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Ethics in Sport

prepared by



The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Athens for their 11th Conference from 10 to 12 December 2008:

- Wishing to see sport develop in the spirit of the European Sports Charter and the Code of Sports Ethics;
- Aware of the pressures which the race for success, commercialisation, the need for stars and exposure to the mass media, brings to bear on sport;
- Convinced of the need to provide sportsmen and women with a system of values which will enable them to make responsible choices when facing such pressures;
- Convinced that including the principles set out in the Code in physical education curricula and in the policies of sports organisations will favourably influence the attitudes of athletes and the general public to sport.

With regard to the promotion of ethics in sport

- Reiterate their support for the Code of Sports Ethics and the implementation of its principles and values through regulations, guidelines and policies concerning physical education and sport;
- Note with satisfaction the development of systems of effective oversight and sanctions by the sport movement and its plans to implement good governance in sport;
- Consider that the issue of fair play between teams competing in the same competitions requires good governance principles to be addressed by sports bodies;
- Support educational activities so as to promote the message of ethics in sport;
- Invite the EPAS:
 - to continue to disseminate its work on ethics in sport;
 - to identify and promote educational and preventive measures for strengthening sports ethics and to support increased resources for that purpose;
 - to draft an update of Code of Sports Ethics so as to ensure strong support for the standards and values of sport and offer responses to the new challenges to ethics in sport as mentioned hereafter and others such as sexual harassment in sport and misuse of nutritional supplements;

- to develop operational indicators to supplement the Code of Sports Ethics and continue to work on a monitoring mechanism to advise its member states on promoting ethics in sport.

*With regard to the new challenges to ethics in sport:
match fixing, corruption, illegal betting*

- Acknowledge that there is a problem of corruption, match fixing and illegal betting in sport and invite sports organisations to investigate the situation and, where appropriate, identify the problems;
- Promote best practices developed by sports organisations in order to foster transparency and establish stricter rules and better control systems for financial transactions;
- Support discussions and research, in co-operation with the sport movement and relevant NGOs and specialised agencies, on measures to prevent, deter and sanction corruption in sport;
- Support education, training and guidance so as to reach a wide audience in the sport movement;
- Encourage to enforce existing laws and, where appropriate, ratify existing Council of Europe conventions on corruption (CETS 173, 174 and 191);
- Support sports organisations in their efforts to increase transparency;
- Recommend involving independent experts in ethics bodies responsible for dealing with cases and issues where ethical integrity in sport is at stake;
- Invite the EPAS, along with other concerned bodies and organisations:
 - to promote best practices to tackle the challenges to sports ethics posed notably by match fixing, corruption; illegal betting;
 - in co-operation with its Consultative Committee, to continue the work on possible ways to enhance co-operation (between government and the sport movement) on combating corruption;
 - to draw up a new draft recommendation to states on corruption, match fixing and illegal betting which could form the basis of a possible new convention on these subjects to help achieve increased integrity controls and a 'fair return' to sport for grassroots funding as regards betting.

With regard to the new challenges to ethics in sport: genetic engineering

- Reiterate their opposition to the use of genetic engineering to enhance performance in sport, which amounts to doping, and confirm their determination to take harmonised measures to combat the spread of the techniques concerned;
- Invite the authorities in charge of sport and the sport movement to contribute to a wide debate in society on the ethical consequences of the use of biotechnologies;
- Invite the EPAS:
 - to promote and disseminate best practices in combating the use of genetic engineering for purposes which are contrary to sports ethics.

*With regard to the new challenges to ethics in sport:
trafficking of young sports people*

- Note with satisfaction the steps taken by the international, European and national federations and public authorities in adopting rules to prevent and sanction the trafficking of players;
- Agree that the development of young sportsmen and women, and the health of sport as a whole, is improved by a stable training and education period in which young sportsmen and women are not incited to move abroad too early – with possible negative consequences both for their careers and for the European sports training system as a whole;
- Invite the EPAS to build on initiatives taken by international federations and EU in order to possibly promote quality standards regulating the activity of players' agents ;
- Underline that, when the activities concerned constitute violations of existing provisions on combating human trafficking, they must also be prosecuted by the relevant authorities.

With regard to the new challenges to ethics in sport: discrimination

- Invite the EPAS:
 - to hold exchanges of views with the sport movement on rules governing eligibility and the organisation of categories in the light of the principles of ethics in sport;
 - to disseminate examples of best practices in promoting diversity through sport and combating discrimination (including the issue

- of integration of disabled persons which could be addressed in co-operation with CAHPAH¹);
- in co-operation with the sport movement and the Standing Committee of the Convention on Spectator Violence, to continue promoting and monitoring Recommendation Rec(2001)6 on the prevention of racism, xenophobia and racial intolerance in sport.

¹ European Coordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015