the edge, because there is a minority who give the impression you cannot be who you truly are.”

"Yes, you are entitled to your opinion but one should understand what that opinion can do to young and vulnerable people's lives, in particular ones in a bad place dealing with their sexuality.”





16 April 2018



“After we’d all talked, I told Raelene if she felt the situation had become untenable – that I was hurting Rugby Australia, its sponsors and the Australian rugby community to such a degree that things couldn’t be worked through – I would walk away from my contract, immediately.

I feel I need to explain this part in more detail because at no stage over the past two weeks have I wanted that to happen.

There have been things written about me angling to get a release from my Rugby Australia deal to pursue an NRL contract. That simply isn’t true. There have been rugby offers from the UK, Europe and Japan that are way above anything I could earn in Australia.

This is not about money or bargaining power or contracts. It’s about what I believe in and never compromising that, because my faith is far more important to me than my career and always will be.

After the meeting I went home, turned on the TV and was really disappointed with some of the things that were said in the press conference.

I felt Raelene misrepresented my position and my comments, and did so to appease other people, which is an issue I need to discuss with her and others at Rugby Australia.

That aside, I hope Raelene and Andrew appreciate my position, even if it differs with theirs.

I love rugby union. It has allowed me to travel all over the world and meet some fascinating people along the way.

It is one of the best things about the game in my opinion.

I do not want to bring hurt to the game and want as many people playing it as possible, so when I spoke to Raelene about walking away, it was to help the game, not harm it, in the event we couldn’t come to an understanding.

I used to believe I was defined by my actions on the footy field, but I see now that’s not true.

Read more at <https://www.playersvoice.com.au/israel-folau-im-a-sinner-too/#QHQu75SJzMgQRY5U.99>

<https://www.playersvoice.com.au/israel-folau-im-a-sinner-too/#OWAipdqfc8XHwO0C.97>

NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990

13. Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief, including the right to adopt and to hold opinions without interference.

14. Freedom of expression

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.

The right to **freedom of speech** is not explicitly protected by common law in **New Zealand** but is encompassed in a wide range of doctrines aimed at protecting **free speech**:

Rosemary Tobin: This is not an absolute right but framed within a context of “reasonable limitations”.

(**Common sense** judged from the perspective of the ‘man on the Clapham omnibus’

ie. an ordinary and reasonable person as defined within British common law)

Human Rights Act 1993

61 Racial disharmony

(1)

It shall be unlawful for any person—

(a)

to publish or distribute written matter which is threatening, abusive, or insulting, or to broadcast by means of radio or television or other electronic communication words which are threatening, abusive, or insulting; or

(b)

to use in any public place as defined in [section 2\(1\)](#) of the Summary Offences Act 1981, or within the hearing of persons in any such public place, or at any meeting to which the public are invited or have access, words which are threatening, abusive, or insulting; or

(c)

to use in any place words which are threatening, abusive, or insulting if the person using the words knew or ought to have known that the words were reasonably likely to be published in a newspaper, magazine, or periodical or broadcast by means of radio or television,—

being matter or words likely to excite hostility against or bring into contempt any group of persons in or who may be coming to New Zealand on the ground of the colour, race, or ethnic or national origins of that group of persons.

Gavin Ellis: Right to free speech comes with a cost

30 Apr, 2018 5:00am

🕒 6 minutes to read

People can still express themselves in ways that advance views within the bounds of society's acceptance.

There's no such thing as free speech, and it's a good thing too. (Stanley Fish)

[Fish argued] speech cannot be free because it is never free of consequences and responsibilities.

That may be bad news for Wallabies player Israel Folau who responded to a fan's Instagram message asking about God's plan for gay people with "Hell ... unless they repent their sins and turn to God".

Folau is a role model and his statement could add fuel to homophobia and have profound effects on teenagers still searching for their sexual identity.

[Folau] could have publicly voiced those opinions in a manner that did not cross the line between acceptable and unacceptable speech.

Folau's religious belief in truth "revealed" by God is not the same thing as secular knowledge.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12041867



E-TANGATA

*A Maori and Pasifika
Sunday magazine*

Moana Jackson: No one's exercise of free speech should make another feel less free

by Moana Jackson • Sun 29 Apr 2018 • Share: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [✉](#) • 10 min read • 8 [💬](#)

In the last few weeks, prejudice seems to have crept out of the dark corners of society again.

