



Controversy over hygiene at 2012 Olympics

British Athletes are being advised not to shake hands with fellow competitors because of a mere hygiene precaution. The British Olympic Association are discouraging Team GB from shaking the hands of the other participants because they are concerned about illness and think that it could affect their chances of doing well in the Olympics.

However, many people feel this could lead to bad sportsmanship and could influence younger children into believing this to be proper sporting etiquette. It could also mean that other teams will come away from the Olympics thinking Team GB are not respectful competitors and do not appreciate the sporting culture upon which the Olympics is based.

No other teams have been told not to shake hands with competitors, and this recommendation has not been issued at previous Olympics. This begs the question, why should team GB be any more concerned for the hygiene of their competitors?

As we saw in the case of Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra, a recent football dispute in which a famous player refused to shake hands with another footballer. Not allowing someone to shake another persons hand attracts bad publicity. This is an example of what we, as a nation do not wish to impart on the rest of the countries competing.

