



# HELP free online course on HUMAN RIGHTS IN SPORTS

## Background and summary

The course objective is to increase the awareness of human rights related legal issues in the field of sport among legal professionals and specialists involved into sport.



In particular, the course aims at increasing the knowledge and skills of (primarily) legal professionals about also other relevant experts to apply the related domestic and international standards in the field of human rights in sport in their daily work.

Nowadays sport has achieved a significant level of impact on people: on their personal, social, and professional life. For athletes, sport is their livelihood and thus has a serious effect on their personal lives, health, economic prosperity, safety and social status.

The complexity of the question in the field of sport and its increasing popularity leads to an increase of the number of sport-related legal disputes. Disputes are often of a general criminal, administrative or civil nature, with the added specificity of sport, including short deadlines and criminal groups extending wider than simply the athletes. These disputes are adjudicated by national courts as well as by special sport tribunals. The questions on the application of the procedural safeguards enshrined in Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) in such proceedings have been raised before the European Court on Human Rights (ECtHR).

The Council of Europe has significant expertise in the important sport-related questions based on its actions in fighting the negative aspects of sport and protecting its integrity - in particular violence, doping and the manipulation of sports competitions - through its Conventions in this field, which focus on three areas related to sport integrity and the interest of spectators.

Special protection is needed for young athletes and spectators who are often misinformed or not informed at all about the consequences of doping, violence or fixing of matches. Doping significantly affects the health of users, many of whom are often unaware of the effects and the illegal nature of certain products. The manipulation of sport competitions is a phenomenon involving serious and organized crime groups executing traditional crimes such as match-fixing, illegal betting and money laundering through sport, which is largely low-regulated currently. Finally, the interest of spectators is an aspect that renders sport a social activity and therefore needs to have a safe, secure and hospitable environment.

The course objective is to increase the awareness of human rights and related legal issues in the field of sport among legal professionals and specialists involved into sport.

In particular, the course aims at increasing the knowledge and skills of (primarily) legal professionals but also other relevant experts to apply the related domestic and international law standards in the field of human rights in sport in their daily work.

The topics are explored in a practical manner, using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises.

At the end of each module a self-assessment survey may be offered for the user to test his / her knowledge on the subject matter post-taking the module. This will allow them to assess how much knowledge they gained by going through the module(s).

### **Target audience**

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This free on-line course will be primarily addressed to legal professionals and also athletes, coaches or sport managers.

### **Course outline (9 modules)**

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1. Introduction
2. Sports arbitration and litigation – fair trial (Art. 6 ECHR)
3. Life and physical integrity (Art. 2, 3 and 4 ECHR)
4. Liberty and security (Art. 5 ECHR)
5. Privacy, freedom of expression and assembly (Art. 8, 10 and 11 ECHR)
6. Prohibition of discrimination
7. Anti-doping and human rights
8. Sports manipulation and human rights
9. Spectators and safety and human rights

### **Development of the course**

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The course is being developed jointly by the Council of Europe's Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme (HELP; [www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)), the Council of Europe's Children's Rights and Sport Values Department ([www.coe.int/en/web/sport](http://www.coe.int/en/web/sport)), Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation ([www.minsport.gov.ru/en](http://www.minsport.gov.ru/en)) and MGIMO University (<http://english.mgimo.ru>).

### **Access the free online course**

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To access the course once it is ready, you will need to enter the HELP e-learning platform at <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>. First you need to open yourself an account at HELP if you have not yet done so (2 minutes).

The course is available in English and Russian. As of June 2021, the course has more than 1,000 participants who are enrolled as self-learners.

Upon demand from national/international sports-training institutions, it can be translated and contextualised to specific countries and audiences. It can also be implemented in tutored format. For this, contact HELP Programme at [dgi-help-programme@coe.int](mailto:dgi-help-programme@coe.int)