

ARE PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS THE FUTURE OF SPORT?



Following news that the first Brit (former Team GB swimmer Ben Proud) will be joining the Enhanced Games in Las Vegas next year, we asked voters to consider their stance on this new competition. The VoteTopic explored fairness in sport, and whether performance-enhancing measures help athletes put their best foot forward or overstep the mark. Will the Enhanced Games, due to kick off in May 2026, change the game for good? Close to 67,000 young people voted, with many more debating the issue in their classrooms.

Melanie
Data Manager



66,570

TOTAL VOTES

13,033

VOTES AGE 5-11

53,537

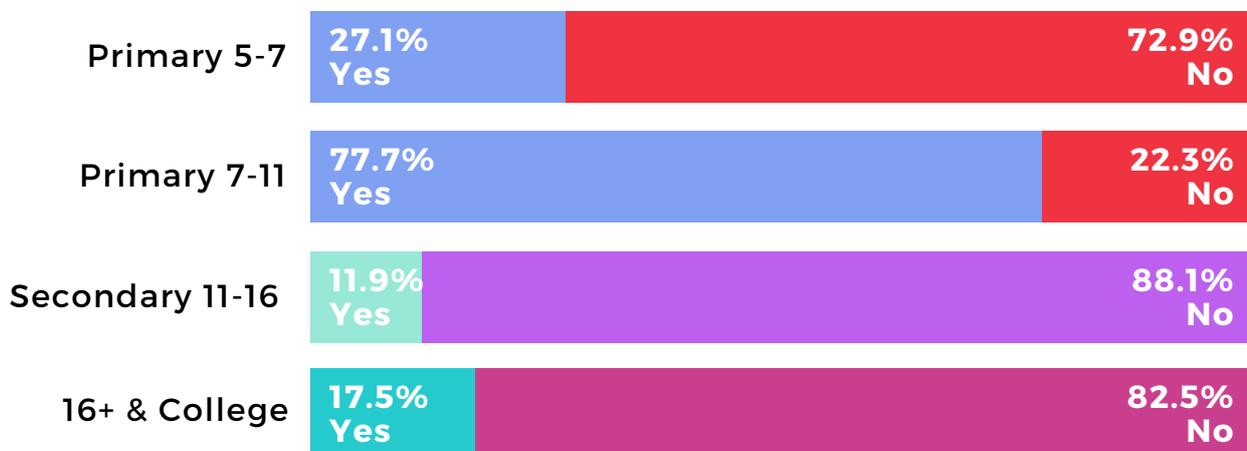
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions, discussed amongst the different age groups:

Primary 5-7: "Is it ever ok to cheat in a game?"

Primary 7-11: "Should sport always be fair?"

Secondary, 16+ & College: "Are performance-enhancing drugs the future of sport?"



Please contact info@votesforschools.com to find out more about the data relating to this VoteTopic.

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The majority of students were against the introduction of performance-enhancing drugs to competitive sport. Many said it was unfair on athletes with natural talent and would skew world record achievements in favour of those using drugs.

Another common concern was the risk of drug addiction and misuse. Some students felt that this would be a considerable risk, as there would be increased pressure to take the greatest amount of the most effective drugs in order to compete. One student said this risk could transfer down to spectators, who might feel compelled to take the same performance-enhancing drugs as their role models.

However, many voters were in favour of their use; one Primary pupil said, "it might be interesting to see what limits humans can reach." The most common argument was that their use is inevitable, particularly with the introduction of the Enhanced Games. Some 'Yes' voters clarified that it would only be fair if enhanced competitions were kept entirely separate from their non-enhanced counterparts. Others felt it depended on the sport in question; for example, one voter thought it would be interesting to implement drug-use in football but unfair in boxing.

Sport should always be fair because if you keep breaking the rules (e.g. handball in football) you get an unfair advantage.

Primary Yes Voter

It depends on the circumstance, the people you are playing with and the prize at stake.

Primary No Voter

Separate competitions for performance-enhancing drugs makes it equal and fair- as long as they stay apart!

Secondary Yes Voter

No - Performance-enhanced sport is completely unnecessary; sport is about athletes showing their natural ability. One drug could lead to another [which] is a dangerous game to play.

Secondary No Voter