

Responsible Behaviour

Published in Barbados Today

5 September 2014

There is an expectation that professionals will at all times display responsible behaviour as they take to executing their craft in whatever form of business, sports, cultural or entertainment activity in which they are engaged. It is an established fact that there are a set of professional ethics which are associated with various vocations and industries. The expected behaviours do bear some relation to the industry standards. Those who fail to comply, for whatever reason, must remain conscious of the fact that in doing so, they run the risk of impacting negatively on their individual character and image.

Some would contend and rightfully so, that they are not professionals but merely amateurs, and therefore hold the view that they are not necessarily held to the same standards of acclaimed professionals. As it is written, ignorance of the law is no excuse, and therefore it must be underscored that that form of behaviour which borders on the fringes of decency, becomes inexcusable.

Very often the public will hear sportspersons and entertainers lament that they are being treated like second class citizens. The complaint is made that they are not shown the respect they deserve as workers and professionals. Where it is clear that the dignity of the worker is compromised, there is every reason for those affected to make their voices heard. While giving support to workers, whether they see themselves as amateurs or professionals, it must be clearly stated that there can be no accommodation for those whose actions ran afoul of the expectations, standards, rules and established protocols.

For the sportsman, any action that runs contrary to the spirit of the game is referred to as 'bringing the game into disrepute.' Whether the player is a professional player or amateur, the rules of the game apply. The expectation remains that the players will conduct themselves within the spirit of the game.

In recent times the world has seen some despicable behaviour by some of our professional sports personalities. Coming out of the recently concluded Soccer World Cup in Brazil, the world will remember the actions of star player Luis Suarez. In the 2014 Caribbean Premier League Cricket played here in the Caribbean, the world watched as the West Indies Cricket captain, Damesh Ramdin, threw his bat to the ground in disgust after the fall of a wicket. Many will recall his actions in England during the course of a Test Match, when he pulled a paper from his pocket, the apparent intent of which was to publicly communicate a message to Sir. Vivian Richards.

At the 2014 PIC-O-DE-CROP Calypso Finals in Barbados, the audience was treated to a presentation by the calypsonian with the stage name of 'The Announcer'. Many in questioning

the contents of the presentation deemed it to have been offensive. Professional sportspersons and entertainers, and those amateurs who receive some form of remuneration, must recognize that at end of the day, the paying patrons contribute significantly to their pay packets. The authorities and management should move with haste to stamp out any form of indiscipline, wherever it exists.

Those who run afoul ought to be aware that whereupon an apology is sometimes offered and accepted, the damage which has already been done cannot be repaired.

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