



Understanding the spirit and intent of Rimpage's code of honor comes down to recognizing the simple fact that truth is of infinitely higher value than its opposite. Rimpage exists to establish the truth.

No two basketball players are equal. Some are tall. Some are short. Some are fast, some are slow. There are countless variations and combinations of attributes, preferences, attitudes, etc. As long as this condition of inequality exists, people will always want to know, "Who is better?"

Rimpage exists to answer that question, to show and tell the world who is the best basketball player on earth - and it **MUST** give the right answer!

Opinions and strongly held beliefs, until proven correct, are useless in our search for the truth. The best way to prove which, among any two players, is better is to have them play a 1-on-1 match. Only these contests enable Rimpage to raise opinion to the more glorious, more consequential status of established fact!

A Rimpage 1-on-1 match consists of three interdependent components: Rimpage, whose role it is to determine the rules and the format under which the competition takes place and the two players who compete according to those rules. Each component relies on the honor of the other two to produce a result that is true, giving it legitimacy, making it useful, and ultimately valuable.

Before more can be said about honor, it will be helpful to discuss outcomes and the factors that contribute to them.

In every match, the better athlete should win and the winner should always be the better athlete. It should always be correct to conclude the athlete who won did so because he / she actually is better. This is what gives the match value and makes it worth playing.

A Rimpage 1-on-1 match, better than any other method, identifies the superior and the inferior athlete. Why? Because of what winning requires. Winning requires the winner to actually be better than the loser, that the winner be at a higher skill level than the loser.

Skill therefore is a factor, an internal factor, that may (should) determine the outcome of a match. Here, skill is used broadly to refer to all the internal factors including:

1. skill (greater or lesser)
2. will / desire (more vs. less)
3. Effort (greater intensity vs. lesser intensity)

4. physical ability (superior vs. inferior)
5. Knowledge / experience (more vs. less)
6. Mentality (winner's vs. loser's)

External factors may also determine the outcome of a match. This is never good! External factors refer to anything, other than the internal factors, that could give one player an advantage over another and, thereby, affect the outcome of a match. These may include: court conditions, performance enhancing substances, mood-altering substances, cheating, sabotage, equipment (the rim and backboard, the ball, shoes, etc) atmospheric conditions, the fans, threats, referees, etc.

Remember the match is meant to answer the question, "Which player is better?" The answer is always the same: "The player who won is better." That answer is true in every case where victory was achieved by means of superior skill, that is, by the superior development of one's internal factors.

If, however, an inferior athlete uses external factors to gain an advantage, and thereby defeats the player who actually possesses greater skill, he has disgraced himself and brought dishonor to Rimpage, his opponent, the game and himself.

This athlete causes the match to render a false answer. Consider the folly of this act: The player who lost is actually better than the player who won!

Victory obtained by any means outside of one's own skill is illegitimate. The claim of superiority is unsupportable, being incompatible with the truth. The answer is false, and therefore worthless. This is dishonorable on a level that could bring the athlete and Rimpage and the game to ruin!

When Rimpage 1-on-1 matches cannot be relied on to tell the truth, to reveal the athlete who actually is better, then the whole construct fails. Here, Rimpage loses respect, trust, and authority. The perception will be, "What Rimpage says is not true."

It is therefore, imperative that Rimpage contests be pure. This cannot be over emphasized! An impure answer is not one. It is a non-real thing, like $2+2=17$. It is that which is not!

Pure may be defined as, "containing nothing that does not belong." A clean match is pure.

Internal factors produce a clean honorable result. The purpose of competition is to produce an irrefutable, indisputable, conclusive answer to the question, "Which one is better?"

It is good and normal and appropriate for a higher skilled player to defeat a lesser skilled player. This provides the greatest incentive to the lesser skilled player to improve, that he may enjoy the same success. This is honorable and sustainable.

An athlete may resort to cheating, seeking an advantage from factors outside his own skill, when he doubts his ability. It would be better to lose honorably, than to win dishonorably.

He may then examine his defeat and find, in it, the seed of success in future matches, thus making of himself a better athlete, preserving the honor of his profession.

Let every Rimpage athlete deeply contemplate the following statement: Better to lose and retain one's honor than to win and lose one's honor. This is the spirit of Rimpage.

I Will

Compete with Honor

Rimpage desires and expects that all Rimpage athletes repudiate the I'll-do-whatever-it-takes-to-win approach, and will, instead, compete with honor. It is better to lose the match and keep one's honor, than to win the match, but lose one's honor. Victory gained by cheating, by fraud, by undermining fair play or any of the like is unjust and illegitimate. Rimpage will revoke all such victories. Rimpage will acknowledge and reward victory where it is gained through fair and honest effort.

Rimpage athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity and anticorruption. They must make select legitimate opponents and make a legitimate effort to win the contest according to the rules. Rimpage has zero tolerance for staging matches, and manipulating outcomes for bribes, or any other reason.

Rimpage seeks to establish fair and pure competition within the confines of a legitimate league. Rimpage seeks to offer this league to athletes who desire to compete with honor and display their skills and garner fairly earned reward for their success. If there are any other interests that may be in conflict with Rimpage's interest, all athletes are asked to report these interests so as to protect them from violations that may arise.

Player name

Date