

# Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Acknowledgements   | vii |
| Introduction: Exploring French sporting identities   | i   |
| PART 1 Practices   | 11  |
| CHAPTER 1  |     |
| From <i>Gladiateur</i> to <i>Ourasi</i> : France's equine sporting champions                       | 13  |
| CHAPTER 2  |     |
| The Olympic Games: The French invention – and manipulation – of an international sporting showcase | 45  |
| CHAPTER 3  |     |
| From the Great Loop to the Hell of the North:<br>Cycle road racing, work and suffering             | 81  |
| PART 2 Locations   | 115 |
| CHAPTER 4  |     |
| Tennis from <i>le jeu de paume</i> to Roland(-)Garros  | 117 |
| CHAPTER 5  |     |
| Marianne rules the waves:<br>Ocean racing from Alain Gerbault to Florence Arthaud                  | 149 |

## CHAPTER 6

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Looking for liberty – and finding France – in the desert,<br>the mountains and the city | 177 |
|---|-----|

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| PART 3 Representations | 215 |
|------------------------|-----|

## CHAPTER 7

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Combat sports: Masculinity, ethnicity and memory | 217 |
|--|-----|

## CHAPTER 8

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| French rugby:<br>From provincial nostalgia to pragmatic cosmopolitanism | 253 |
|---|-----|

## CHAPTER 9

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Competing identities in French football:<br>Locality, ethnicity, fidelity | 287 |
|---|-----|

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Conclusion: Baron Pierre de Coubertin's contested legacy | 327 |
|--|-----|

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Bibliography | 333 |
|--------------|-----|

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| Index | 367 |
|-------|-----|