



## SUMMARIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TREATIES

The summaries available hereunder are designed to meet a practical need, that of supplying the public at large with concise descriptions of the Council of Europe treaties. The summaries are necessarily short and can therefore only give a first introduction to the main features of each treaty.

Subject-matter: **SPORT**

**European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches** ([ETS No. 120](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 19 August 1985.

Entry into force: 1 November 1985.

Under the Convention, Parties undertake to co-operate between them and encourages similar co-operation between public authorities and independent sports organisations to prevent violence and control the problem of violence and misbehaviour by spectators at sports events.

To this end, it sets out a number of measures, namely: close co-operation between police forces involved; prosecution of offenders and application of appropriate penalties; strict control of ticket sales; restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks; appropriate design and physical fabric of stadia to prevent violence and allow effective crowd control and crowd safety.

A Standing Committee established by the Convention is empowered to make recommendations to the Parties concerning measures to be taken.

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**Anti-Doping Convention** ([ETS No. 135](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 16 November 1989.

Entry into force: 1 March 1990.

The Convention lays down binding rules with a view to harmonising anti-doping regulations, in particular:

- making it harder to obtain and use banned substances such as anabolic steroids;
- assisting the funding of anti-doping tests;
- establishing a link between the strict application of anti-doping rules and awarding subsidies to sports organisations or individual sportsmen and sportswomen;
- regular doping control procedures during and outside competitions, including in other countries.

The Convention contains a reference list of banned substances. A monitoring group specially set up for this purpose periodically re-examines this list and monitors the application of the Convention.

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**Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention** ([ETS No. 188](#)), open for signature, in Warsaw, on 12 September 2002.

Entry into force: 1 April 2004.

The aim of the Protocol is to ensure the mutual recognition of doping controls and to reinforce the application of the Convention (ETS No. 135).

To this end, the Protocol ensures the recognition by States Parties to the Convention of doping controls carried out on sportsmen and women coming from the other States Parties to the Convention. This will obviate the need for the conclusion of multiple bilateral agreements and will increase the effectiveness of anti-doping controls. In

the same spirit, the Protocol is the first instrument of international public law, which recognises the competence of the World Anti-Doping Agency to conduct out of competition controls.

With regard to the reinforcement of the application of the Convention, the Protocol sets up a binding monitoring mechanism. This monitoring will be carried out by an evaluation team, which will make a visit to the State concerned, followed by an evaluation report.

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**Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions** ([CETS No. 215](#)), open for signature, in Magglingen, on 18 September 2014.

Entry into force: 1 September 2019.

The purpose of this Convention is to prevent, detect, punish and discipline the manipulation of sports competitions, as well as enhance the exchange of information and national and international cooperation between the public authorities concerned, and with sports organisations and sports betting operators. The Convention calls on governments to adopt measures, including legislation, notably:

- Prevent conflicts of interest in sports betting operators and sports organisations;
- Encourage the sports betting regulatory authorities to fight against fraud, if necessary by limiting the supply of sports bets or suspending the taking of bets ;
- Fight against illegal sports betting, allowing to close or restrict access to the operators concerned and block financial flows between them and consumers.

Sports organisations and competition organisers are also required to adopt and implement stricter rules to combat corruption, sanctions and proportionate disciplinary and dissuasive measures in the event of offences, as well as good governance principles. The Convention also provides safeguards for informants and witnesses.

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**Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events** ([CETS No. 218](#)), open for signature, in Saint-Denis, on 3 July 2016.

Entry into force: 1 November 2017.

The purpose of the Convention is to ensure that football and other sports events provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for all individuals through the implementation of an integrated approach on safety, security and service at sports events by a plurality of actors working in a partnership amid an ethos of co-operation.

To guarantee a welcoming atmosphere inside and outside stadiums, the Convention commits signatory States' authorities to:

- encourage public agencies and private stakeholders (local authorities, police, football clubs and national federations, and supporters) to work together in the preparation and running of football matches;
- ensure that stadium infrastructure complies with national and international standards and regulations, for effective crowd management and safety; emergency and contingency plans must be drawn up, tested and refined in the course of regular joint exercises;
- ensure that spectators feel welcome and well-treated throughout events, including by making stadiums more accessible to children, the elderly and people with disabilities and improving sanitary and refreshment facilities.

A number of measures are also envisaged to prevent and punish acts of violence and misbehaviour, including stadium bans, sanctions procedures in the country where the offence is committed or in the offender's country of residence or citizenship, or restrictions on travelling abroad to football events. States signing up to the Convention undertake to step up international police co-operation by designating a national football information point within the police force (NFIP) to facilitate exchanges of information and personal data in connection with international football matches.

This convention will ultimately replace the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sport Events and in particular at Football Matches (ETS No. 120), drawn up in 1985 in the wake of the Heysel tragedy.

The committee of experts tasked with monitoring application of the 1985 Convention produce assessments, before and after major international tournaments (World Cup, European Championships), of the safety measures taken. FIFA, UEFA, the European Professional Football Leagues Association, Football Supporters Europe, Supporters Direct Europe and also Interpol and the European Union participate in its work.