Two recent and well-publicised instances have shown the many forms that intolerance and bigotry can take — as well as illustrating the ways in which, even the framing of the debate, can be constrained by history and untested assumptions.

In the first instance, another Pākehā man has voiced the usual tired and racist rants against Māori, with little variation on the old colonising view of our basic inferiority.

In the second case, the noted rugby player Israel Folau reached into the same colonising-sourced rhetoric, and condemned gay people to some mysterious place called “hell”.

...

The condemnation of LGBT people was ..quickly denounced by many people, and, perhaps surprisingly to some, by two All Black halfbacks. TJ Perenara’s rebuke, in particular, has been rightly praised — and his comment, that “Polynesia has been sexually diverse since forever”, was a timely reminder of a cultural and historical truth that is still too often denied in a Once-Were-Missionary type redefining of ancient Pacific realities.



By: **Chris Rattue**

Sports writer

chris.rattue@nzherald.co.nz

Chris Rattue: Israel Folau has opened the door, so let's kick religion out of sport

15 Apr, 2018 11:47am

🕒 4 minutes to read

Israel Folau has opened the door, so here's our chance. Get religion out of sport, in areas where the people who run sport do have a right to exert control. I'm talking about banning all those hand signals by players to the heavens, along with the religious insignia on armbands and "thanks to God" references during post-match interviews. I don't really care if Folau's homophobic raving occurs away from official rugby duties. Free speech is free speech and the Folau family is on a roll.

His wife, Silver Ferns netball star Maria Folau, is standing with God and by her man and his views. They are no doubt mightily relieved to be enjoying such a healthy and inspirational non-same sex marriage.

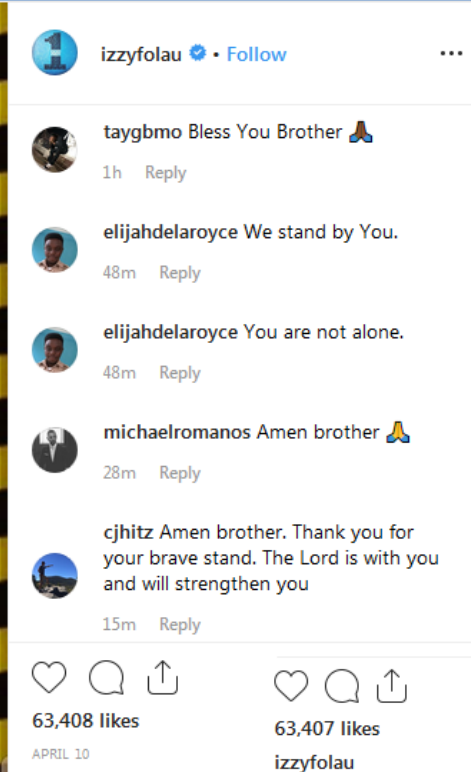
For my money, it's not hate speech from Folau. It's just silly, pathetic, foolish and embarrassing speech. Telling homosexuals to "repent their sins and turn to God" speaks for itself intelligence wise. I feel sorry for the bloke, that his world is so limited. What a sad way to live.

But if a gay person wants to come out and claim that heterosexuals should all burn in hell, I'd have a good old laugh at that as well. These aren't dangerous people. They are silly people...

The Press Conference



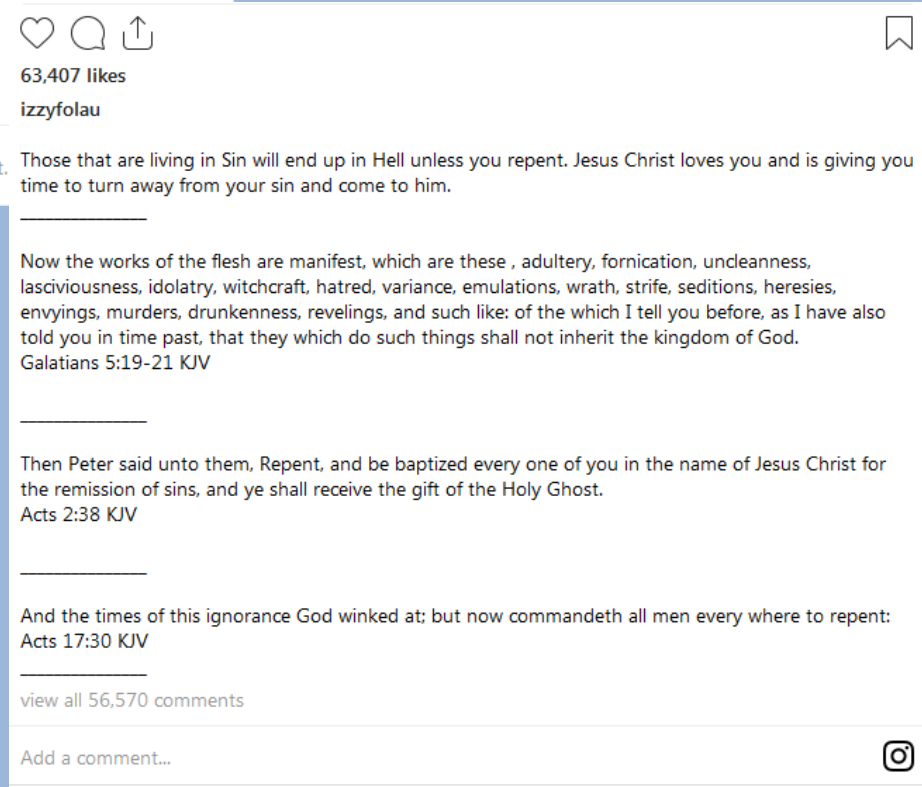
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-10/israel-folau-is-a-strong-role-model-says-rugby-australia/9636768>



Israel Folau
Instagram post
10 April 2019
313,000
Instagram followers



Getty Images





MEDIA STATEMENT Rugby Australia, 10 April 2019

Rugby Australia is aware of a post made by Israel Folau on his Instagram account this afternoon.

The content within the post is unacceptable. It does not represent the values of the sport and is disrespectful to members of the Rugby community.

The Rugby Australia Integrity Unit has been engaged on the matter tonight.

Tweets **Tweets & replies** **Media**

 **Gareth Thomas** @gareththomas14 · 8h

I don't write this with hate or anger after Israel Folau's comments. I write with sympathy. To everyone who reads it, don't be influenced by his words. Be the better person and be YOU. Whoever YOU is..Hell doesn't await YOU. Happiness awaits YOU. 🌈❤️

173 1.1K 8.2K

Tweets **Tweets & replies** **Media**

 **Andrew Mulligan** @Andrew_Mulligan · 3h

If you're feeling vilified or marginalised on social media because high profile athletes like @IzzyFolau are spreading dangerous homophobic prejudices then please know you are loved and appreciated.

8 44 205

Until Israel Folau repents, Rugby Australia has no choice but to let him go

By **Peter FitzSimons**

April 11, 2019 — 12.00am



In the wake of his [latest homophobic outburst](#) – gays, among other sinners, are heading to hell once more – Israel Folau has to go, and will go.

Quick. Clean. Gone. At least until such times as *he* repents.

His contract will be suspended or terminated on the grounds of having breached either rugby's social media policy, or his contract. Rugby Australia simply has no choice.



Sam Kerr's response to Israel Folau's Instagram post. (Instagram)

Israel Folau Code of Conduct matter formally concludes

20 May



by Rugby Australia

**RUGBY
AU**

MEDIA RELEASE

The 72-hour window for Israel Folau to appeal his high-level Code of Conduct breach and sanction has expired.

As Folau has not notified the panel of his intention to appeal, the Code of Conduct process has now formally concluded.

With the Code of Conduct matter complete, Folau's employment contract will be terminated.

Raylene Castle CEO Rugby Australia
Israel Folau contract termination
17 May 2019



<https://www.rugby.com.au/videos/2019/05/17/castle-hore-folau-press-conference>

Rugby to undergo unprecedented faith review after Israel Folau sacking

21 May, 2019 6:58pm

🕒 3 minutes to read



Israel Folau celebrates his try. Waratahs v Sunwolves. Photo / Photosport.co.nz

The rugby players' union (RUPA) is to set up a committee to review how players can express their faith and beliefs after the Israel Folau sacking saga.

RUPA said on Monday the decision to tear up Folau's Rugby Australia contract was "a sad outcome for Israel, his family, friends, teammates, opponents and all associated with rugby in Australia and around the world."

It also said Rugby Australia had not yet provided any clear parameters to the players specifying how it expects them to express their faith and beliefs in a way it considers acceptable.

"To address this, RUPA will immediately establish and undertake an Expression of Faith & Beliefs Review alongside its' players, incorporating advice from those with and without strong religious beliefs," RUPA said in a statement.